



# Lincoln Times 4th Grade Edition December 2010

**Here's What's Happening in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade!!**

## Reading and Language Arts

We will be starting December by finishing up Theme 5. In theme 5 we are learning different fix-up strategies to help us comprehend our reading more.

When we start Theme 6, the comprehension strategy is synthesizing. Synthesizing is when we bring new ideas together to form a new idea. You can compare this to a recipe. When you start cooking with a recipe you have all these separate ingredients, but when you are finished cooking, you have made something new. That's what readers do when they synthesize. They take all the info from the reading to make a new idea!

In writing, we will be writing problem and solution paragraphs. It will be interesting to see what problems and solutions the 4<sup>th</sup> graders come up with!

Spelling lists are located in the back of the newsletter. Please remember to study with your student.

## Fourth Grade Math

In December the fourth grade math students will be covering a unit called, "Landmarks in the Thousands". In this unit they will learn about the landmark numbers. Our money values are landmark numbers. They will find the factors that create these values and use the numbers to figure answers to more difficult problems. They will also learn to multiply larger numbers such as  $578 \times 9$  or  $3459 \times 7$ . Your child's ability to multiply will improve if they also practice at home.

## Social Studies

It is hard to believe the holiday season is already upon us! We hope you enjoy some special times with your family over the next month.

In social studies we will be beginning the bringing history home unit over the Progressive Era. It is the time period from 1890-1920. We will be working on this unit from now until winter break! This unit will be "untraditional" in the sense that we will be examining video, pictures, and documents, and drawing our own conclusions about that time period in history. We will be looking at capitalism, competition, profits/monopolies, immigration, tenement housing, child labor, unions, progressive laws, and muckrakers. We will take a narrative test where students write a "story" based on some of the important terms we will learn about. On the test will be the words business/company, factory/manufacturing, profit, wage, capitalism, competition, monopoly, working conditions, child labor, union, progressives, muckraker, and tenement. We will culminate the unit by watching "Samantha- An American Girl Holiday." Please have discussions about what your son/daughter is learning in social studies! It is also very important that your child is here at school because classes cannot be made up. That way he or she can participate in all activities, watch video clips, and be a part of the discussions.

Please check out the "progressive era" unit by going to:

<http://www.bringinghistoryhome.org/>

4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

## Science

Hopefully you had a great Thanksgiving weekend and your child will be ready to go in labs. He/she will continue in the Earth Material unit. The next segment will be exploring the use of a cold acid on minerals and rocks to find the mineral calcite. In the final investigation, your child will be looking at different rock samples, to figure out what minerals make up the sample. He/she will need to know the different properties that describe minerals and rocks. The unit will be completed and a test given hopefully before Winter break if there are no interruptions in our schedule.

# Here's What's Happening Around The Building!

## Music – Mrs. Hill

Fourth grade students are currently working on meter signature and how beats are grouped in songs and will soon be working on melody and how songs have shapes. The goal is to notice the notes as well as the words when they are singing their songs. Students will continue to sing songs of many types and start focusing on how notes are stepping, skipping or staying the same.

## Art – Mrs. Humphreys

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Art

We will begin Pop Art after Thanksgiving break.

<b>Pop Art</b>
Look at the art style of Pop Art.
Create a pop artwork from an internet image on Microsoft Word.

## Reading – Mrs. Shields

Looking for a Gift Idea?

Paul Mullen, the author of *The Day I Hit a Homerun*, will be at Lincoln Elementary on Thursday, April 14 to talk with students about reaching for their dreams. If you'd like to purchase a copy of the book go to [www.thedayihitahomerun.com](http://www.thedayihitahomerun.com). When you buy via this website at the 12.95 price, you'll pay no shipping and handling charges.

## The First Line of Defense Against Germs

Germs can be transmitted many ways, including:

- touching dirty hands
- changing dirty diapers
- through contaminated water and food
- through droplets released during a cough or a sneeze
- contaminated surfaces
- through contact with a sick person's body fluids

When kids come into contact with germs, they can unknowingly become infected simply by touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. And once they're infected, it's usually just a matter of time before the whole family comes down with the same illness. Good hand washing is the first line of defense against the spread of many illnesses, from the common cold to more serious illnesses such as meningitis.

## **Washing Hands Correctly**

Here's how to scrub those germs away. Demonstrate this routine to your kids – or better yet, wash your hands together often so they learn how important this good habit is:

- Wash your hands in warm water. Make sure the water isn't too hot for little hands.
- Use soap and lather up for about 20 seconds. Make sure you get in between the fingers and under the nails where uninvited germs like to hang out.
- Rinse and dry well with a clean towel.

To minimize the germs passed around your family, make frequent hand washing a rule for everyone, especially:

- before eating and cooking
- after using the bathroom
- after cleaning around the house
- after touching animals, including family [pets](#)
- before and after visiting or taking care of any sick friends or relatives
- after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- after being outside

Don't underestimate the power of hand washing! The few seconds you spend at the sink could save you trips to the doctor's office.

Holly Roth RN,BSN

Lincoln School Nurse

## **Notes from the Principal**

With winter weather just around the corner, please review with your child where to go in case of an unplanned early out. This will help to ease student anxiety and cut down on the long lines to use the telephones.

With temperatures dropping we remind you to dress your children warm, like they are going out for recess. We do watch the temperature and wind chill before making a decision on sending students outside. A lot of students come to school without hats or gloves. If your child needs to stay in for recess, please send a note. If your child needs to stay in for medical reasons longer than two days, a doctor's note should be sent.

A special "thank you" to the students for working hard on Basic Skills and to the PTG for supporting and organizing the distribution of snacks during Basic Skills.

In the past, many parents and students bring Christmas presents for teachers and staff. We are asking instead of presents for teachers or staff members, if parents would consider sending games or activities for students to use for inside recess. This will give students more activities to choose from when the rain or cold weather sets in.

We will dismiss on Tuesday, December 22 at 1:10 PM for winter break. School will resume on Tuesday, January 4.

Finally, remember to stay in touch with the school. If you have a question or concern let us know. Do not wait for progress reports, conferences or report cards. Two-way communication between home and school is one of the keys to the academic success of your child.

Thank you for a great year at Lincoln Elementary and Happy Holidays!

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.