



# *Lincoln Times*

*4th Grade Edition - October 2011*

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

### **Social Studies**

We have been discussing and looking at the Southwest region of the United States. States in this region include Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. The students have learned many things about the environment of this region. They have also learned many vocabulary words, concepts, and ideas, which have been added to a foldable (study guide) that they made. Their foldable and all other foldables will have important information the students will need to know for each test. We learned about the gulf coast, canyons, deserts, oil, and wells for water and oil in the Southwest region. We will then be studying the history and economy of the Southwest in October. We will learn about the Hopi, the arrival of the Spanish, the rise of ranching, and the Southwest today. We again will make a foldable to put all the important vocabulary and notes in. **Watch the assignment book for a test date on the history and economy of the Southwest Region in mid-October. The test will be given around October 14th.**

After finishing up the Southwest Region, we will look at the Southeast Region of the United States. States in this region include West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The students will be learning many things about the environment of this region. They will learn many vocabulary words, concepts, and ideas, which will be added to a foldable (study guide) that they make. Students will also have to label the states in the Southeast and each region thereafter as we proceed through the year!

4th Grade Teachers

### **Language Arts and Reading**

We will be starting Theme 3 the first week in October. The reading strategy is inferring. When we infer while reading, we combine what we read with what we already know to fill in the gaps. An example would be if you say, *Spot raced up to her and covered her face in kisses.* Ask your child to tell you what Spot is, how Spot felt, and how the person Spot ran to felt. As your child answers, point out that each of these responses is an inference.

In language arts, we will be learning about nouns. We will learn what a noun is and we will be looking for nouns in our writing and in other writings. We will be learning how to write reports during our writing time. Your child's teacher will show them how to organize a report and they will also model report writing. Then the kids will have the opportunity to practice on their own!

**Don't forget to practice your spelling words!**

## Science

This month your child will continue exploring the properties of water. He/she will be completing labs on some of the different properties that water has, investigating different factors that influence water, evaporation and condensation, observing how water moves through different materials, and how water can be used for work. Their science notebooks should contain a list of word wall words and their definitions, which will be continually, add to as we advance through the unit. Those words will be on the written water unit test later in the month. Your child will also be given a performance test to be completed in class over this unit. Again as in the magnet unit, the science notebooks will be collected for a grade. Your child should have the table of contents completed, all the pages numbered, and all pages completed at that time.

The next unit of study will be a short unit over oceans. This unit will be completed in the traditional method: reading from a source (reading packets will be made available). Your child will have four or five homework assignments to complete throughout the unit. This unit takes approximately two weeks after which a test will be given.

If you have any questions, **please** give your child's science teacher a call or e-mail. Thanks in advance for helping your child be successful in science.

## Spelling

**Spelling words for test on Friday, September 30th:** water, grip, restrict, stump, long, brisk, one, craft, probably, spinach, clever, dentist, traffic, may, plastic, applaud, drainage, splendid

**Spelling words for test on Friday, October 7th:** matter, snuggle, women, only, way, chapter, floppy, market, thunder, find, habit, doormat, use, giggle, acrobat, cotton, penguin, threaten

**Spelling words for test on Friday, October 14th:** explode, mistake, suppose, did, telephone, describe, had, female, made, baseball, evening, beside, sunshine, parachute, believe, climate, freestyle, lightning

## Math

During the month of October, students will be working on a unit called Arrays and Shares. They will learn about arrays, multiples, factors, and products. Students will come to the understanding that columns and rows make the dimensions of an object. These multiplication concepts will assist students as we introduce division in math class. Helping your child to practice their multiplication facts at home will help them with the concepts we are working on at school.

Students will have math assignments as homework. You will know if they have homework when you check your child's assignment book. Math students write HW (Homework) meaning they have an assignment due the next day. The assignment is expected to be completed before class the next day. If a student is absent they are expected to make up the work they have missed.

Extra credit is always available in math class. Students may take extra credit home to finish or complete it at school. Extra credit can only help your child's grade, never lower it.

## Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Fourth graders at Lincoln have been keeping the beat to the music by patting, clapping, chanting, and dancing. They have learned that musical terms are mostly in Italian (along with a lot of our favorite foods!) We have sung a song where students echo in a foreign language, a song that expresses feelings about a bad day, and a rock and roll song among others.

### **Art - Mrs. Humphreys**

Current Project: Fire Prevention Poster

- (1) To learn about and understand the importance of fire prevention and fire safety
- (2) To create an effective poster about fire prevention/safety that communicates a message to others

The fire posters will go to the Washington Fire Department for judging. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophy for 4th graders.

### **Read 180-Miss Ebert**

Read 180 is off and running for the year! Read 180 is a reading program geared toward making reading interesting and fun. It integrates reading, writing and spelling to boost the student's performance. All this is done with short, 20-minute sessions of whole and small group instruction, computer software and independent reading time. There are 15 fourth grade students, 15 fifth grade students, and 16 sixth grade students in the Read 180 program at Lincoln. These students come to me during their LARS time every day. So far we have worked on the various routines and procedures we will do every day in class and become familiar with the different aspects of the Read 180 program. I am very excited to be in this new position and to help students become readers every day! I have a Lincoln Read 180 blog that I will use to inform parents of what we are doing in the classroom. To access the blog, please use the following site: <http://lincolnread180.blogspot.com/>.

### **System 44 - Mrs. Shields**

System 44 fourth graders are working at their own pace on the software with 20 minutes of the daily 90-minute block spent using the computer for instruction and practice. Reinforcement activities include reading from the 44 Library, Decodable Digest, and working in the 44 Book. Current topics include learning about the role of vowels and consonants in words to read and write.

In whole group instruction we've been working on:

- Getting automatic with sight words.
- Contrasting long and short vowels.
- Identifying and understanding consonants and vowels.

As students work to improve phonics and comprehension skills it is vital that they practice reading a minimum of 20 minutes daily at home. Please help your child set aside time each day.

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

Carol Gorman, author of Dork in Disguise and Chelsey and the Green-Haired 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 will be available for purchase at Lincoln starting Monday, October 24th - Dork in Disguise, Chelsey and the Green-Haired Kid, and Stumptown Kid. Books will cost \$10 or less.

Her visit is sponsored by Lincoln PTG. More details will be available in October.

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

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Fun!

Refreshments!

Carol Gorman book character contest with prizes!

### **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.

#### **Picture Retakes**

Picture Retake Day at Lincoln will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2011. Lifetouch will be taking student pictures if they missed the original date, want to replace their package with a new picture or have now decided to order pictures. If you were not happy with the original pictures, please be sure students have their packet with them for retakes. Call Lincoln Office if you have questions at 653-3691.

#### **Homecoming Dismissal**

Dismissal for Homecoming on Friday, October 7, 2011, will be at 2:10, not 1:10 as stated earlier in the Lincoln Calendar. The Homecoming parade has been moved back and will start at approx. 2:45 this year.

#### **Below are some dates to Remember in October:**

Wed., Oct. 5	1:10 Dismissal - Professional Growth
Thurs., Oct. 6	Picture Re-takes
Friday, Oct. 7	2:10 Dismissal - Homecoming
Sat., Oct. 15	Bike-A-Thon
Wed., Oct. 19	1:10 Dismissal - Professional Growth
Thurs., Oct. 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sat., Oct. 22	Bike-A-Thon Rain Date
Tues., Oct. 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 28	NO SCHOOL - Work Day
Mon., October 31	Halloween Activities



## **Notes from the Principal**

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15. 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 11. The Fire Department will bring 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 used by the fire department.

Progress reports were sent home on Friday, September 23, 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 20 and 25 from 4:30-8:00 PM. We are hoping for an excellent turn out. Parents are encouraged to track their 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).

The students and faculty along with the Lincoln Parent/Teacher group (PTG) will be invited to participate in the Bike-A-Thon on Saturday, October 15, 2011 in Sunset Park with a rain-date on October 22, 2011 to raise funds for playground amenities like benches, trash cans or small equipment. We also have a need for more books in Guided Reading and Social Studies. More information will be coming out on this fundraiser.

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.