



Lincoln Times

5th Grade Edition - March 2012

Here's What's Happening in 5th Grade!!!!

Social Studies

Again the 5th graders are working on different units as we end the month of February.

Some are learning about the home front during WWII. We were honored to have a former student, Brendan Stanford, an army Sergeant who has served in Iraq and will soon be deployed to Afghanistan speak to us. He was very informative and the students learned a lot from him, including what we can do to help the soldiers of today know that we are thinking of them as they serve our nation.

Other students are learning about the early explorers as they research and develop a PowerPoint presentation. They have not only learned about explorers of the 1500's-1700's but have also learned to pronounce names like Samuel de Champlain and Juan Ponce de Leon.

We will be starting to learn about some of the early settlements and colonization of the United States, including the colonies of Jamestown, Plymouth and Williamsburg. The students will be expected to learn the 13 original colonies that formed the United States after the Revolutionary War.

Math

The fifth graders are learning about fractions, decimals, and percents. We have been reviewing basic fractions and their equivalents. Next they will be learning the "landmark" percents of halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, sixths, eighths, and tenths. The students will divide and shade grids of 100 squares to help them learn and understand the percentages. There several games in which to practice learning the equivalent percentages for these fractions. The 100 grids as a visual models, activities in class, and games they play will improve their comprehension in this area. The last area to cover will be each fraction's decimal equivalent. It is a fun unit with all the new content.

Science

Our next big unit will be Sinking & Floating, as we explore the concept of buoyancy. We will be testing many different objects to see if we can figure out what about an object makes it float or sink. The students can bring objects from home to test. These objects need to fit in a tub about the size of notebook and they will get wet! You can help your student by asking them questions about their experiences with floating and sinking things. It is a great learning tool to make connections between real life experiences and what we learn in the class. We will be in this unit for about 3-4 weeks. Our next unit will be Bone/muscles/nutrition and the body systems. This should begin about the second week in March.

Art-Mrs. Humphreys

The fifth grade students have been working on a project called tessellations. Tessellations are identical, repeated shapes joined edge to edge with no spaces in between and are based on geometric principles. Tessellations are like glorified puzzles, but the process to make them is complicated and is linked math. The students have had to think very creatively to come up with a drawing to put on their tessellations. We will be working on these for another week and then will start on a shaded landscape drawing.

Music-Mrs. Hill

Lincoln 5th graders are now working on a unit about musical form. Students are comparing music to writing and looking at how the sections are put together to make 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.

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!

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.

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

ELP - Mrs. Sieren

To conclude our never-ending energy audit, the kids were treated to a pizza party and also a guest speaker from UNI who was in charge of the energy audit program. Hopefully your child told you all about these two events.

The kids also finished the murder mystery from the internet. I was very pleased with how well they found some of the "hidden" clues and used them to help them solve the crime. Most of the kids figured out one of the killers, but didn't figure out that the crime was also committed with the help of a second person. I love surprises that they least expect!

The topic that the kids are learning about now is the stock market. They have been learning how it works, what companies are top blue chip companies to invest in, how to read quotes, what companies own their favorite restaurant, etc. Jeff Cuddeback will be our guest speaker for this unit. I am sure the students will learn a lot from him and all of his banking expertise. For the concluding activity, the kids will play a stock market board game that teaches them the value of investing. It will be fun!

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

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.