



Lincoln Times

4th Grade Edition - May 2011

Here's What's Happening in 4th Grade!!!!

Social Studies

Happy May! This month we will continue to look at the environment of the Mountain States-Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. We will discuss and take notes on the Rocky Mountains, Snowy Peaks, and Mining in the Mountains. We will be making a foldable that will be your child's study guide for the chapter. We will also be defining and using vegetation maps in the unit. Students will have to label the Mountain States on a map. **The test will be on or around Friday, May 6th!**

After the Mountain States we will learn about the environment of the West Region. The states in this region include: Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii. We will learn about western peaks, deserts and rain forests, and forests and valleys. We will again add vocabulary, concepts, and notes to a foldable to use as a study guide. We will also do a lesson on study skills and sources. The test will be around the last full week of school. Stay tuned!

We hope to test all fourth graders on the states of the United States as well. Keep studying them! Have a great summer!

4th grade teachers

Language Arts and Reading

In May, we are going to be working on Theme 13 and 14. During Theme 13 the comprehension strategy is a review of fix-up strategies. These strategies help the kids figure out words that they don't know. Some things that the kids can do when they don't understand is use illustrations, use phonics, read on, or break the words into parts.

We will also be learning about suffixes in Theme 13. We will add -ful, -less, and -able to words to change their meanings. We will also be learning about prepositions.

Theme 14's comprehension strategy is monitoring understanding. When kids monitor understanding they make sure that they are understanding what they are reading. Some things the kids can do are: reread, think about the purpose and meaning, ask questions and use genre knowledge.

In Theme 14, we also learn about conjunctions, like and, but, or, yet, and since. We will also be learning about the suffixes -ly and -fully.

Spelling

Theme 12 Week 2: across, below, glad, above, within, toward, world, glass, against, around, try, behind, down, during, beneath, beyond, except, through

Theme 13 Week 1: beautiful, lovable, turtle, ageless, thoughtless, wish, TV, forgetful, penniless, countless, enjoyable, word, agreeable, wonderful, constable, doubtful, excitable, successful

Theme 13 Week 2: attention, sickness, wait, shipment, happiness, election, winter, pavement, warm, freshness, wind, creation, champion, amusement, argument, cement, education, government

Theme 14 Week 1: steadily, quietly, angrily, wet, friendly, playfully, wash, regretfully, we'll, hopefully, went, easily, exactly, truthfully, reply, strangely, surely, thoughtfully

Science

How fast the year has gone. To finish the year, your child will first present their part of the drug unit to their classmates. After all groups have presented, a test will be given over the presentations. The final unit for the year will be a sound unit. In this inquiry unit your child will explore how sound travels through different mediums, and how to vary pitch and volume of a sound. Each child will be expected to design and construct at home, a **homemade** instrument using any items that can be recycled from your house. The instrument must be able to change pitch and volume. Come join us in this noisy learning experience.

Math

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is upon us! The fourth grade math classes will be working with decimals the first few weeks of May. Students will work with decimals in the tenths and hundredths as they practice adding, subtracting and multiplying the given numbers. They will also cover a geometry unit during the last few weeks of the month. A review of congruent and symmetrical shapes along with learning about points, segments, lines, rays and angles will be covered. Three dimensional shapes will also be discussed.

Your child is practicing the basic division facts in class and should know them before going to fifth grade. Long division was difficult to learn for those that are still struggling with the basic facts. Keep your children practicing both multiplication and division facts this summer.

Art - Mrs. Humphreys

The fourth grade students have started on a mosaic project. A mosaic is an artwork made up of many small pieces, like tiles, stones, or pieces of paper. To begin the project, the students saw examples of ancient mosaics made on walls of churches and other buildings. The students chose a subject like an animal or a sun. The students are making their mosaics with pieces of construction paper and wall paper.

Also, students are encouraged to enter artwork in the Youth Art Show to be displayed on the square in Washington on Friday, June 3rd. Please clearly mark art with name, phone #, grade & school. Art can be left with Mrs. Humphreys or dropped off at Main Street Washington no later than Tuesday, May 31. Prizes will be awarded for each age division. There will also be one artwork purchased by Main Street Washington for \$100.

Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Congratulations to the 4th grade students on their concert called Jazz!. The students did a great job on their songs, speaking parts and solos. Currently the 4th graders are working on note reading skills so that they can play recorders. Students will learn new songs on recorders and have a chance to earn beads for playing certain passages. There will be a few recorders to purchase for \$3.00 if you are interested, otherwise the school has recorders that student may use as well.

ELP - Mrs. Sieren

I was very pleased with how well the Quiz Bowl competition turned out. This group of fourth graders also placed second in their competition last year as third graders, so they should be very proud of themselves. Our next unit will be a creative thinking unit. They will be designing different, unique board games with only limited supplies. It should be a fun way to close out the school year.

System 44

In May students will continue to work at their pace on the software. We'll review prefixes, suffixes, and roots. They will continue to read 44 Library books to reinforce the skills they're learning on software and practice comprehension skills. Students should complete a 44 Library book each week. Fourth graders should be reading *at least* 20 minutes daily five days a week at home. Students with challenges in the area of reading need to read more.

4th grade fast-trackers include Brendan, Joe, and Trevor. Taylor finished in late March/early April.

Media Center

All Media Center materials are **due by Friday, May 20th**. The Media Center will be **CLOSED** for inventory beginning on Monday, May 23rd.

Beginning Monday, May 2nd, only one book at a time may be checked out .

Notes from the Nurse

Sun Protection

Keep your family safe this summer by following these tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- The first, and best, line of defense against the sun is covering up. Wear a hat with a three-inch brim or a bill facing forward, sunglasses (look for sunglasses that block 99-100% of ultraviolet rays), and cotton clothing with a tight weave.
- Stay in the shade whenever possible, and limit sun exposure during the peak intensity hours - between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

- On both sunny and cloudy days use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater that protects against UVB and UVA rays.
- Be sure to apply enough sunscreen - about one ounce per sitting for a young adult.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.
- Use extra caution near water and sand (and even snow!) as they reflect UV rays and may result in sunburn more quickly.

Holly Roth RN, BSN
Lincoln Elementary School Nurse

Notes from the Principal

The end of the school year is fast approaching. This is a time of changing weather and different activities at school including field trips, concerts and changed schedules. It is also the time of year when students are most likely to lose their focus on getting homework done or following rules. Students sometimes interpret changes in the schedule as the beginning of summer. It is very important that we at school, and you at home remind students to keep working and stay focused until the last bell rings.

We will be hosting summer school for students that are working below grade level. We will contact parents of students that we will need to attend.

The summer lunch program will once again be running. During the summer, free lunches will be available to all of the children of the Washington Community Schools starting on Monday, June 6 at Lincoln Elementary.

Parent support is the key to a school's success. I would like to thank you as parents for the support that you give to Lincoln Elementary and its staff. We could not be successful without you!

Have a great month!

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.