



Lincoln Times

3rd Grade Edition - September 2012

Here is What is Happening in 3rd Grade

Art-Mrs. Humphreys

We have had a great start in art! I have really enjoyed the enthusiasm of the third graders. The students have completed two projects at this point—a portfolio to store their work throughout the year and a clay coil pot. The next project will be a drawing where the students draw different tools from observation and then create a tool artwork.

I am asking for donations of tin cans for an upcoming sculpture project. Any 14 oz. cans will work great (like vegetable and fruit cans). Please send them rinsed and with the paper removed. Thanks so much!

Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Third graders have done a great job reading rhythms in music. Students are now taking a look at how notes move up, down and stay the same to create the element of music called melody.

ELP News - Mrs. Sieren

ELP Placement Procedures for Third Grade

With the realignment of grades this year, third grade has now become the major qualifying year for ELP placement. This is a fairly lengthy process that involves several test scores over a period of time. The idea is that one score will not keep a child from being placed in ELP or will not eliminate them from consideration. Once children are placed in ELP in third grade, they will always be considered to be an ELP student, so much consideration has to be a part of the process.

This is how it will work. The third graders will be taking a Cognitive Abilities Test in the next few weeks. This is a group IQ test that is much different than Iowa Assessments or any other test that they are given. Many school districts in the state use this test as part of their placement procedure. The scores have proven to be very reliable. The other tests that will be considered are the Scholastic Reading Inventory and the Scholastic Math Inventory. The Iowa Assessment Scores may also be considered.

Once I have the Cognitive Abilities Test scores, as well as the SRI and SMI scores for each child, I put them into a rubric and give point totals based on how high the level/score is. For example, on the Cognitive Abilities Test, a score of 100 is average. I receive a nonverbal score, verbal score, quantitative score, and a composite score for each student. If your child scores between 105-109 on a subtest, they received 1 point. 110-114 receives 2 points, 115-119 receives 3 points, etc. If your child scores above 125 on each of the subtests, they would score a total of 20 points on the rubric for their Cognitive Abilities Test scores.

I then do the same type of system for the SRI and SMI scores. Your child receives 1 point if their score is in the middle/average range for their grade, 2 points if it is at the top level of their grade, 3 points if it is one grade level above, etc.

The idea behind the point totals is to have children placed in ELP that are consistently well above grade level in both reading and math. As I mentioned before, by using the rubric method, one score does not place a child in ELP and one score does not eliminate them. Once I have all of the point totals tabulated for each test given, which is a total of 6-8 different scores, the children are simply rank ordered. based on their overall score. I take the kids with the highest overall point totals.

I hope this helps answers some of the questions you may have had concerning ELP this year. More than likely, I will not start to see any third graders before December. If your child is placed in ELP, you will receive a notification letter at that time. Your patience with this process is appreciated.

Notes from the Office

Picture Retake Day

Picture Retake Day will be held on Thursday, October 4th. Pictures will be retaken if students missed the original picture day or if students or parents want pictures retaken for a new picture packet. If students already purchased a picture packet, that packet must be returned to school and give to the photographers when a new picture is taken. If students would like to have retakes taken and a new picture packet ordered, they must have their picture envelope with them on that date. Picture information and envelopes are available in the office if you need one.

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.

Iowa School Alerts

With winter coming and parents needing to know if we are getting out of school early on snow or ice days, or if school is delayed or cancelled, you can sign up for Iowa Alerts. The Washington Community School District uses Iowa Alerts for notification of changes in our school day. You can be alerted by either a cell phone or email address.

To sign up for Iowa Alerts, go the Washington web page at: www.washington.k12.ia.us or you may also access Iowa School Alerts from their address: www.schoolalerts.iowa.gov

At the bottom of the Washington Community Schools web page, you will see a blue box with Iowa School Alerts in it. Click on that box. You will have to follow the registration process for this alert system. If you have any problems with your registration, please feel free to give us a call.

Notes from the Nurse

When to Keep Your Child Home.

Remember the 24-hour rule when your child is ill.

- Your child should stay home for 24 hours after starting to take antibiotics.

- Your child should stay home for 24 hours after their fever breaks, without using fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
- If your child has vomited or had repeated diarrhea within the past 12 hours, please do not send them to school.

Please contact the school nurse when you are not sure if your child is well enough to attend school. Also, it is wise to contact her when your child is on the "borderline" of being ill, so we can contact you if his/her symptoms worsen. Make sure we have correct phone numbers where you can be reached if your child is ill or has an emergency and needs to go home. If your child has a fever over 100 degrees or is vomiting, he/ she will need to go home.

Notes from the Guidance Office

It has been a great start to the school year. I am in your child's classroom once a week working on SCRAM (Skill Lessons, Character Counts, Read Aloud, and Morning Meetings) lessons. I have covered the "Lincoln Wanna-B's" so far this month. They are Be Prepared, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. These are life skills that will help them to be successful in and out of school. Have your child teach you what they have learned in SCRAM. This will help them remember and reinforce what we have done. Please call or email if you have any questions.

Mrs. Mitchell
At Risk Teacher

Notes from the Principal

Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13. An Operation Edith (Exit Drills in the Home) sheet is included in this newsletter. Please take time to work out an escape plan for your family. Lincoln Elementary will be hosting the Washington Fire Department on October 9. The Fire Department will be bringing their smoke house to Lincoln. Students will learn how to crawl below the smoke to safety through the smoke filled house, simulating a real house fire. The smoke is nontoxic and harmless to the students. Students will also learn about grease fires and see the trucks the Fire Department use.

Progress reports were sent home on Friday, September 21, to parents that have not signed up for the electronic version. Please contact a teacher if you have any questions or concerns on your child's progress report.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 18 and 22 from 4:30-8:00 PM. We are hoping for an excellent turn out. For parents with 4th and 5th grade students, you are encouraged to track your child's progress on the school management system, PowerSchool. If you are busy and have trouble finding time to log in and check your child's progress, an easy way is to have it e-mailed to you. Go into PowerSchool. Across the top, find the icon that says, "E-mail notification." Put a check in the box that says, "Summary of current grades and attendance." Select how often you would like the e-mail sent and add your e-mail address at the bottom. You will now receive the grades daily, weekly, etc. If you have questions about the system, contact Tricia Bell at Lincoln Elementary School (653-3691).

If your child is sick or is going to miss school please call the office (653-3691) before 9:00 A.M. to let us know and to set up a time to pick up homework. This will help us and keep your child from falling behind. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning. Children can copy notes or make up assignments, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking

that makes learning come alive. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background, one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

If you are picking up your child after school, please pick them up on either Monroe St. or 6th Ave. (North or East of Lincoln.). This helps to alleviate congestion in front of the school from the buses and traffic.

Thank you for your support of Lincoln Elementary and its students!

David Hoffman, Principal
Lincoln Elementary School

3th Grade Blog Sites

Mrs. Bailey

3rd Grade Teacher

<http://thebaileyblogger3b.blogspot.com/>

Mrs. Bombei

3rd Grade Teacher

<http://bombeibulletin.blogspot.com/>

Mrs. Litchfield

3rd Grade Teacher

<http://litchfieldlink.blogspot.com/>

Mrs. Rausch

3rd Grade Teacher

<http://rausch3rdgradeblog.blogspot.com/>

Mrs. Vittetoe

3rd Grade Teacher

<http://vittetoesvoyages.blogspot.com/>

Tessa Steinhard

Reading Teacher

<http://www.steinhartreads.blogspot.com>

Linda Shields

Reading Teacher

<http://shieldsliteracyblog.blogspot.com>

Renee Sieren

ELL Teacher

<http://sierenelp.blogspot.com>

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.

