



**March 2024**

**From the Principal's Desk**

Dear Lincoln School Families,

Happy March! The first weekend of March provided some wonderful spring-like weather for us! It's amazing what a little bit of sunshine will do for you! I hope that we have seen the last of the snow and that spring really is around the corner! What definitely is around the corner is the FOURTH QUARTER!! The fourth quarter officially begins on Monday, March 11th, with third quarter report cards being distributed on Friday, March 15th. We will have an 11:55 am dismissal on Friday, March 8th to mark the end of the quarter.

We are excited for the return to our annual PTO School Carnival on Friday, March 8th from 5-8 pm. We are looking forward to the games, inflatables, food, basket raffles and FUN of our school carnival. Our Carnival Chairperson Kymber Poppins has been working hard with our carnival committees (Food-Jennifer Greene, Joy Clauson; Baskets-Katie Smith and Hope Schreffler) to plan an amazing event for all of our Lincoln families. Thank you so much for your donations to our classroom baskets...they are always so incredible!! Information was also sent home today from our PTO with food/pricing, wristband purchase information, game locations, etc. Basket descriptions can be found online:

[☰ Lincoln School Carnival Basket Raffle 2024](#)

If you have not had a chance to complete the 5Essentials Survey, we ask for your help in completing this survey to provide feedback about your family's experiences at Lincoln Elementary School: Link for parents to take the survey: [Survey Start for The State of Illinois](#). We thank you for your input!!

Please be sure to take time to read this month's newsletter with information about our PTO Carnival this Friday, 3rd-6th grade IAR Testing which takes place in early April, Lincoln School Week at Culver's and the upcoming Aide Appreciation Week at Lincoln. We have three weeks to go until Spring Break, and they are going to be very busy weeks!

We are always grateful for your continued support of our teachers and staff and your partnership in your child's education at Lincoln. We appreciate you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Julie Horchem, Principal

## **A Note From our Assistant Principal**

February was a whirlwind of a month! It was great seeing so many of you at Open House. The students were so proud to show off their classrooms and their hard work on projects. At Open House, you may have noticed a table of Morton High School PTO volunteers selling Morton Potter Cards. This annual fundraiser is vital for the success of the MHS PTO, and I will continue selling cards in my office to support their fundraiser. The card features incredible offers from various Morton businesses. They are a great value for only \$10. Don't miss out - purchase yours today!! As we look ahead, an exciting month awaits us with Spring Break just three weeks away! Save the date for the upcoming carnival on March 8th! It should be totally rad with an 80s theme! See you there!

# Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter March 2024



## **IAR Testing to Begin in April**

Our students take federally required assessments every spring. These assessments help us understand how our students are growing academically, compared to their peers across the state. The state uses this information to provide more support and resources to the schools in the greatest need. This year, the English Language Arts and Math assessment for grades 3-6 is called the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR).

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness measures the same Illinois Learning Standards and includes the same high-quality test questions that teachers and students have become familiar with over the past several years.

Our students should feel confident showing what they know and can do on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness. Our students will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness in April, starting the week of April 8th. A specific testing schedule will



**Instructional Aides:** Klaire Aberle, Carley Baer, Ana Barnes, Peyton Cook, Rachel Eichorn, Angelia Evans, Quinn Gillespie, Jamie Hilt, Danielle Johnson, Lia Kiddy, Katie Kraft, Mary Miller, Staci Leuchtenberg, Jessica Pray, Ellie Roley, Jessica Taylor, Joy Thompson, Janet Weyer,

**Library Aide:** Denise Poshard

**MHS Co-Op Students:** Sylvie Boeker, Sophia Clauser, Izzy Ely

**MTSS Intervention Aides:** Katie Boyer, Lauren Middleton

**Recess Aides:** Jessica Escribano-Lopez, Rhonda Hudson-Kufner, Holly Yordy

**Technology Aide:** Melissa Gladson

March 16th is set aside as this date to remember Miss Amy Hardin, who was an instructional aide at Lincoln in the fall of 2014. She was tragically killed in an auto accident on October 26, 2014 at the age of 24. We remember Amy on her birthday for her kind heart, her compassion for students with special needs and her desire to help all students to experience success, no matter the setting.



## **LINCOLN SCHOOL WEEK at MORTON CULVER'S IS COMING!!**

Each spring, our generous friends at Morton Culver's host a "school week" for each of our district's elementary schools, along with Blessed Sacrament School and Bethel Lutheran School, as a school fundraiser. Every year, each school receives 10% of the sales from their school's week.

### **Lincoln School Week is Monday, March 11th through Sunday, March 17th.**

Anytime you visit Culver's that week (and why wouldn't you want Culver's ALL.THE.TIME), be sure to bring a copy of the flyer that is included with this newsletter.

You can also give copies of the flyer to your friends and family members so they can help our cause! Present the flyer when you order inside (or when you are ready to pay at the drive thru outside) so that we'll get credit for your visit!

Don't forget to eat dinner at Culver's anytime between March 11th-March 17th, present the Lincoln School flyer, and help our school raise funds! Thank you in advance for your support!



### Reminders from the Nurse

Nurse Jennifer Cook would like to remind all families that kindergarten, 2nd and 6th graders need to have their current dental exam turned in by May 15th, 2024, if you have not already done so. If you are unsure if you still need to turn in your child's required dental exam please email Nurse Jen at [jennifer.cook@mcusd709.org](mailto:jennifer.cook@mcusd709.org)

Also...we are always accepting clothing donations to keep in our clothing supply cabinet for when students have accidents, spill food/milk on their clothes, etc. We especially need clothing donations of **boys pants sizes 4/5, 12/14 and adult** and **girls pants sizes 8/10 and 12/14.**

We could also use more **boys underwear in sizes 12 and 14.**

Thank you so much for your help!



### Spring Picture Day is Coming!

Our Spring Picture Day is Tuesday, March 12th. A form/packet from our school photographer, HR Imaging, will soon be coming home with all students. Payment for pictures is due on our Picture Day, with checks payable to HR Imaging

Partners. You are also able to order pictures AFTER picture day, but a late fee may apply. More package options are available at [shop.hrimaging.com](http://shop.hrimaging.com).



### **Important March/April/May Dates:**

**(Adding April and May dates to help with your end of school year planning!)**

**Mon., 3/4:** Volleyball Club in Gym 2:45-3:45 pm; March PTO Meeting in South Vestibule entrance at 7 pm; child care will be provided; this meeting will be shown live on our school Facebook page if you aren't able to attend in person!

**Tues., 3/5:** K-2nd grade Read Aloud Club in Library 2:45-3:30 pm; Math and Reading Challenge 2:45-4 pm; Board of Education Meeting at District Office at 5:30 pm

**Wed., 3/6:** 11:55 am Early Dismissal; Kona here; 20% of sales come back to our PTO

**Thurs., 3/7:** 4th Grade Biography Viewing Party at 1:30 pm; 4th-6th Lego Club in Music Room 2:45-3:30 pm

**Fri., 3/8:** End of 3rd Quarter; 11:55 am Dismissal; PTO School Carnival from 5-8 pm

**Sun., 3/10:** Daylight Savings Time begins (be sure to turn your clocks ahead when you go to bed on Saturday night!)

**Mon., 3/11:** Aide Appreciation Week begins at Lincoln; Lincoln School Week at Culver's (see flyer)

**Tues., 3/12:** Spring Picture Day (more information to come); K-2nd grade Read Aloud Club in Library 2:45-3:30 pm; Math and Reading Challenge 2:45-4 pm

**Wed., 3/13:** 5th Grade Manners Luncheon in Bertha Frank Lobby at MHS 11 am

**Thurs., 3/14:** 4th-6th Lego Club in Music Room 2:45-3:30 pm

**Fri., 3/15:** 3rd Quarter Report Card and Winter MAP testing results distributed

**Sat., 3/16:** District 709 Aide Appreciation Day

**Mon., 3/18:** Heidi White Memorial Concert at Bertha Frank at 6 pm

**Tues., 3/19:** Junior High Choir Tour/Demonstration for 6th graders at 8:30 am in the gym; K-2nd grade Read Aloud Club in Library 2:45-3:30 pm; 4th Grade Art Club in music room 2:45-3:45 pm; Math and Reading Challenge 2:45-4 pm

**Thurs., 3/21:** PTO Teacher Luncheon (meal provided by first grade parents...thank you!); 4th-6th Lego Club in Music Room 2:45-3:30 pm

**Fri., 3/22:** Junior High Band and Orchestra Tour/Demonstrations for 5th and 6th graders at 8:30 am in the gym and cafeteria

**Mon., 3/25 - Mon., 4/1:** No School-Spring Break

**Tues., 4/2:** School Resumes

**Wed., 4/3:** 11:55 am Dismissal; Kona Ice here

**Thurs., 4/4 and Fri., 4/5:** Erin's Law Presentations in all K-6 Classrooms (see attached letter for more information)

**Mon., 4/8:** IAR Testing for 3rd-6th graders begin; Sign Language Club in music room 2:45-3:30 pm; Lincoln PTO Meeting in South Vestibule at 7 pm

**Tues., 4/9:** 4th Grade Art Club in music room at 2:45-3:45 pm; Math and Reading Challenge 2:45-4 pm

**Thurs., 4/10:** Kind Kids Club in Mrs. Chan's room 2:45-3:30 pm

**Fri., 4/19:** PTO Family BINGO Night! (More information to come!)

**Mon., 4/29 or Tues. 4/30:** Sixth Grade Orientation at MJHS at 6 pm (choose Monday or Tuesday)

**Wed., 5/1:** 11:55 am Dismissal; Kona Ice here

**Thurs., 5/2:** 6th Grade Orchestra Concert at HS at 7 pm

**Fri., 5/3:** Fine Arts Day (see parent/presenter letter in with newsletter)

**Mon., 5/6:** Sixth Grade Band Concert at MJHS at 6 pm

**Fri., 5/10:** Sixth Grade Step Up Day at MJHS

**Mon., 5/13:** Fifth and Sixth Grade Choir Concert at Grace Church at 6:30 pm

**Thurs., 5/16:** Sixth Grade Field Trip to St. Louis (more info to come)

**Fri., 5/17:** Lincoln School Picnic Day (tentative date; more information to come)

**Thurs., 5/23:** Laugh Olympics Day

**Fri., 5/24:** Last Day of School (tentative); 11:55 am Dismissal

# Lincoln PTO Newsletter

Cake walk donations can be  
dropped off starting Wednesday,  
March 6th!



March 2024

## From the PTO President:

As you are reading this, we are feverishly putting the final touches on this week's carnival! The details of the carnival have been sent home in a separate packet and we **invite EVERYONE (parents and students) to dress in their 80s best!**

There is still a significant need for volunteers for the carnival. Please consider volunteering for a shift to help bring the carnival to life. If we don't have enough volunteers, we may be forced to shut down some games. To those who have already signed up, THANK YOU. Please invite a friend to join you!

Basket descriptions are listed [here!](#) This google document will be shared in several places, we are saving paper and will NOT send home hard copy this year!

Recommendations are being finalized and budget review is underway to make enhancements to our outdoor areas as a result of the fall fundraising efforts. Once decisions are finalized, we'll share but those who attend the PTO meetings often times get a "sneak peek." We invite all parents to join us at PTO meetings!

It's wild to think we're down to less than THREE months of this school year. We are in need of some important roles next school year. Please review those below and know if you're interested, you would be supported throughout the experience. You wouldn't enter any of these roles without guidance! Thank you in advance for considering!

*-Kymber Poppins*

## Mark Your Calendar:

**March 4** - PTO meeting

**March 6** - Early Out - Kona Ice!

**March 8** - Early Out and Carnival (5-8)

**March 21** - 1st grade hosts Teacher Luncheon

**March 25-29** - SPRING BREAK!

**April 1** - No school (Easter Break)

**April 3** - Early Out and Kona Ice!

**April 8** - PTO meeting

## Looking Ahead:

The PTO is looking for several roles:

- A coordinator of the April 19 Bingo night: This person will plan and coordinate the details of the evening.
- Artistic Adventure Coordinator starting the 2024/2025 school year: The lessons have been previously designed and this person ensures the art cabinets have all of the appropriate supplies and sends monthly emails to the volunteers.
- The Carnival Basket Committee is looking to expand for the next school year. Katie and Hope will maintain lead positions but looking to expand the team to get more donations and make a farther reach.

Contact Kymber for more details or if you are interested in any of these positions at

[lincolnlionspto709@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnlionspto709@gmail.com)



# LINCOLN

## Elementary School

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**JULIE HORCHEM**  
Principal

**WENDY VASTINE**  
Assistant Principal

**SUEANN SPINDER**  
Administrative Assistant

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is time again for our annual Erin's Law Presentations. Erin's Law (PA97-1147) passed in 2014 and mandates that Illinois public schools provide training to certified staff on prevention of child sexual abuse. It also mandates that public school children pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade be educated on body safety rules and how to protect themselves from a perpetrator. This program is designed to introduce elementary students to the subject of child sexual abuse in an easy to understand, non-threatening way. This year, our Erin's Law Lessons will be presented by The Center for Prevention of Abuse. Lessons at Lincoln will occur at every grade level on Thursday, April 4th or Friday, April 5th. A school social worker or school psychologist will be present during all lessons.

All lessons will review personal body safety rules, safe touches, and defining safe people through videos or books. Upper elementary students will also learn about good vs. bad secrets, advocating for themselves, and how to use social media appropriately.

**Some points the program emphasizes are:**

- Their bodies are their own.
- There's a difference between good touches and bad touches.
- Only they can decide whether a touch feels good or bad.
- They can say "No!" or "Stop that!" to unwanted touches.
- The parts of their body covered by their bathing suits are private.
- There's a difference between keeping good secrets and keeping bad secrets.
- If someone gives them a bad touch, it is not their fault.
- The "touching rule" says that no one can touch their private parts except to keep them clean and healthy.
- If someone breaks the "touching rule," they must tell an identified, trusted grown-up.
- If the first grown-up doesn't believe their story, they should keep telling until they find someone who will help.

We hope all parents will partner with us to educate our children. Please contact me if this is a concern for you. Parents have also asked questions about participation for a child who has been abused; we will work with parents and students on an individual basis to make the best decision for that student. If you have any questions about the materials being presented, please contact me or our school social worker, Mrs. Winkler. Parents are also encouraged to visit the Morton District 709 website to find more information on Erin's Law under parent resources to guide you in discussions at home. Additional materials and discussion starters will be sent home after the presentations are completed.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Julie Horchem  
Lincoln School Principal

Dear Lincoln Parents and Families,

- Planning is underway for the 2024 Fine Arts Day for Lincoln Elementary School. And we are looking for your help and talents!
- What is Fine Arts Day? It's a schoolwide event held every other year designed to expose our students to the visual and performing arts. This is a wonderful school tradition that at Lincoln Elementary. It's some of our students' favorite school memories!
- When is it? This year our Fine Arts Day is scheduled for **Friday, May 3rd**. During this day, the students will be able to rotate through at least 4-5 different sessions and learn about various types of arts, getting hands-on experiences and learning from talented adults.
- We have a teacher committee who works closely to plan this fun day! However, we need the help of many talented parents and presenters who can help to make our day memorable! Maybe you have a talent or skill that you can demonstrate and share with our students...play an instrument? Design jewelry? Is painting or sketching your thing? Do you have a family member who has a special talent? Dance and performing arts? Then we need you !!
- Please take a moment to fill out the form below and return it to school with your child by **March 22nd**. After we have collected the forms, the committee will be in contact with you to finalize a schedule and give you more details. Feel free to call or email me [julie.horchem@mcusd709.org](mailto:julie.horchem@mcusd709.org) for more information.

*Thank you in advance for your support,  
Julie Horchem*

**Please return the form below if you are able to help in some way!**

**FINE ARTS DAY 2024-May 3, 2024**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you would be interested in helping:

\_\_\_ I would be available to help as needed. (We need many volunteers too!)

\_\_\_ I would be interested in presenting or sharing my talent/hobby

\_\_\_ I am not able to present/share a talent, but would like to suggest the following:

Time Available: Please circle one:

All Day (8:30-2:30)

AM only (8:30-11:30)

PM only (12:30-2:30)

Type of presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional costs (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_