



Lincoln Times

6th Grader Edition November 2011

Here's What's Happening in 6th Grade!!!!

Social Studies

We finished up our World Religions unit and we are now working on our Polynesian Settlement Theory Exploration. We are studying the three main theories on how people got out to the Polynesian islands during ancient times. They are becoming an expert in a certain area of study (myths and legends, language, plants, boats, music and dance, wind and ocean current, or artifacts.) The students will be debating which theory is the best and why. They are also learning a dance that the warriors learned for fast feet in battle during P.E. In music, they are learning a song in Hawaiian. We will finish up this unit with a Luau.

Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling

In LARS students just finished the adventure unit. During this unit, the students participated in Literature Circles. Talk to your child about the 4 different jobs and which job was their favorite. The students did a good job with their literature circle jobs. The students really enjoy the books they read.

Students enjoyed writing their scary stories that were shared on Monday, October 31.

Reading goals are due Friday, November 4. It is important that your child is reading 15 minutes each night to meet their goal. The reading goal grade accounts for 30% of the total LARS grade.

Science- Mrs. Clawson

Our Brassica plants are nearing the end of their life cycle, so we are in the process of analyzing the data to see how changing one variable affected the growth of the plants. Each team will present their data to the class using PowerPoint and other visuals. The plants have been exciting to watch over the past four weeks!

The next unit we will be starting in mid November is called "Models and Designs". This is a physical science unit that works with many basic engineering skills and thinking "out of the box" type of skills. Be prepared for some frustration on your student's part when they encounter black boxes, humdingers, etc.!

Emily Baumert will be student teaching in the science classroom. It will be an exciting unit for her to work with the students!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Math

Mrs. Swift & Mrs. Thorius

In Math students have been busy studying decimals. This will eventually lead to the relationship of decimals, fractions, and percent. After this we will be looking at patterns, variables, and number theory before moving into fractions.

We try to spend time every day relating math to real life situations. Parents, when your child brings home schoolwork involving computation, try to show how this extends to situations in your real world. We occasionally do brainteasers in class. These are problems that have a different answer than the obvious. Students also have opportunity to do problem solving with manipulative puzzles. This is a fun way to develop problem solving skills.

We saw many parents at conferences and appreciate you taking time out of your schedules to come to school. If you have further questions at any time please call or email.

Art-Mrs. Humphreys

We are just completing one-point perspective drawings. The sixth graders have been very creative and have worked very hard on their drawings. We will be starting a relief sculpture drawing next.

The students will do the following:

1. Learn the characteristics and of sculpture and relief sculpture.
2. Make connections to the sculpture artist Louise Nevelson.
3. Use elements and principles of design to create a strong composition.
4. Create a relief sculpture on cardboard with various materials.
3. Create another relief sculpture by doing a tin rubbing over the top of the first sculpture.

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

Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Lincoln 6th graders have identified syncopated rhythms in the music along with singing syncopated songs. Soon 6th graders will be listening to and discussing songs from Hawaii in connection with their social studies unit on Polynesia. They will be performing one song at the 6th grade luau.

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.

ELP - Mrs. Sieren

We are just finishing our rocket unit. I hope that we can launch them the first week of November. I will certainly e-mail all of you when I know what the launch schedule will be. Let's keep our fingers crossed for good weather. If it is extremely windy on a day that we have planned, we will have to postpone until a better day. If it is cold, we will still launch. It is just the wind that causes problems.

Our next unit will be simple chemistry. The kids do a variety of experiments that involve learning about acids and bases, disease transmission, and polymers.

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

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 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 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 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.