



# *Lincoln Times*

*5th Grade Edition - November 2011*

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

### **Social Studies**

We are finishing up our previous units. We were doing three different units at the same time because of the materials available. All classes have finished learning about Herbert Hoover. Some of the classes are learning map skills, (latitude and longitude, using grids, etc.) and some of the classes are using primary sources to learn about a trip Mr. Anderson took this past summer. I appreciate the way the students have learned that primary sources can be a way to learn about history.

### **Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling**

The unit we are working on right now in our reading series is called **Thinking Like a Scientist**. We are currently working on the first theme titled "How Does Cooking Work." We have been reading passages about cooking and how to read and follow recipes. Some of your children may have come home wanting to try the bread recipes that were included in one of the passages we read.

During our class discussions on writing, we have focused on how to write a procedural article. We have talked about sequencing words and the importance of listing the items needed and the steps necessary to complete the task.

We are focusing on the comprehension strategy of asking questions while we read. We know through research that good readers are constantly asking questions as they read. Questions are prompted by things students see in their reading. It may cause them to ask why a character did something, what's going to happen next, how a character feels about an event in the story, or many other things. Asking questions about what they are reading helps student better comprehend and retain what they read.

Spelling pretests will continue to be given on Day 1's, and a spelling list is given to each student after the pretest. Please remind your student to study their words often at home and here at school.

## Math

We are finishing up our Mathematical Thinking unit. The kids are solving puzzles by using everything they learned about numbers and mathematical thinking. Can you solve this puzzle? **My number is a multiple of 6. My number is less than 100. My number is an even number. My number is a square.** Have your child help you solve it.

We will be moving on to a multiplication unit very soon. We will be multiplying 2 digit by 2 digit numbers. It might be a good time to make some multiplication flash cards to help your child brush up on their facts.

## Science

We are beginning our exploration of weather over the next couple of weeks. The students will be researching various types of weather in different locations ( using weather.com), learning about severe weather and safety, and understanding the basics of a weather forecast. Coordinating with the weather cast component, the students will be creating their own forecast and presenting in to the class. For many of the students, this will be their first experience sharing in a formal setting in front of their peers. They will have about four class periods to prepare and practice. More details will be shared with the students in class. Make sure you ask your students about this project. The best way to help at home with this unit is to watch the weather on TV and talk about it. Becoming more weather aware is one of the goals of this unit.

## Art-Mrs. Humphreys

We are just starting a sculpture project in art. The students will do the following:

1. View many examples of public sculpture.
2. Each student will paint a piece to put into the class sculpture. Students will decide where the piece should fit into the whole sculpture.
3. The students will go on a walking tour of the sculptures in the community.

*Art Classes can always use quart size zip lock bags if you would like to make a contribution to our classes. Thanks!*

## Music-Mrs. Hill

5th graders are working hard to prepare for their program coming up called "My Planet, Your Planet". During the next few weeks, the fifth graders will be working on memorizing songs and speaking parts as they prepare for the program. The program will include the beginning band and will be held at the **Washington Community Center at 7:00 p.m. on November 22.**

The Sunrise Singers are collecting pop cans and bottles as a fundraiser, so please send your rinsed and empty cans and bottles to school and they will take care of them for you!

Performance Schedule

Tue. Dec. 6 - Sunrise Singers & Advanced Band H.S. auditorium 7 P.M.

Fri. Dec. 9 - Sunrise Singers & Advanced Band Lincoln gym 8:30 A.M.

## **Author Carol Gorman to Visit Lincoln Elementary**

Carol Gorman, author of Dork in Disguise, Chelsey and the Green-Haired Kid, and Stumptown Kid, will be a guest at Lincoln Elementary on Friday, November 4. She will speak to each grade level, answer questions, and autograph copies of her books. Teachers at Lincoln have been reading aloud from Carol's books so students are familiar with Carol's writing.

The following titles by Carol are available for purchase at Lincoln while supplies last: Chelsey and the Green-Haired Kid \$6, and Stumptown Kid \$8. Make checks payable to "Book Vault".

Her visit is sponsored by Lincoln PTG.

### **Family Literacy Night on Thursday, November 3**

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Fun!

Refreshments!

Carol Gorman book character contest with prizes!

Students attending Literacy Night may participate in a character look-a-like costume contest. The contest will run from 5:30-6:00, before the activities start. Judges will choose one winner from each grade based upon creativity and accurate representation of a character from one of Carol Gorman's books. Three winners will receive a free, autographed book from Carol Gorman and a photograph with the author. Photographs will be posted on Carol Gorman's website.

### **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:**

Wed., November 2	1:10 Dismissal for Professional Growth
Thurs., November 3	Literacy Night 5:30 - 7:00
Fri., November 4	Author Carol Gorman Visit
Tues., Nov. 8 - Fri., Nov. 11	ITBS Testing
Wed., November 9	Leadership Washington Visit
Wed., November 16	1:10 Dismissal for Professional Growth
Thurs., November 17	OPUS Honor Choir
Tues., November 22	5th Grade Concert - 7:00 PM at Community Center
Wed., November 23	2:10 Dismissal for Thanksgiving
Thurs., November 24	NO SCHOOL - Happy Thanksgiving
Fri., November 25	NO SCHOOL
Mon., November 28	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conference Comp Day
Wed., November 30	1:10 Dismissal for Professional Growth

## ELP - Mrs. Sieren

We are continuing to work in our energy audit unit. It took us quite a while to look in every room of the school and chart the items that require energy. The next step will be to use a kill-a-watt meter and measure the amount of energy most of the appliances use. I think this will be very eye-opening! The last part of the unit involves doing some kind of educational activity to inform the rest of the school about our "findings" and what everyone can do to help cut down on the energy costs.

Our next unit will be a forensic science study. They will learn all the different jobs that a police officer and forensic scientist have to do to solve a crime, and then eventually they will solve their own on-line murder case.

## Notes from the Counselor

My first month at Lincoln went great! Each week I have been going into the classrooms to get to know the students better, as well as meeting individually or in small groups to build relationships with them. I am excited to be here at Lincoln and look forward to the months ahead.

The Iowa Assessments will be given at Lincoln starting Tuesday, November 8th and ending Friday, November 18th. We test for one hour each morning. It is imperative that your child be to school each day on time, but especially the two weeks of basic skills, so they do not have to spend time making up the tests. Getting a good night of sleep will help your child be more alert and do better on the tests. Starting the day with a healthy breakfast is also very important. Children who eat breakfast tend to have longer attention spans and do better in school.

Breakfast at Lincoln is served from 7:40 to 8:00.

Please don't hesitate to contact me anytime by phone or email.

Lisa Otters  
Guidance Counselor

## Notes from the Nurse

Influenza season is approaching. We are taking these measures to help our students stay healthy. We need your help. Influenza spreads most easily in the early stages of the illness. To protect your child, as well as any other child, we will be more sensitive to the symptoms of influenza and will send your child home if ill.

Following these recommendations will help to prevent illness in your child and his/her classmates.

**\*Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu can include fever (oral temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

**\*Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home. You should begin to plan how you will provide care for your sick child if you are not able to stay home with them.

**\*Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.** If you give your child fever reducing drugs, like Ibuprofen or Tylenol ensure your child has not had a fever for 24 hours after the drugs have worn off.

**\*Teach your children that flu is spread from person-to-person.** Teach them to cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw the tissue in trash. If a tissue is not available, teach

them to cover their cough or sneeze using their elbow or sleeve instead of their hands.

**\*Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing happy birthday twice), especially after they cough or sneeze.** If soap and water is not available, an alcohol-based hand gel can be used. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.

**\*Teach your children not to share personal items** like beverages, cups, food, unwashed utensils, or toothbrushes.

**\*Get your family vaccinated for seasonal influenza soon.**

We appreciate your efforts in keeping our students healthy.

Holly Roth RN, BSN  
School Nurse

### Notes from the Principal

Lincoln Elementary will be starting Basic Skills on Tuesday, November 8. Tests will be given November 8-November 11. Again this year Lincoln Elementary will only take the tests required by No Child Left Behind and the State of Iowa. The hope is to minimize the number of tests given so students will maximize their effort.

It is important that the students do their best on the test. Both the students and Lincoln Elementary School are measured on the results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. These test scores will be used to help identify non-proficient students. Please make sure your child gets enough rest and has a good breakfast. Any student missing days during this time will need to make up the missed test upon their return. Students will receive a snack during homeroom compliments of the Lincoln PTG.

#### Schedule of Basic Skills Tests:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Test</u>
Tuesday, November 8-	Reading- Part 1 (25) Reading- Part 2 (30)
Wednesday, November 9-	Math Concepts and Estimation - Part 1 (25) & Part 2 (5)
Thursday, Nov 10-	Math Problem Solving and Data Interpretation (30)
Friday, November 11-	Science (30)

The end of the first trimester will be on November 11. Report cards will be sent home with the students on Wednesday, November 16. Students that earn a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the first trimester will be recognized with an Academic Awards certificate. These certificates will be presented to the students at a later date, at school. The grade point average is calculated from grades earned in Math, Language Arts, Spelling, Social Studies, Science, Reading, Physical Education, Music, Art, and Band.

With the cold weather and possibility of snow in the upcoming months, we ask you to make sure your child is dressed warm for recess. A lot of students find themselves getting cold at recess because they did not bring hats or gloves.

Our rules for the playground during the winter season are very simple. When there is snow on the playground:

- 1) Students **must** wear boots and snow pants to go off of the blacktop area.
- 2) No throwing snowballs.
- 3) No king of the hill on the snow piles.

These rules are for the safety of the students.

Information on the Lincoln's Family Literacy Night scheduled for Thursday, November 3rd is included in this Newsletter. We hope to can attend.

Thank you for your support!

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.