

Lincoln Elementary School

Newsletter

November 2020



From The Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Families,

Our schoolwide theme for November is GRATITUDE. I think that we can all agree that in spite of the uncertainty of some things in our society right now, there is so very much for which we can be grateful. We have been in-person learning for nearly four months. And while it hasn't been without its challenges, in-person learning is really what is best for our students. The health and well being of our family and friends is also something in which we can give thanks. Our Thanksgiving celebrations may look a little different this year, but the message is still the same...finding time to gather together (in-person or virtually) to give thanks.

Thank you to all who generously donated to our B.A.C.E. Coat Drive sponsored by our PTO Spirit Committee last month. Those new and gently loved coats will be given to Gayle Westbrook at B.A.C.E. for distribution to children who need a new warm winter coat this season. Thank you to PTO President Rebecca Schelkopf who helped to organize the collection.

Looking ahead to the rest of this month, our annual We Care/B.A.C.E. Food Drive collection begins on November 16th and runs through Friday, November 20th. This is always a "friendly" competition between our classes, but those in need will be the big winners from our food drive. We thank you in advance for your donations to help others in our community in need as we approach the holidays.

In December, we will record our Christmas programs for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. These Christmas programs will be recorded during the school day

at Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at Morton High School, then shared with parents and families later in the month of December. Please see information inside of this newsletter for specific dates and times of these recordings and for specific information about the presentations.

We have an opportunity to specifically reflect and give thanks this month to the members of our Armed Forces, whose bravery and dedication allow us to live the kind of lifestyle we currently enjoy. We are thankful for those who have fought so courageously for our freedoms. We honor you on Veteran's Day and every day. Our sincerest wishes for a safe and Happy Thanksgiving to all of our Lincoln Elementary School families.

Ms. Julie Albers

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A Note From the Assistant Principal

Happy Holiday season from my family to yours! I hope this newsletter finds you happy and healthy. We have so many things to be thankful for at Lincoln this year. One thing we are most thankful for is all of the support our parents provide. Thank you for attending parent/teacher conferences. Your support means the world to our teachers. Every year the time from turkey to tree is always a whirlwind. Excitement fills the air with the anticipation of the holiday season. I hope, even in this strange year, your family can find time to relax and enjoy this joyous time of year.

Mrs. Michelle Peterson

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COLD WEATHER DRESS REMINDERS

As the colder weather approaches, it is important for our students to continue to have outdoor recess whenever possible. Outside recess allows students to take a break from wearing their masks/face coverings, be active and enjoy a little fresh air. Typically, students will go outside when the temperature or wind chill is 10 degrees or higher. Recess is about 20 minutes long (a little less by the time the students get coats, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, boots, etc. on!), so we try to get our students outside as much as the weather allows.

There will be times when it's simply too cold or windy to go outside. We do allow students to play in the snow on occasion; students will need to have snow pants and snow boots on to play in the snow. It is important that children are appropriately dressed for outside play. Please make sure that your child has cold weather clothing-coats (with zippers that work), hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, snow boots, snow pants-so that they can play outside on cold weather days and stay warm. We appreciate your help in making sure our students are appropriately dressed!



Changes to Kindergarten-Third Grade Christmas Programs

Each year in December, our Kindergarten through Third Grade classes, under the leadership of Mr. Rocke, our general music teacher, present their Christmas programs at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at Morton

High School on two nights. Obviously, this year our Christmas program presentations will look a bit different. We are not able to perform live for an inside audience, and we can't have more than 50 people gathered in one place at a time. However, we feel we have come up with a creative way for students to participate in their traditional Christmas programs while still being able to share the presentations with our families.

We have set aside December 14th and December 15th as "recording days" for our K-3rd grade students. We will shuttle each CLASS (not grade level) to MHS by bus to record their songs on the stage at Bertha Frank. It will take approximately 1 hour for each class to travel to Bertha Frank, assemble on the stage, perform their songs and lines, then board buses to return to Lincoln. Each class's presentation will be recorded which will be shared with parents later that week.

We will finalize our schedule for both days as we get a bit closer to the date. Students are welcome to "dress up" for school that day by wearing what they would have typically worn if they were performing for a live audience. We'll also have more details about how the videos of the performances will be shared with families in early December.

A big thank you to Mr. Rocke for preparing our students for this unique performance. Also a shout out to our district transportation department who will shuttle students to/from Lincoln all day for those two days.

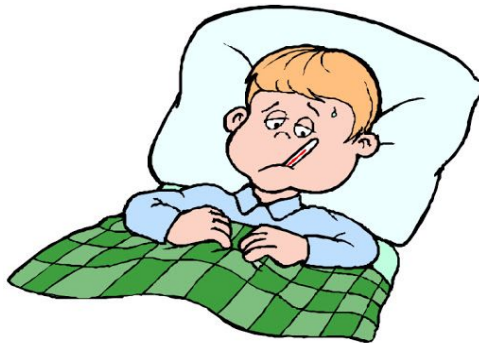


PLANNING FOR GAMEBALL RUN IS UNDERWAY

We are already beginning to plan for this year's Gameball Run, our district's philanthropic efforts for the Children's Hospital of Illinois, located at OSF-St. Francis in Peoria. Each year, our community comes together to raise funds for the CHOI. These activities include business and personal sponsorships, a 60 minute run at MHS and a wide variety of

fundraising activities at all Morton 709 schools in **January** and February. Each school identifies a "Miracle Family" and that family's story is highlighted as part of the Gameball Run events. These families have utilized the services of CHOI and want to give back by sharing their family's story.

Lincoln School's **Miracle Family for 2021** is the Chan Family; parents Matt and Erin, along with their daughter Brooklynn, who is in 4th grade at Lincoln and their "miracle kid," Hudson, who is in 1st grade at Lincoln. As an infant and in early years in his life, Hudson **needed** medical care provided at the CHOI. After several years Hud needed several surgeries to repair a cleft palate.. We'll learn more about the Chan family story and find out more about Lincoln's Gameball Run efforts in the months ahead. For now, mark Thursday, February 11th as the date for the Gameball Run at MHS. Even with some of the restrictions in place currently, we will plan on the outdoor run on 2/11 at 4 pm. at the MHS track. The Gameball Run committee is planning new ways to engage our community and continue with fundraising efforts, in spite of the pandemic. Be on the lookout for changes to Gameball Run this year to ensure safety for all, while continuing the fundraising efforts.



REMINDERS FOR STAYING HEALTHY DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON

With our cold and flu season upon us, it is good to review some healthy habits for our Morton students! If your child is experiencing any COVID-like symptoms (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of sense of taste or smell, congestion, sore throat, nausea, diarrhea), students should NOT attend school until determining if symptoms are connected to a possible COVID exposure. As your child's parent, you are most familiar with their medical needs and can make a determination about the need for a COVID test, along with input from your primary care physician. We realize that it's tricky to determine if it's COVID, strep, the flu or just a typical winter sickness. That's

why we suggest contacting your pediatrician to help you in that decision making process.

In addition, we can't emphasize enough the importance of having your child stay at home if you or anyone in your immediate household is awaiting COVID test results. With a positive test result at home, your child could unknowingly be spreading the virus germs to others.

Please know that when our secretaries or our administration request more details about a child's absence, we are only doing so in order to maintain the health and safety of all students. We appreciate your detailed information when reporting your child absent/sick.

In addition, if your child has been diagnosed with strep throat or conjunctivitis, (pink eye), s/he needs to be on the prescribed antibiotic medication for a full 24 hours before returning to school. Remember that emphasizing good hand hygiene (as we do at school) is the BEST way to prevent the spread of germs! It is also not too late to get flu shots, too! This will help with the strains of influenza that the CDC feel will be most prominent this flu season.

Lincoln is Toys for Tots Collection Site

Lincoln Elementary School (as well as all District 709 schools) is again a drop off location for the Toys for Tots program. The Marine Corps collects the NEW toys (not used please), which are given to children in the Peoria area who may not otherwise receive a new toy for Christmas. There is a drop off box located in the hallway just inside the school entrance. We appreciate your consideration and are grateful for your donations. Toys will be collected through Tuesday, December 15th. (Toys are required to quarantine for 72 hours before being distributed. We thank you in advance for your generosity and thoughtfulness.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

**Fri., 11/13: Second Quarter
MidTerms**

**Mon., 11/16: PTO Canned Food
Drive begins**

**Tues., 11/17: School Board Meeting
at 5:30 pm at District Office**

**Wed., 11/25-Fri., 11/27:
Thanksgiving Break**

**Wed., 12/2: 11:50/11:55 am
Dismissal for School Improvement
Planning**

**Tues., 12/14: K-3 Christmas
Program recordings (schedule to be
determined)**

**Wed., 12/15: K-3 Christmas Program
recordings (schedule to be
determined)**

**Thurs., 12/16: Classroom Christmas
Parties in PM (starting no earlier
than 1:30 pm)**

**Fri., 12/17: 11:50/11:55 am Early
Dismissal for Christmas Break**

**Mon., 1/4: School Resumes;
11:50/11:55 am Dismissal**



Lincoln School PTO

News and Views

November 2020

Hello Lincoln Families!

It's hard to believe that we are a week into November already! PTO has had some busy few weeks. During parent teacher conferences in October, the PTO and sixth grade families hosted a box lunch from The Cookery, for our much deserving teachers. Thank you to all who contributed as part of our **monthly lunches/treats** for our Lincoln Staff. (In November, fifth grade parents have the opportunity to donate). Please contact Erin Jones at robertanderinjones@yahoo.com for more information or to find out how you can donate!

Our **Follett Book Fair** was also held during P/T conferences. Ashley Valerio and Jamie Larson did a great job promoting and running the fair, both in person and on-line. I am pleased to report that each classroom teacher and the library both received a collection of new books for our students to enjoy! I am already looking forward to our spring book fair!

Volunteers Allison Vershaw and Mary Miller helped us out on **picture retake day**, making sure everyone looked their best! Thanks ladies! Our annual **BACE coat drive** was once again a huge success! I am happy to say that all requested sizes were fulfilled due to all your generous donations. Morton Academy was also a recipient to some donations! Way to go Lincoln families!

I am pleased to report that our **school fundraiser**, Step It Up, was a HUGE success! Lincoln families and friends raised over \$38,000 for our school! Stacy Litersky and her volunteers did a fantastic job this year! The students loved receiving their individual prizes and the excitement each day unveiling the winners of the iPads and mini fridges was contagious! I know the kids are all looking forward to the Day of Awesomeness in the spring! Thanks again to all who helped!

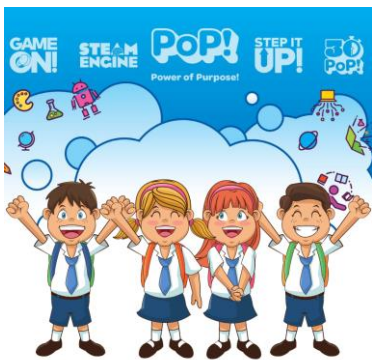
Finally, the Lincoln School **canned food drive** competition will kick off November 16-20! Both BACE and We Care will benefit locally from your food donations. Multiple sixth graders give up recess this week to help count food items! Watch for more info to be posted on Facebook and to come home soon!

If you are interested in helping or have a question, please contact, Rebecca Schelkopf at 309-360-4095 or rebeccaschelkopf@yahoo.com.

Stay healthy and safe!

Rebecca Schelkopf, PTO President





Lincoln School's SteptUp!

FUNdraiser 2020-21

Raised \$38,129

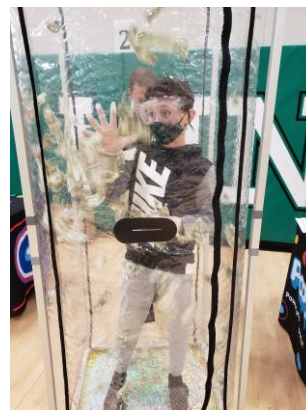
We are SO extremely appreciative and grateful to our Lincoln School Families for the support, participation and generosity we received with this year's PTO fundraiser! We had incredible participation from our students with 407 students raising \$5 or more! We had over 250 students raise at least \$120 for a chance to spin the money wheel and 30 students got to go in the money booth – all were able to walk away with a cash prize!

Because of your generosity, Lincoln School PTO can continue to support our teachers and students in a variety of ways including teacher classroom needs, Science/S.T.E.M materials, a possible creation of a walking path for everyone's use around Lincoln School property and many other PTO programs.

Our fundraising celebrating will conclude with our DAY OF AWESOMENESS that is scheduled for late Spring 2021. On this day, every student will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of obstacle-like challenges and on inflatables as well as enjoy a treat from Kona Ice of Peoria.



4th grader,
Andy Ripka
spun the
wheel and
won \$50!



6th grader,
Eli Ralston
was trying
to catch
money in
the money
booth!

Thank you to the following parent volunteers who helped with the fundraising recording and prize distribution:

Krista Bethel
Maggie Klockenga
Stacy Litersky
Mary Miller
Susan Nichols
Lyndsey Parnham
Bonnie Ricci



Thank you to the following family-owned Lincoln School businesses that supported our fundraising:

Central Illinois Insulation
Mary Kay - Allison Vershaw
Mike Yordy Excavating &
Land Improvement
Morton Audiology & Hearing
Aid Center
Schooners of Morton



We Care/B.A.C.E. Food Drive

November 16th - 20th

Lincoln's Annual Food Drive is just around the corner. We are collecting non-perishable food, personal hygiene, and household cleaning supplies! The two classes with the most items collected will each win a trophy!!! (One trophy for K-2 and one trophy 3-6th). **All items are appreciated, and the families that receive them live here in Morton. NO Ramen Noodles Please!!**

Items needed:

Canned Meats: tuna, chicken, etc.

Boxed Side Dishes: instant potatoes, rice sides, noodles, etc.

Cereal/Oatmeal

Macaroni and Cheese

Canned Soup

Canned Fruit or veggies

Peanut Butter

Spaghetti Sauce

Pasta



Bars of Soap

Dish Soap

Toilet Paper

Laundry Detergent

Paper Towels

Chap Stick

Cleaning supplies



The Holidays are quickly approaching and there are many people in need. Please consider helping these wonderful organizations keep our Morton families stocked.

Thank you in advance

Sponsored by Lincoln School PTO Spirit Committee

ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING!

**Multi-packs of water, toilet paper, etc.
need to be in original packaging and will be counted as ONE item.**

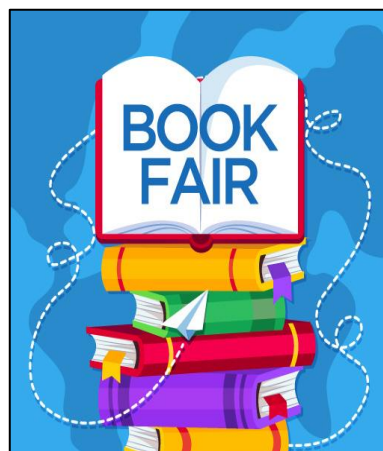


Remember to shop AmazonSmile to effortlessly support Lincoln School PTO of Morton!

www.smile.amazon.com

It's an easy way to help make a HUGE difference for Lincoln School!

Please be sure to sign up for the Kroger Rewards program to effortlessly earn money for **Lincoln School!** Check the bottom of your next Kroger receipt to see when your annual renewal is up and to be sure to Join OR Renew your membership! Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com **USE YA371 for Lincoln Elementary School**



Thank you to all of our families who supported the Follett Book Fair this Fall. We were able to supply \$1,900 worth of books to our classrooms and library. Our next book fair will be February 1-5, 2021. Thank you for the support!



SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS:

Spirit Wear orders are expected the week before Thanksgiving. If you did not have the opportunity to note on the checkout form and you wish to have your order held in the school office for Christmas gifting instead of going home with your student, please email Ashley Valerio

at ashley.valerio@mcusd709.org.



Thank you to 6th grade families for your monetary donations in October. The boxed lunches from the Cookery during PT Conferences were very much appreciated. 5th grade will be hosting in November. Be looking for an email sent out to 5th grade families. Our monthly PTO luncheons, hosted by each grade, will be different this year. In lieu of food donations that we have asked for in the past. We will be asking for small, monetary donations. We hope to offer individually packaged treats to our staff from multiple local businesses, throughout the school year. Checks may be made out to Lincoln school PTO. Thank you for helping us show the Lincoln school staff how much we appreciate all that they do! Please contact Erin Jones with any questions. Robertanderinjones@yahoo.com