

Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter December 2020



From The Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Families,

If you would have told me back in August that when we reached December, we would have completed over four months of in school learning, I'm not sure that I would have believed you! That was always my hope, of course! However, going into the school year, I had no idea what to expect on how the year would progress. I am so grateful to have had a full first semester of in-person instruction for our students. Of course, it hasn't been without its challenges, quarantines and headaches, but here we are in December with half the school year under our belts. What a fantastic accomplishment!

As we head into the holidays, we know that the virus will not take a vacation. We ask that even as we are away from school for two weeks that you communicate with us (via email at julie.albers@mcusd709.org) if there is a positive test result within your family, your child has close contact with a person who tested positive or if there is any other kind of situation within your family that involves close contact/positive tests. In these situations, you should also complete the district Family COVID Form found on the district website under the "COVID Updates" tab.

As we wind down the first semester, please remember the following for our remaining days in school and for when we return in January:

-If you someone in your household or someone that your child has had close contact with a person who is getting a COVID test and is awaiting COVID test results, please keep your child home until the test results are known.

-If your child does not feel well, please do not send him/her to school until he/she is symptom free for 24 hours and he/she is feeling better. You may consider consulting your physician to help determine your child's wellness.

While our family celebrations during Christmas may look a little different this year, we are all looking forward to special times together with those we love over the next few weeks. From our entire Lincoln family, we wish you and your family a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

Sincerely,

Julie Albers, Principal

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A Note From the Assistant Principal:

I will be the first person to admit, I never thought I would be wishing you all a Merry Christmas from in person instruction. We have been beyond blessed to have a full semester of instruction under our belts. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your dedication and diligence during this unprecedented time in our lives. From my family to yours, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Mrs. Michelle Peterson

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JANUARY CALENDAR CHANGE

Please note that the Board of Education has made a change to the January 2021 school calendar. **Students will now return from Christmas break on Tuesday, January 5th (instead of the half day on Monday, January 4th).** January 4th will be a remote planning day for teachers, and students will not be in attendance. Please be sure to mark this date change on your calendar. (You

don't want to be the only one dropping off their kids on January 4th when you all could be sleeping in instead!)



K-3rd Grade Christmas Program Recordings

One of the "casualties" of the COVID restrictions is the cancelling of our Christmas Programs for live audiences. However, not having a live audience has not stopped Mr. Rocke and our K-3rd grade students from preparing to share the Christmas spirit this year.

On December 14th and December 15th, each K-3rd grade class will travel by bus to Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at MHS to perform and record their portion of our Christmas program. Each class recording will take about an hour from the time the students and their teachers load the bus at Lincoln, are dropped at Bertha Frank, record their songs, then return to Lincoln. Due to the high demand of the Bertha Frank auditorium during the holiday season, these are the only two opportunities we will have for recording our students. The majority of our classes will record their songs on Monday, 12/14. These classes are: All Third Grade classes, All Second Grade classes, Mrs. Vernon (K), and Ms. Veldhuizen (K). On Tuesday, 12/15, all First Grade classes and Mrs. Hoelscher (K) will record their programs.

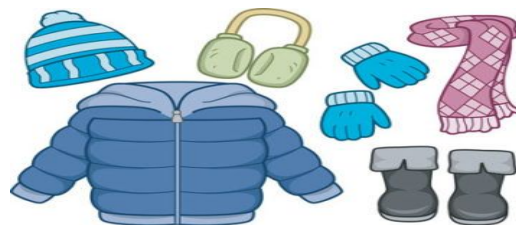
Parents may choose to have their students dress in "Christmas program attire" if they wish. These recordings will later be made available to parents; Mr. Rocke and I will keep you informed about their availability. We will miss seeing the excitements in our students' eyes when they see mom and dad or grandma and grandpa in the audience. We'll also miss seeing how "fancy" everyone looks in their Christmas program best. However, I am grateful to Mr. Rocke and district personnel who have made it possible for our children to be able to do this. I'm excited to see them perform!

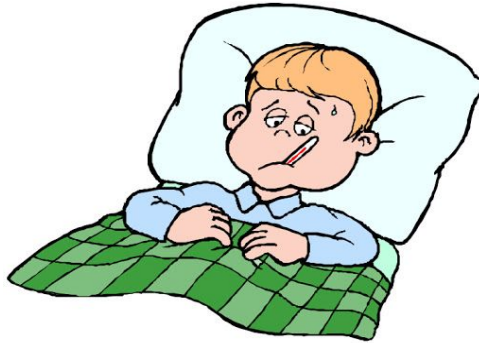


COLD WEATHER DRESS REMINDERS

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!





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 still 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.

Thank you to those students and families who have already donated a toy for a child. We have already filled our collection box once and hope to fill it up another time before the toys are all collected on December 15th. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little more special for an area family.





CAUGHT ROARING!

Congratulations to these students who were caught ROAR-ing during the month of November. We continue to be proud of how they demonstrate Respect, On Target behavior, Act with Kindness and Responsibility. Way to go, Lions!

Kindergarten: Hudson Racich, Jackson Petrov, Halle Witzig, Knox Parnham, Owen Birch, Nicholas Klockenga, Selah Hangartner, Josh Huff, Cambria Smidt, Ava Kiddy, Kolbie Klopfenstein, Kamarion Stubbs, Tucker Hoelscher, Eva Carlson, Jimmy Malavolti, Walter Getz, Karson Wright, Bennett Louwers, Natalya Dillard, Emmie Finet, Reed Stephens, Noah Lewis, Dane Hruska, Elliot Konsky, Tate Larson, Sam Graber, Juliet Westbrook, Corinne Goodman, Brody Tindall, Jason Getz, Reed Stephens, Titus Geil.

First Grade: Tad Johnson, Jaxon Hayes.

Second Grade: Matthew Estes, Finch Stanfield, Delaney Zimmerman, Liam Hoelscher, Evan Gosteli, Nora Mettelman, Mason Stephens, Nathan Boyer, Ashton Williamson-Conklin, Charlie Klopfenstein.

Third Grade: Ina Underwood, Barrett Durflinger, Keeley Kemp, Zeelan Dick, Tytus Linville, Layton Kaluza, Peyt Malson, Quinn Roehm, Lucas Carlson, Allison Carter, Colton Strohkirsch, Kessaley Mahr, Miles Greene, Livvy Habegger, Titus Hangartner, AJ Johnson.

Fourth Grade: Schaeffer Friend, Carly Babin, Will Auxier, Kaila Phillips, Miley Roosa, Chase Bunton, Jocelyn Hauter, Nolan Shepherdson, Kinley Cassbonne, Molly Ricci, Quinn Hellinga, Lillianna Middleton, Bridget Kemp, Liam Carter, Will Auxier, Avery Streigel, Jemma Farrell, Kate Gronewold, Thomas Corey, Bryce Frank, Brooklynn Chan, Gabby Nichols, Lexi Ames, Olivia Brooks.

Fifth Grade: Natalyn Simpson, Ava Altheiser, Asher Stickling, Levi Sander, Rylee Borman, Gaige Gray, Ryan Clauson, Kallie Lau and Mr. Smith's entire class!

Sixth Grade: Baylee Bower, Sidnee Maher.



Caution and Safety at School Crosswalks

As the weather becomes colder, fewer students ride their bikes and there are more students who are being dropped off in the mornings. Please be sure that you are using caution and safely navigating through the crosswalk areas.

Recently, our Crestwood Crossing Guard, Mrs. Tovey, has noted that car drivers are not always cautious as they proceed through the crosswalk. Drivers have ignored Mrs. Tovey's stop sign and have made turns into the intersection while she is helping students to cross the street.

We are asking for your help to ensure all students' safety outside each morning and afternoon. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter! Soon we will have mounds of plowed snow on our corners as well...and we need everyone's help to make sure that all students are safe when they are crossing the streets near school.



Lincoln Literacy!

December 2020



Book of the Month



The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg is a beloved classic, perfect as a read aloud for family members of all ages. Chris Van Allsburg takes you on a mysterious journey. Your senses are in for a treat as the beautiful words and illustrations allow you to taste the hot chocolate, see the view of the snow covered mountaintops, and breathe in the energy of the arrival at the North Pole. This Caldecott Award winner is a visually stimulating and incredibly crafted best-seller. It is sure to become a holiday tradition in your home!

App of the Month

Whizzimo

Whizzimo is an app designed to allow students to manipulate letter tiles to build words on the iPad. There is a drawing tool which offers the opportunity for children to "write" the word after it has been built, thus providing another method of representing the word on the device. There is a plentiful "drawer" of tiles which allows students of all spelling levels the opportunity to practice and sharpen their word building skills.



Whizzimo:

A platform for multisensory reading and spelling instruction.

Multisensory Learning

Multisensory learning is learning which involves two or more of the senses within the same activity. Like adults, children take in information in a variety of ways:

- Auditory: Through their ears
- Visual: Through their eyes
- Tactile: Through touch
- Kinesthetic: Through their body movements

When we use multiple senses to process new information, the brain is able to make a stronger connection. This creates the ability for children (and adults alike) to call on multiple cues to retain, recall, and apply information. It is important for children to SEE it, SAY it, TOUCH it, and DO it!

Rather than simply use flash cards for letter identification, sight words, or vocabulary, try these simple activities at home:

- Touch it: Write in shaving cream, sand, or flour. Provide the letter or word to your child. Ask them to write it with one finger, saying the letters out loud as they do so.
- Play with your food: using pretzel sticks and mini marshmallows can be a fun way to build your letters or words. Cold spaghetti is also a fun tool to use to manipulate and create letters!
- Get moving: Set up a line of sight words on your floor. Ask your child to read the word, spell it while doing a jumping jack for each letter, and then move onto the next word.
- Bounce a ball: Provide a letter, sound, or word to your child then pass the ball to them. Ask them to reply with the sound, letter name, or spelling you desire as a response. They cannot bounce the ball back to you until their response is correct.

These are only a few of the many possibilities to bringing multisensory learning into your home! Have fun!!!

Reading Challenge of the Month

Play charades! Get your body moving as you practice letter sounds or vocabulary words in this fun, multisensory way.

- For letter sounds, create a pile of your child's known letters. One person will choose a card and act out words which begin with that sound. No talking by the "actor!" Keep on trying new words until the correct letter is guessed. Continue taking turns until the pile is depleted.
- For vocabulary, create a pile of the week's vocabulary cards. One person will choose a card and act out the meaning of the word. No talking by the "actor!" Keep going without talking until the correct word is guessed. Continue taking turns until the pile is depleted.

Happy Holidays!

This year has been challenging and wonderful in so many ways! As we approach the holiday season, there are many organizations in our community that are available to provide support. The Toys for Tots program with the Salvation Army is one program that is able to provide toys for children who are well deserving. If you feel that your family would benefit from this program, please visit their website listed below as the registration window will be open through Monday, December 7th.

Toys for Tots Program Information:

Visit www.saangeltree.org.

- An invitation code is not needed.

Required documents are:

- Photo ID
- Proof of Residency
- Proof of all Income for every household member
- Birth Certificates (or paper medical card/something official that will show the child's DOB under your guardianship)

If anyone encounters issues with the registration process, you can call Megan at (309) 346-3010 ext 223, or email her at sapekin@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Holiday Food Assistance for Tazewell County

- The HOPE Chest
Boxes available December 15 & 17 from 1-4pm
ID and Mask required – available while supplies last
- St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry
120 Christmas Boxes available – December 12
call for details: 309-347-6108
- Washington Helps Its People
Food boxes available December 16 from 8-11 am & 4-6 pm
Must be a resident of 61571
- Pekin Township
Call to sign up for curbside meal pick up December 23 from 11-12:30
309-346-3195

If you need additional assistance or support, please contact me directly at 309-284-4091 or molly.winkler@mcusd709.org

Molly Winkler, MSW
School Social Worker