



Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter

End of the School Year May 2020

From the Principal's Desk
May 2020

I'm not too sure if I can put into words what your support, cooperation and generosity has meant to all of us during the past 2 months. Who would have thought that when our students walked out of school on Friday, March 13th that it would be the last time that we would see them in person for the rest of the school year! It's heartbreaking to think of all of the favorite end of year activities, memories and time together that our students have missed with their teachers and their classmates. On the other hand, I know that you have created many wonderful memories with the additional time you have had with your children at home. More lunches and dinners together, family hikes and bike rides taken, puzzles solved and games played and lots of laughter shared...things which may not have happened without the school closure.

However, the calendar tells us that it is May, and that it's time to prepare for the end of the school year...even if the school year is different than when we started. Please refer to the email letter communication sent to all parents on May 1st, outlining our end of year procedures. In summary...

- May 8th: Last day of new information/assignments presented to students*
- May 11th-15th: WIN Week (What I Need Week); teachers will be working with students to ensure all work and assignments have been turned in; students have mastered essential content, and will be providing enrichment activities.*
- May 18th: Student iPad Drop Off/Pick up of Belongings from 8 am-5 pm.*

The letter explains in detail how all of these things will happen. I'll send some reminders, but want you to be sure to read it!

Speaking of something that you want to be sure to read, please take the time to read the newsletter article about Mrs. Barb Blanco, who will be retiring at the end of this school year. Mrs. Blanco, ending her career as Lincoln Elementary 5th grade teacher, has dedicated more than 30 years to the teaching profession; 26 of those years in Morton CUSD 709. Initially hired as a Title I math teacher at Lettie Brown Elementary, Mrs. Blanco has worked as a librarian at Lettie Brown, librarian at Lincoln (when these positions were teaching positions) and has spent the past 10 years as a fifth grade teacher. She says that she has many plans for

retirement, but none more important than spending time with her children and grandchildren, who all live out of state. She says she will now be able to go anytime and stay for as long as they will let her. She is a gifted quilter and hopes to quilt in her newly finished quilt room in her home, read books from the stacks of books waiting for her and travel here and abroad. Her first stop will be Ireland next summer. Our traditional end of year staff retirement celebration is on hold until later this summer when we plan to celebrate with Barb. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Blanco a wonderful retirement!!

Thank you seems so inadequate to say when trying to express how grateful I am for the continued support our parents and families provide to the teachers and staff at Lincoln Elementary...before and during remote learning. We've had an amazing year...and each and every one of you have had a hand in that, no matter how great or small. I am always so, so proud to say that Lincoln Elementary is MY school and to tell people that I work at Lincoln Elementary School. We could not do what we do without all of you! Thank you so much...from the bottom of my thankful heart!

To our sixth graders, we wish you continued success at MJHS. This wasn't exactly how we wanted the school year to end. You missed out on your Chicago trip, Step Up Day, Laugh Olympics and one last Tug of War Challenge. However, we know that you will continue to make us proud and will proudly tell your new classmates that you were a Lincoln Lion! We look forward to all that you will accomplish with the challenges that await you at MJHS! Come back and visit us!

We hope that things are soon "back to normal" and that you and your family have a safe and fun summer...and have plans for some amazing adventures this summer once the stay in place orders are lifted! Tell us all about them at 2020-2021 Registration, which will be held on Thursday, July 30th, 2020.

With gratitude,

Ms. Julie Albers
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Happy May!!! I can't believe we made it to the last month of the school year. I hope you and your family are healthy and finding your temporary normal. The weekend of spring weather has been good for the soul and we hope to continue this run through the end of the year. Thank you for all of your flexibility during this time of uncertainty. We have appreciated all of your support during this school closure! We miss you all and can't wait to see you at the supply drop off on the 18th.

Mrs. Michelle Peterson
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Blanco to Retire at the End of the 2019-2020 School Year



The 2019-2020 school year is quickly coming to a close. The end of the school year also marks the end of the professional "school career" of Mrs. Barb Blanco, fifth grade teacher. Barb has dedicated 32 years to education; 26 of those years in the Morton CUSD 709 School District. We have been fortunate to have Barb at Lincoln School for the past ten years.

During Barb's 26 years in the Morton School District, she has taught at both Lettie Brown Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. Barb has been a Title I math teacher, elementary school librarian and a 5th grade teacher.

She started her career as a 5th grade teacher at Lacon Grade School in Lacon before staying home to raise her children, then returned to teaching here in Morton.

Reflecting on her time in education, Barb shared that growing up, she played school in her basement for as long as she can remember. She says that she never doubted for a minute that she was meant to be a teacher. "I LOVE kids!" she says. She says that kids' voices are underheard and undervalued in our society. She says that as adults, we need to listen closely to our youngsters. She says children have a unique way of expressing themselves that adults can learn from.

She added that she will miss "the interactions with kids." She says that their youthful exuberance always pushed her forward; she tried to keep up with them, but says over the last few years, she could tell it was getting harder and harder to do so. She says she will miss the daily interactions with her colleagues. Barb shared "I have great

respect for everyone that works at Lincoln. Everyone has a unique job to do. Each staff member goes about their job with pride, loyalty and commitment to excellence. These feelings embrace you when you enter the building. I will miss all of this deeply."

She won't miss "my inability to keep up with technology. I have acquired many new skills along the way, but paper and pencil never fail me!"

One last message from Mrs. Blanco:
"I am not sure that I can put into words what my career has meant to me. Being a teacher is part of my DNA. I find it challenging to know how to express what the Lincoln family has meant to me as well. The library was always filled with parent volunteers to help me with book check in and check out. The PTO always supplied extra funds to fill the shelves with great new reading materials for all grade levels. I have always had Artistic Adventures volunteers, parents to help with activities, donations for our Christmas charities, raffle baskets filled; cards, gifts and kind emails. I will treasure these memories. I have made many lifetime friends in Morton. I am grateful that I will not be far away! It has been an honor and privilege to have served the families in Morton."

Our best wishes to you, Mrs. Blanco! You are always welcome to come back to visit whenever you want to visit!!

VIRTUAL LAUGH OLYMPICS TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR ON FRIDAY, MAY 15TH!

One of our favorite end of year activities is our school-wide Laugh Olympics. We normally hold this fun day on the last full day of school. This year, we will host a virtual Laugh Olympics on Friday, May 15th. We are still working out the specifics for the day, but plan to utilize our Facebook page throughout the day to post

games and activities to entertain and challenge students at home. (We'll send out a list of activities ahead of time so that families can plan ahead).

Be on the lookout for that information early next week!



Class Lists and Placement for the 2020-2021 School Year

During the past several weeks, I have had parents contact me regarding planning for the 2020-2021 school year. I would like to outline my rationale and the procedures/guidelines for considerations of class assignment for the upcoming school year.

First of all, our teachers, Mrs. Peterson and I take a great deal of time and thought into the process. We consider teaching and learning styles, balanced academic groupings, social considerations, peer relationships and other issues that may impact children in each section. In addition, we consider special education needs, reading/math needs and other special circumstances when creating the lists.

The teachers will present the tentative class lists to administration before the end of the school year, and I will work to make final adjustments and changes to the lists, as needed. Those lists are communicated in August AFTER registration to accommodate for students who move in and out of the district during the summer.

While parents are certainly welcome to provide information to me that they feel may be used in determining lists, IT IS BY NO MEANS A GUARANTEE THAT A CHILD WILL BE ASSIGNED TO A PARTICULAR TEACHER'S CLASS. Students will not be assigned to a class simply because a parent makes a request for that teacher. In addition, fluctuating enrollment may necessitate moving a teacher to a different grade level prior to the start of the school year.

If you feel that there is an extenuating circumstance that should be considered when class lists are created, this information should be communicated in writing to Ms. Albers no later than Friday, May 29th. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Ms. Albers.



End of Year Notes from Nurse Annette

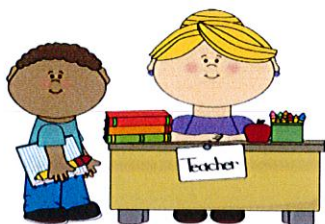
It's not too soon to be thinking and planning for the next school year! Our school nurse through Unity Point Methodist, Annette Kelso, has information to share regarding physicals and immunizations. Reminder-when making your summer plans don't forget to schedule your dental and physical check-ups when the offices open back up again.

All incoming Kindergarten students will need a physical, dental and eye exam, along with updated immunizations. All incoming 2nd graders will need a dental exam. All incoming 6th graders will need a dental exam, physical exam and any immunization updates.

The deadline for these exams is Thursday, October 15th. Please note that the school district will no longer accept "appointment cards" for a future appointment for those students who are not in compliance on October 15th. Any student

who is not in compliance after October 15th will be excluded from school and marked unexcused.

The sooner that you are able to take care of the exams and immunizations, the better (when you are able to!!) Exam forms are available in the main office and at your health care provider's office.



Personnel Changes Ahead for 2020-2021 School Year

As we look ahead to the 2020-2021 school year, we already know our teaching staff will look a bit different at a couple of grade levels. Here are some of those changes in a nutshell:

- We are pleased to welcome **Mrs. Meghan Dalberg**, who will be our new fifth grade English-Language Arts teacher (taking the place of Mrs. Blanco, who is retiring). Mrs. Dalberg comes to Lincoln from Central Intermediate School in Washington, where she taught 8th grade Literature for the past two years. Prior to teaching in Washington, she taught fifth grade at St. Philomena's School in Peoria. She is a graduate of Eureka College and lives in Morton with her husband Chris, who is a teacher at Central Primary School in Washington. They are the parents of two young daughters-Thea (4) and Josie (2). Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Dalberg to Lincoln!
- We extend our best wishes to one teacher who will be leaving us at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. **Mrs. Rachel Roush**, who teaches sixth grade math, will be leaving Lincoln after this school year. As most of you know, Mrs. Roush is expecting her first child at the end of this month. She has decided to remain at home next school year with her baby. She has taught at Lincoln for two years. Our best wishes to Mrs. Roush as she welcomes her little one later this month!



Important May/Summer Dates:

Fri., 5/8:

- Last Day for new materials, assignments, instruction to be presented via Remote Learning

Mon., 5/11-Fri., 5/15:

- **WIN (What I Need) Week:** Teachers will assist students with catching up on assignments, checking for mastery of concepts and provide fun/enrichment activities for student to enjoy throughout the week; no new material or assignments presented

Fri., 5/15:

- **Virtual Laugh Olympics:** More information to come next week!

Mon., 5/18:

- **iPad and Library Book Drop Off and Materials Pick Up Day-8 am to 5 pm** (please see Ms. Albers' email/letter from 5/1 for specific details)

Wed., 5/20:

- **LAST OFFICAL DAY OF SCHOOL**
- **Recognition and Awards Assembly 9:30 am LIVE on Lincoln Elementary School Facebook Page**

Fri., 5/29:

- Class List Considerations due in writing to Ms. Albers by today (see newsletter article)

Fri., 6/5:

- Lincoln School Office closes for the summer

Mon., 7/27:

- Lincoln School Office opens for the school year

Thurs., 7/30:

- Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year in Lincoln south vestibule 7 am-5 pm

Mon., 8/3:

- Lincoln PTO Meeting in south wing vestibule at 7 pm; childcare provided

Thurs., 8/6:

- Class Lists Communicated to Families
- Lincoln PTO Back to School Pool Party at the Morton Pool 7-9 pm (tentative)

Mon., 8/10:

- Unpack Your Backpack Night 4-5 pm

Tues., 8/11:

- First Day of School; 11:55 am Dismissal

As we come to the end of a very *different* kind of school year, we can look back and see all of the wonderful things PTO has done for Lincoln School! We kicked off the school year with our Back to School Pool Party, prepared over 500 classroom binders, signed up volunteers at registration, and welcomed all of our new families and students with a Pizza Party. A few of the hi-lights from the school year include the Walk a thon fundraiser, Vendor Fair, canned food and coat drives, Family movie night, Family Bingo night, Artistic Adventures, staff appreciation, and monthly teacher luncheons. I cannot thank all of the volunteers enough who gave of their time during this school year. PTO appreciates everything you have done whether a little, or a lot!

Although we did not get to hold our school carnival, we are looking forward to our **"Spring Fling Quarantine," to be held on Facebook Live on Friday, May 8 at 7:00 PM.** Our basket committee has created approximately 75 "baskets" with thoughtful donations given by many of you and our local and distant businesses! We are excited to add each family's name to the drawing for your chance to win!! Our hope is to brighten as many people's lives as we can in one evening! I hope you can join us!

Our final PTO meeting was held via Google Meets on Monday, May 4. We have elected a new Vice President, Tammy Anderson. She will replace Bonnie Ricci, whose 2 year term expired. We appreciate all of Bonnie's help and dedication during her time on the board.

Finally, I would like to once again extend a special thanks to everyone who has helped PTO in any way this year! Without our volunteers, we would not be able to do a lot of the fun and amazing things for teachers and families. I encourage you to join us or volunteer next year! Have a safe and healthy summer.

Rebecca Schelkopf, PTO President

Upcoming events:

May 8 Spring Fling Quarantine @ 7PM on Facebook Live

August 3 First PTO meeting @ 7PM

August 6 Back to School Pool Party 7-8:30 @ Morton Pool (Pending pool opening)