



Lincoln Times

4th Grade Edition - March 2013

Here's Whats Happening in 4th Grade!

Music - Mrs. Hill

Congratulations to the fourth graders on a fine performance of the program "Hungry To Learn"! We had fun putting it together, especially the Herman skit! Fourth grade students will now be singing some songs with harmony. We will be working on note reading skills soon in preparation for playing recorders.

Art-Mrs. Humphreys

Make sure to check out Lincoln Art website if you haven't gotten the chance! In art, we are just finishing up an artwork study where students worked in groups to learn about a painting and wrote a fictional story about that painting. Next, the fourth graders will learn about clay and make a slab pot with textures.

<https://sites.google.com/a/washington.k12.ia.us/lincoln-elementary-art/>

ELP- Mrs. Sieren

The fourth graders have been learning about various companies during the stock market unit. We will be playing the stock market tycoon game, as the concluding activity, very soon. I am sure the students will enjoy it.

Our next unit will be robotics. The students will be using Lego NXT kits. They will be building a simple robot and then learning how to program it to do various tricks. The biggest challenge for the kids is learning to take a large task and break it down into very small steps. I know the students have been anticipating this unit for quite some time, so I am sure your child will be telling you about it as we begin in the next couple of weeks.

Notes from the Office

Attendance/Absence Line

An 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 the Lincoln office know when your student will not be in attendance.

March Dates to Remember:

Friday, March 1: End of 2nd Trimester
Tuesday, March 5: 5th - 12th Band Concert at 7:00 at the High School
Wednesday, March 6: 1:10 Dismissal Professional Development. Report Cards go home.
Wednesday, March 6: 3rd Grade STAR Party, Bowling in AM
Thursday, March 7: 4th Grade STAR Party, Bowling in AM
Thursday, March 7: Students and staff are encouraged to dress up as a book character to celebrate reading.
Friday, March 8: 5th Grade STAR Party, Bowling in AM
Thursday, March 14: A mystery reader will be at Lincoln.
Thursday, March 14: All School Vocal Program 7:00 at HS
Wednesday, March 20: NO SCHOOL -Workday
Thursday, March 21: Reading Relay and Read & Feed
Thursday, March 28: Spring Break - 2:20 Dismissal
Friday, March 29: NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Monday, April 1: NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conference Comp. Day

Notes from the Guidance Office

We have been talking about being accountable during SCRAM time. We discussed how responsible people are accountable for their actions. They accept responsibility for for mistakes or things that they have done instead of blaming others. They do what is required of them. Remind your child that he/she is accountable for completing their homework.

Mrs. Mitchell
At Risk Teacher

Notes from the Principal

If you are dropping your child off in the morning or picking them up at night, we would request that you park on Monroe St. (the street north of Lincoln) or 6th Ave. South (the street east of Lincoln). This leaves 4th Avenue in front of the school open for buses and reduces traffic.

Raising a Reader- From the NAESP Raising a Reader

Reading is the most important skill your children will ever learn. It's the tool your child needs the most at school, and it is essential for nearly every job and career.

Learning to read takes time and it takes you. Reading isn't something children can just pick up, like learning to talk. It's complicated. Children need you to encourage them to work at it, and to keep trying if they get frustrated.

Your children also need to see how exciting reading can be. They will learn this every time you share a wonderful story with them, or open a book about fascinating people, places or things. It's up to you to show them that reading is far more than just a subject taught in school — it's the doorway to a lifetime of learning, creating, discovering, and succeeding.

Although your children will learn the nuts and bolts of reading at school, they still need the special one-on-one attention only *you* can provide.

Beyond books, are there other ways to boost my child's reading abilities?

There certainly are! Here are just a few:

- Go places, do things. The more experiences children have, the easier it is for them to read because of all the new ideas and vocabulary they are exposed to.
- Get your children involved in everyday reading — directions, grocery lists, recipes, labels, instruction of all the new ideas and vocabulary they are exposed to.
- Read the newspaper and clip out articles or comic strips he'd enjoy.
- Limit television. If he's interested in a certain kind of TV show, look for some children's books or Play games together that require reading and word skills, such as Monopoly, The Game of Life or Scrabble. Magazines that are the same style-action, comedy or sports- oriented, for example.
- Books on tape are fun, too. Pause the tape and talk about the story, the characters, or what might happen next.
- Encourage your child to be a writer. Keep paper and pencils available and show how proud you are of the stories he writes.

What should I do when my child makes a mistake when she's reading?

First, remember that all readers make mistakes. If he/she still understands the meaning of what they are reading to you don't need to be concerned. But if he/she is missing the meaning of the sentence or the story, they need your help. Wait a few seconds before jumping in — give them time to correct it on their own. If he/she doesn't notice the mistake, have them re-read the sentence out loud. Ask them to listen to hear whether every word fits.

If they're having trouble with a specific word, suggest that he/she look at it to see if it is similar to a word he/she does know. You might also want to see if he/she can figure it out by its context — by looking at the rest of the sentence, and seeing what word would make sense. If they're still puzzled, don't make them struggle. Tell them what it is. It's important to keep them from acquiring the habit of skipping over words he/she doesn't know.

Reading is the single most important skill children need to succeed in school. That's why it's helpful to make reading part of your children's home life every day. The more children read — and are read to — the better readers they'll become.

Have a GREAT March!

David Hoffman, Principal
Lincoln Elementary School

4th Grade Blog Sites

Mrs. Brokaw
4th Grade Teacher

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

Mrs. Conrad
4th Grade Teacher

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

Mr. Hippen
4th Grade Teacher

<http://4thgrademrhippen.blogspot.com/>

Tessa Steinhard
Reading Teacher

<http://www.steinhardtreads.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.