



Lincoln Times

4th Grade Edition - November 2011

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

Social Studies

We will learn about the heritage and people of the Southeast Region in our next unit in late October and early November. We will be learning about Cherokee culture, Colonial Williamsburg, A Country Divided, and Civil Rights and the Southeast Today. We will learn how they make decisions too! Students will also have to label the states in this region as well as the Southwest on a map.

In mid-November we will also be beginning the bringing history home unit over the Progressive Era. It is the time period from 1890-1920. We will be working on this unit from mid-November until winter break! This unit will be "untraditional" in the sense that we will be examining video, pictures, and documents, and drawing our own conclusions about that time period in history. We will be looking at capitalism, competition, profits/monopolies, immigration, tenement housing, working conditions, child labor, unions, progressive laws, and muckrakers. We will take a narrative test where students write a "story" based on some of the important terms we will learn about. On the test will be the words: immigrant, profit, capitalism, child labor, progressives, muckrakers, and tenement housing. We will culminate the unit by watching "Samantha- An American Girl Holiday." Please have discussions about what your son/daughter is learning in social studies during this unit! It is also very important that your child is here at school because classes cannot be made up. That way he or she can participate in all activities, watch video clips, and is a part of the discussions.

Please check out the "progressive era" unit by going to: <http://www.bringinghistoryhome.org/>

Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving!
4th grade teachers

Science

The next unit of study will be a short unit over the ocean. 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 and then a test will be given.

Following this unit, your child will be expected to complete a research paper. The subject will be your child's choice of an ocean wildlife. Ocean plants are part of the wildlife environment that is vital to all environments and needs to be researched also. Topics will be chosen, but only one species per homeroom will be allowed. Your child will receive information on what must to be included in their final paper later.

Language Arts and Reading

We will be working in Theme 4 and Theme 5 during the month of November. During these themes, we will be learning about creating images and fix-up strategies. We will also be reviewing inferring. As of right now, the Theme 4 test will be on November 9th and the Theme 5 test will be on November 23rd.

Creating images is when we think about how something we read might look, sound, feel, smell, and taste to paint pictures in our minds. To practice creating images at home, you can have your child tell you about the pictures they are creating in their minds as they read. You can also have them draw the pictures they are seeing.

We use fix-up strategies when we are stuck on a word and try to figure out the word's meaning. To practice fix-up strategies at home, read a newspaper article with your student. Have them circle words that they don't know, then come up with an idea to figure out what the word means. You can break the word into parts, reread the sentence to see if you can figure out what it means, or use the information around the word to find the meaning of the unknown word.

During writing we will be reviewing the importance of prewriting. Prewriting is important because it helps the students get their ideas down before they start writing. Every theme we practice prewriting with a different graphic organizer about a different organizational pattern. Theme 4's organizational pattern is sequencing. We will be talking about the importance of making sure that when we write we have our ideas in the correct order. We can't toast bread after we put peanut butter on it!

We will practice writing personal narratives during Theme 5. A personal narrative is a writing about yourself and an experience that you have had in your life. Kids can write about a trip that they have taken, or about the time they broke their arm. Maybe they would like to write about going to a sporting event or getting a new pet.

Spelling

Words for test on Friday, November 4: system, energy, alphabet, Internet, again, research, puzzle, neighbor, glossary, make, time, reference, no, could, dictionary, mystery, thesaurus, vocabulary

Words for test on Friday, November 11: answer, delicious, ideal, noisy, perfect, puny, quiet, response, tasty, weak, him, like, see, two, examine, familiar, inspect, strange

Words for test on Friday, November 18: temple, her, shower, swallow, present, diamond, has, cobbler, stable, more, batter, pupil, into, scour, atmosphere, buffet, column, neutral <file:///localhost/Users/teacher/Desktop/Novell%20WebAccess.webarchive>

NO spelling week of 11/21 - 11/25

Math

During the month of November, the fourth grade math classes will continue to practice and learn about money. Have your child practice counting your spare change. Students should be able to identify our American coins and make change.

They will also review similar and congruent shapes. Fourth graders should be able to identify mathematical patterns and learn about mirror and rotational symmetry in our geometry lessons.

Your child should know the basic facts through the 12's. When your child brings home problems, encourage them to explain his or her thinking about those problems. The fourth graders will learn how to multiply using more than one strategy. Parents can find examples for the new methods students are learning in their student's math spiral.

Music - Mrs. J. Hill

Lincoln 4th graders have been studying how all music has a beat, which is totally different from the rhythm. They have sung several fun Halloween songs and will soon start working on the blues.

Art - Mrs. Humphreys

We are currently working on self-portraits in art.

The students will do the following:

1. Make connections to portraits with background surroundings.
2. Draw a self-portrait with a background that tells about you.
3. Learn watercolor techniques to paint the self-portrait.

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

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

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 spent 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.