

Lincoln Elementary School

September 2020 Newsletter



Dear Lincoln Parents and Families,

The calendar has turned to September, which means that the Morton Pumpkin Festival is just around the corner! And while in fact, it IS just around the corner, it definitely looks different this year, as do so many other things right now! No matter how the Festival looks this year, it still creates a bit of a buzz and excitement throughout our village. Though there will be no rides or the traditional parade, we can still look forward to yummy pumpkin donuts, a reverse Kiddie Parade, a new location for the craft show and devouring many of our favorite pumpkin flavored foods. It's one of my most favorite memories of growing up in Morton! I hope you and your family enjoy a memorable Pumpkin Festival together...no matter how it looks this year!

Our students continue to do an amazing job of adjusting to all of the changes COVID has brought to our schools. They are troopers with their mask wearing and do their very best to maintain distance when required and needed. They are considerate of others and making the best of the situation. We thank our parents for ensuring students are ready to learn, have the materials they need and have their masks/face coverings. And our teachers and staff members have put all of the routines and expectations in place to make safety a priority, reassure students when needed and help our students thrive with in-person instruction. Thank you as we continue to navigate this road together! I appreciate your cooperation and the opportunity to work together.

Our first Early Dismissal Wednesday of the school year is actually NOT on a Wednesday. For most months this school year, we will dismiss students at 11:50/11:55 am on the first Wednesday of the month. However, back in January when we planned the school calendar, we got creative and decided that an early dismissal on the Friday of the Pumpkin Festival (wristband day!) would be a great idea! Who knew there would no longer be a wristband night; who knew there wouldn't be any rides??? Still, we are keeping the calendar we initially created, so we will dismiss at 11:50/11:55 am on Friday, 9/18. We'll return back to our first Wednesday of the month early dismissals in October.

Coming up next week is our annual tribute to honor and remember the events of September 11, 2001. Each year, we host a Patriot Day Assembly to honor the memory of those lost on that tragic day in

American history. Due to our new safety procedures this year, we'll be altering our assembly plans so that students can safely view a digital version of the assembly with their classmates in their classrooms. Mr. Shane Rocke, our general music teacher, will put this digital presentation together for us. Again, we hope to include the many parents, grandparents and extended family members who have served/are serving in the military or are/were First Responders. Please refer to the message which was emailed home on 9/1 and is included later in this newsletter. We look forward to having those heroes featured in our 9/11 digital assembly. Please be sure to contact me (284-4010 or Julie.albers@mcusd709.org) or Mr. Rocke (shane.rocke@mcusd709.org) if you have pictures or want to add a family member's name to our presentation.

The 2020-2021 school year is off to a fantastic start. Our students are getting settled into their new school routines and expectations and the challenges that COVID presents for us, while teachers and staff members are going above and beyond in providing a safe learning environment for your child, working to reduce the anxiety your child might have about our situation, while making every student laugh and feel loved. Oh yeah...and we're teaching them too! The 2020-21 school year is going to be one we will never forget! Thank you for all you do to help our teachers and support your children.

Ms. Julie Albers
Principal

A Message from Mrs. Michelle Peterson, Assistant Principal

Hello, September! We have had a wonderful start to a very different school year and the fun will continue into fall. Your children have been amazing so far with all the changes and regulations to attend in person. We will focus on acting with kindness over the month of September. I can't wait to read Kindness Counts by Bryan Smith to all of our classes. You can watch our September virtual assembly on our school Facebook page! Thank you for your continued support! Your kindness and understanding have made our start to the year outstanding! Keep up the positive thoughts and walk alongside us as we learn as we go.



Keep the Car Line Moving at Morning Drop Off

If you are one of our many parents who drop off your child each morning, you know that the drop off line can be a frustrating time, especially on days that it is raining! Please help us ensure the safety of all by following these procedures each morning:

-PULL YOUR CAR UP TO THE FAR SIGN, EVEN IF THERE IS NO ONE BEHIND YOU. This is usually the biggest reason that our drop off line gets bogged down. By pulling your car all the way to the far sign (to the fence), it allows more cars to come through the drive and drop off students.

-STUDENTS SHOULD EXIT FROM THE PASSENGER'S SIDE, NOT THE DRIVER'S SIDE. It is not safe for children to exit from the driver's side into the passing car traffic. This also forces children to walk between cars to get to the sidewalk and enter school.

-DO NOT PUT YOUR CAR IN PARK AND GET OUT TO ASSIST YOUR CHILD LEAVING THE CAR. This again significantly slows down the drop off line. If you want to help your child out of the car, give him/her a kiss or a hug, assist with getting a bulky item out of the car, please pull into a parking spot and assist your child there.

-DO NOT DROP OFF YOUR CHILDREN ON NEBRASKA AVENUE AND EXPECT THEM TO CROSS THE CIRCLE DRIVE TO ENTER THE SCHOOL. Some parents think that they can avoid the hassle of drop off by letting kids out on Nebraska and having them walk into the school by crossing in front of all of the traffic. Again...drivers are not looking for students to be crossing and children have to cross between cars to get in the building. While it's more convenient for the driver, it ends up slowing down the car line for everyone else.

-FOR THOSE PARENTS WHO PARK THEIR CARS AND WALK THEIR STUDENTS INTO THE BUILDING: Please make sure that you look and wait, if needed, before crossing in front of the cars. Don't just immediately cross, thinking that drivers

see you and will stop. (This isn't Kroger or Wal-Mart where people walk out of the store and into the crosswalk without looking at the cars!) Be aware of the cars, drivers and students when you are crossing with your student.

We greatly appreciate your help to ensure a safe, stress free and hassle free morning drop off for EVERYONE! Or at least significantly reduce the stress of the drop off line!



Patriot Day Assembly to be Presented Digitally on Friday, September 11th

Our annual Patriot Day Assembly will look a little different this year. It will still be presented on Friday, 9/11, but it will be presented in a digital format. Due to restrictions, we will not be able to gather in the gym for our annual assembly where we remember the heroes of that day in 2001, while also honoring First Responders and Military Heroes from our school community. We invite our parents, grandparents and extended family members who are/were members of the Military or who are/were First Responders to submit their name (and picture) so that we may recognize them during the assembly. (In the past, we have invited these family members to join us at the assembly.). If you have a family member that you would like to recognize, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Albers by calling her at 284-4010 or emailing her at Julie.albers@mcusd709.org. You may also contact our general music teacher, Mr. Shane Rocke (shane.rocke@mcusd709.org) as he is putting the digital

assembly together. We hope many of our military and First Responders will be recognized during our digital assembly!
And students...don't forget to wear something patriotic/red, white and blue to remember this unforgettable day on Friday, 9/11.

Mark Your Calendar!

Early Dismissal dates are planned for the 2020-21 school year so that teachers can participate in a time of professional development. We also have early dismissal days at the end of each quarter. Students will be dismissed at 11:50/11:55 am on the following dates:

September 18th	October 7th	October 9th
December 2nd	December 18th	
January 4th	February 3rd	March 3rd
March 5th	April 7th	May 5th
	May 20th	

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Did you know Lincoln Elementary School has a Facebook page? Keep up to date with important information and see pictures and information about activities happening here at Lincoln! Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/LincolnElementarySchoolMortonIL>

Like our page to get the latest information! We are just 56 likes away from having 1000 likes! Help us reach that milestone!



A FEW OF OUR NEW STUDENT SIGNS ARE STILL MIA!!

Remember those fun, cute “Welcome our Newest Lion” signs which we placed in the yards of our kindergarten students and all of our new families last month? We are still missing quite a few of them!!

We have collected some of the signs (many had already been returned to us...thank you for bringing them in!), but still need to get them all collected! Have we missed your sign during our collection? Did you move the sign at your house when the lawn was mowed and didn't put it back? Please let us know if you still have our sign...we will be happy to come pick it up...just let us know your address and we will pick it up!!



DEADLINES FOR PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS QUICKLY APPROACHING!

If you have not turned in your child's school physical or updated immunizations (depending on grade level), please remember that Thursday, October 15th is the deadline for those documents. In the past, Morton CUSD 709 has accepted appointment cards and notes regarding future appointments after the October 15th deadline. Our policy has changed in that we will **NO LONGER ACCEPT APPOINTMENT NOTES OR CARDS** in lieu of having physicals and immunizations turned in by the October 15th deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Nurse Annette Kelso at 284-4038 or Lincoln.nurse@mortoncusd709.org.



"Bytes" from Mrs. Wright in the Computer Lab

The lab this year might look a bit different than previous years, but that's ok. Some of the classes will still come into the lab while others will do lab time in their classrooms. As for the classes that come into the lab, we are taking steps to make sure each station is sanitized between each use. I am so excited to see your kids back this year! We have one more week of MAP testing, then the classes will be able to come in and start their regular lab sessions. I am looking forward to having your kids in the lab this year!

-Mrs. Jennifer Wright, Lincoln Building Technologist



CAUGHT YA! CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS WHO WERE CAUGHT ROAR-ING DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

KINDERGARTEN: GRAYSON V., LINCOLN M., HAYES A., CORINNE G., DANE H., HENRY F., TATE L., ARIA M., LIAM D., TITUS G.

FIRST GRADE: LAYTON S., HENRY J., BELLA L., FORBES L., MCKENNA M., BRADY F., CONNOR C., JOB F., BRYNN C., GRAYSON F., TAD J., BLAKE N., RAY W., PARKER J., ALLISON K., HUTCH C., DECLAN S.

SECOND GRADE: LIAM H., LEVI P., LUKE G., KLAIR B., ELI ., BENTLEY, QUINN M., MADYSON S., ROSIE H., MASON S., JAKE R., TRIPP Y., NORA M., CHARLIE K., GRANT S., ASHTON W., MADISON S., MAX Z., SCARLET C., MATTHEW K., BLAKE M.

THIRD GRADE: MILES G.

FOURTH GRADE: DREW C., LILY R., HAZEL G., MAGGIE H., OLIVIA B., LAYLA S., SOPHIA N., HUNTER G., KATE G., WILL M., NORIE C., ELSIE P., NOLAN S., RYKER B.

FIFTH GRADE: MADI G., KALLIE L., CAMDEN T., KENLEY M., ISAAC G., MAX N., KNOX C., PRESLEY L., AUBREY W., MILEY D., AIDAN C., KATIE B.,

SIXTH GRADE: BEN E., GRACE P.

GREAT JOB LIONS!!
R-O-A-R
R: Responsible
O: On Target
A: Act with Kindness
R: Respectful

News from the Lincoln School Library

Our students are so excited to be spending time in our library and discovering great books! Just a reminder that, due to our altered procedures in the library this year, your student is checking out just one book at a time. Because of this, I wanted to remind you of the day your child comes to library, so they can be sure to get a new book each week:

Monday: K-Vernon, 4-Higus, 3-Guetschow

Tuesday: 5-McKee, 6-Estes, K-Hoelscher, 1-Kumpf, 3-Knoblauch

Wednesday: 5-Dalberg, 6-Knepp/Farrell, K-Veldhuizen, 3-Guetschow

Thursday: 5-Smith, 6-Auxier, 4-Brown, 2-Hibbert, 1-Brooks

Friday: 3-Friedrich, 2-Bastian, 2-Schwarting, 1-Vastine

-Mrs. Denise Poshard, Lincoln Library Aide



Monthly School Wide Themes and Administrator Read Alouds

For the 2020-21 school year, we have identified common monthly themes which we will focus on each month. During the month, Ms. Albers and Mrs.

Peterson will each share a read aloud or activity with every K-6 classroom which will be related to the school wide theme. At the beginning of the month, we will share ideas and ways in which our theme can be incorporated into our daily school lives. In addition, our school social worker and school psychologist will visit classrooms monthly and share lessons related to our monthly theme! We are excited to continue this initiative at Lincoln this year!

For September, our monthly theme is KINDNESS, and we will discuss and learn ways in which we can show kindness to others. It seems like such a simple and easy thing to do! We kicked off our discussions earlier this week by putting together a Kindness video which was shown in all K-6 classrooms. In the video, Ms. Albers and Mrs. Peterson explained how we can demonstrate kindness in our daily lives, while several of our students were featured, describing how they were caught showing kindness already this year! Our monthly morning assemblies may look a little different right now, but we are still focusing on a monthly theme each month and sharing the message via video rather than together in the cafeteria to start the day.

This month, Mrs. Peterson will read the book Kindness Counts to all classes, while Ms. Albers will read the book The Jelly Donut Difference: Sharing Kindness with the World. Both books have a theme of kindness and we are looking forward to the discussions we'll have with students while sharing these books.

Did you watch our Kindness video which was shared with families on our Facebook page? Be sure to check it out!

Looking Ahead to Important Upcoming Dates at Lincoln!

Mon., 9/7:

-No School-Labor Day

Tues., 9/8:

-Deadline for Veterans/First Responders to be included in Patriot Day Assembly (Send email to shane.rocke@mcusd709.org or julie.albers@mcusd709.org)

Fri., 9/11:

- Virtual Patriot Day Assembly presented to students
- Students are encouraged to wear patriotic clothing/red, white and blue for Patriot Day
- First Quarter Mid-Terms distributed

Mon., 9/14:

- Lincoln Virtual PTO Meeting at 7 pm (Link to be shared next week)

Thurs., 9/17:

- School Picture Day (More information to come!)
- Pumpkin Festival Reverse Kiddie Parade at Bethel Lutheran Church at 5:30-6:30 pm; several of our K and 1st grade teachers will be there to greet students!

Fri., 9/18:

11:50/11:55 am Early Dismissal Day

Tues., 9/22:

- 3rd/4th grade Challenge Reading and 5th/6th grade Challenge Math begins
- PTO Fundraiser Kick Off Day! (More information to come!)

Wed., 9/23:

- PTO Fundraiser Golden Ticket Day! (More information to come!)

Thurs., 9/24:

- PTO Fundraiser Golden Ticket Day! (More information to come!)

PTO News

The smell of pumpkin is in the air and I'm happy to report that we made it through the first month of school!! In September, the PTO Hospitality and Welcome committee is planning an alternative to the New Family Dinner. Typically we host a pizza dinner followed by a tour of the school with all families new to Lincoln School. Instead, new families should be watching for a special welcome to come home September 14!

If you have not already signed up for Kroger Rewards, Amazon Smile, or Boxtops for Education, please see the attached information on how to get started today to earn money for our school on things you buy every day!

I would love to invite anyone to join us for our next **VIRTUAL PTO meeting at 7:00 on Monday, September 14!** Meetings typically last about an hour and you could win a prize, just for tuning in! Please follow the *Lincoln Elementary School, Morton, IL* Facebook page for more information. Meeting code will be posted soon!

Upcoming Dates:

September 14 Virtual PTO meeting @ 7:00

September 17 Picture Day

PTO Fundraiser (More info to come!)

October 13-16 Follett Book Fair

Spirit Wear order forms coming in October!

Don't forget these 3 easy ways to help
support Lincoln School PTO
when you shop!



This is an effortless opportunity to help raise money for **Lincoln School PTO of Morton**! Last year with your shopping at Kroger, over \$1,800 was raised! Please log-on to [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign-up or re-enroll. (You have to re-enroll every year)
Lincoln School's code is: YA371



Once again, Lincoln School will be collecting Box Tops for our school. All you need to do is to download the App, and scan your receipts. We will be doing quarterly collections and contests this year!



Another easy way to effortlessly support Lincoln School PTO of Morton is to shop Amazon Smile at: www.smile.amazon.com

On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you need to select Lincoln School PTO Of Morton to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation to our school!