



Lincoln Times

6th Grade Edition - March 2012

Here's What's Happening in 6th Grade!!!!

Social Studies

We just finished up our *Greek* unit. Next, we will be doing a short *Roman* unit that the students teach each other. Most of *March* will be spent on our *American Women in History* unit. Your child will be assigned a woman to research and do a small project on. We will do the work at school but by the end of *March* they should be able to tell you lots of cool facts about some amazing *American women*.

Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling

During *March* we will finish our poetry unit which included making a poetry pop-up book. We will continue to study verbs in grammar. The second week of *March* will start our three-week study of the *Holocaust*. During this unit, the students will learn background information about *Adolph Hitler*, the *Nazi Party*, *Anti-Jewish laws*, *concentration camps*, *rescuers of the Holocaust*, and other important information about the *Holocaust*. Students will be reading a *Holocaust novel* and creating a presentation to the class about their novel.

Science- Mrs. Clawson

The 6th grade scientists will be using stream tables in lab to research the effects of erosion and deposition. Geologists aren't entirely in agreement on how or when the *Grand Canyon* was created, so we are using the stream tables to collect data, and make our own claims backed up by evidence. In their science notebooks the students will also have a page titled, "Things I Want To Do, But The Teacher Won't Let Me" in which they will keep ideas of investigations they would like to try with the stream tables. At the end of this section, each group will choose one of those ideas and go through with that investigation.

Human Growth and Development will begin in *April*. Again, the boys and girls will be taught separately. When they are not in the classroom with me, they will be in the media center working on a project. Parents are required to sign a paper stating that their child either has or does not have permission to attend the *HG & D* classes. Some of you signed yours during parent/teacher conferences last month. If you haven't, look for a blue paper coming home soon that needs to be signed and returned. If you have any questions, please contact me at any time!

Math

Mrs. Swift & Mrs. Thorius

6th graders have recently studied short units on Roman Numerals and elapsed time. They are now back to working on fractions, studying multiplication and division of fractions with applications to every day life. After this we will be studying graphs and statistics including finding the range, median, mode, and mean of a series of numbers.

Students are strongly encouraged to retake quizzes to raise their average. They can come in before or after school, after lunch, or during study periods. The skills that they learn this year are important for success in junior high and this is one way to not only improve their grade, but also master the material.

Art-Mrs. Humphreys

The sixth grade students have been working on self-portraits. They used a photograph of themselves that they gridded out, then gridded a larger, proportionate paper to draw on. The goal was to transfer what was in each small box to the larger box on the paper. Next, the students could choose pencil shading, oil pastel or colored pencil to finish their portrait. They need to match colors or pencil values and show a shadow around the nose and under the chin. The portraits are looking great!

Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Congratulations to Lincoln 6th graders for a fine job on their concert, A New Day. Now, they will be singing songs with various kinds of harmony, then take a look at tone color and how a composer creates the feeling they want through the instrumentation and voices in a song.

Sunrise Singers upcoming events:

March 15 All School Vocal Concert, high school gym

May 1 Sunrise Singers, Advanced/Beginning Band concert, high school auditorium

May 2 Sunrise Singers, Advanced Band concert, Lincoln gym

May 8 Medieval Festival for 6th grade Sunrise Singers

We are still collecting cans and bottles, so please send them to school.

Camp Invention Returns to Lincoln Elementary School!

CALLING ALL INVENTORS! The Camp Invention® program will let your child's imagination soar on June 4-8 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Here are just a few of fun things kids will be doing at Camp Invention this summer:

Participants will get to use real tools to take apart a mechanical device and work as a team to create a new invention, then use the power of magnetism to design and build a city. They will also travel on a time machine and invent and play new outdoor games!

Camp Invention will be presented by local teachers for girls and boys entering grades 1-6. Camp directors: Nancy Clawson and Julie Timmins.

This national STEM enrichment program is offered by Grant Wood Area Education Agency, Van

Allen Science Teaching Center, and Washington Community Schools in collaboration with the non-profit Invent Now and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Register by March 29th to save \$25! For more information, call **800-968-4332** or go to www.campinvention.org.

ELP - Mrs. Sieren

We will be working this month on our famous person project. I had the opportunity to talk to many of you at conferences about what this project all entails. Please encourage your child to find as much information as possible to help them write their speech. They can use magazines, books, internet, etc. I always encourage them to use the public library to find information also. Your help and encouragement with is project would be appreciated. Thanks!

HOMEWORK HELP THANKS YOU!

A huge THANK YOU to those of you that have donated snacks, gum, candy, and puzzle books for homework help. They are much appreciated!

Notes from the Office

Attendance/Absence Line

A new attendance line has been set up for absences in the district. Parents can now call 653-1101 and will get a greeting. They can then press a number to select which school they would like to leave a message for, and then will be able to leave a message about an absence. This will be helpful if you need to call Lincoln about an absence before anyone is in the office at 7:30. You may still call the main office to report an absence, but this is a second option for those parents that are heading off to work early. Thanks for your help in letting Lincoln know when your student will not be in attendance.

Dates to Remember:

March 1 - All School Band Concert - High School at 7:00

March 5 - Winter Family Fun Night - Lincoln Elementary from 5:30 - 7:00 come and go as you please.

March 7 - 1:10 Dismissal

March 13 - Contraption Challenge Convention - Lincoln Gym at 6:30

March 15 - All School Vocal Program - High School at 7:00

March 21 - NO SCHOOL - Workday

Notes from the Counselor

This month you will receive in the mail your child's Iowa Assessment results. Your student's scores on the *Iowa Assessments* can be used to: Understand how your student performs in key areas such as reading, writing, math, science and social studies; help identify your student's relative strengths

and limitations in these key areas; monitor your student's performance over time; compare your student's performance to other students in the nation; and provide information about your student's proficiency level as defined by the state of Iowa.

Your student's scores are presented in various ways including:

1. National Standard Score (NSS) is a score that describes performance on an achievement continuum from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The NSS allows you to monitor your student's growth and compare performance from year to year. The NSS is also used in Iowa to determine your student's level of proficiency in reading, mathematics and science. An explanation of the levels of proficiency can be found at <http://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/documents/Proficient.pdf>
2. National Percentile Rank (NPR) is a score that describes the relative comparison of your student's performance to other students in the nation who are in the same grade and were tested at the same time of year. An NPR of 80 means that your student's performance was better than 80% of the students who took the test.

You are encouraged to discuss the score results on the *Iowa Assessments* with your student and her/his teachers. We recommend focusing on those scores which seem most different from prior years' scores, and the scores which seem most different when compared to classroom performance. Together, you can use this information to decide how best to continue your student's education.

Lisa Otters
Guidance Counselor

Notes from the Principal

If you are dropping your child off in the morning or picking them up at night, we would request that you park on Monroe St. (the street north of Lincoln) or 6th Ave. South (the street east of Lincoln). This leaves 4th Avenue in front of the school open for buses and reduces traffic.

Raising a Reader- From the NAESP Raising a Reader

Reading is the most important skill your children will ever learn. It's the tool your child needs the most at school, and it is essential for nearly every job and career.

Learning to read takes time and it takes you. Reading isn't something children can just pick up, like learning to talk. It's complicated. Children need you to encourage them to work at it, and to keep trying if they get frustrated.

Your children also need to see how exciting reading can be. They will learn this every time you share a wonderful story with them, or open a book about fascinating people, places or things. It's up to you to show them that reading is far more than just a subject taught in school — it's the doorway to a lifetime of learning, creating, discovering, and succeeding.

Although your children will learn the nuts and bolts of reading at school, they still need the special one-on-one attention only **you** can provide.

Beyond books, are there other ways to boost my child's reading abilities?

There certainly are! Here are just a few:

- Go places, do things. The more experiences children have, the easier it is for them to read

because of all the new ideas and vocabulary they are exposed to.

- Get your children involved in everyday reading — directions, grocery lists, recipes, labels, instruction manuals, and even the billboards and signs along the road.
- Read the newspaper and clip out articles or comic strips he'd enjoy.
- Limit television. If he's interested in a certain kind of TV show, look for some children's books or magazines that are the same style-action, comedy or sports- oriented, for example.
- Play games together that require reading and word skills, such as Monopoly, The Game of Life or Scrabble.
- Books on tape are fun, too. Pause the tape and talk about the story, the characters, or what might happen next.
- Encourage your child to be a writer. Keep paper and pencils available and show how proud you are of the stories he writes.

What should I do when my child makes a mistake when she's reading?

First, remember that all readers make mistakes. If he/she still understands the meaning of what they are reading to you don't need to be concerned. But if he/she is missing the meaning of the sentence or the story, they need your help. Wait a few seconds before jumping in — give them time to correct it on their own. If he/she doesn't notice the mistake, have them re-read the sentence out loud. Ask them to listen to hear whether every word fits.

If they're having trouble with a specific word, suggest that he/she look at it to see if it is similar to a word he/she does know. You might also want to see if he/she can figure it out by its context — by looking at the rest of the sentence, and seeing what word would make sense. If they're still puzzled, don't make them struggle. Tell them what it is. It's important to keep them from acquiring the habit of skipping over words he/she doesn't know.

Reading is the single most important skill children need to succeed in school. That's why it's helpful to make reading part of your children's home life every day. The more children read — and are read to — the better readers they'll become.

**David Hoffman, Principal
Lincoln Elementary School**

District Equity Statement

It is the policy of the Washington Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, creed, marital status, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Dr. Jorgensen or Mrs. Thode at 319-653-6543.