

March 1, 2010

News to ROAR about at Lincoln



Principal Schweinler's Corner

March Madness! March will be a very full month with state assessment testing, special events, effort parties, and spring break. It is hard to believe that 3rd quarter is almost over, and we are on the home stretch. The teachers have started the state assessments with students in the areas of reading and math. Students will be testing from February to April, so please check with your child's teacher to see when those grade level assessments will be. Our primary grades have been encouraging the intermediate grades on state assessments with banners, cards, hard candies, and many other special items. The PTO has provided healthy snacks for the intermediate grade levels as well. This whole school effort will be rewarded with a wonderful day at Forest Park on May 24th to celebrate all our hard work and team effort.

The Literature Festival will be on March 10th at Ottawa University. This is a phenomenal opportunity for our students to meet and be inspired by real authors. We will treat this day just like any other field trip. The OU staff will not be able to track down students for appointments or for parents to pick up early. Thanks for your help in making this a special event for our students.

Calendar of Events:

PTO @ 6:30	March 4
Field Trip 4th grade	March 5
PTO Carnival and Pancake Feed	March 6
Literature Festival 3rd-5th grades	March 10
No School	March 12
Spring Break	March 15-19
Effort Party 3-5 grades	March 22

LINCOLN LIONS

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Musical Notes from Mrs. Todd

Wow! It's amazing how fast this school year is going! I guess it's true what they say about time passing quickly when you are having fun. We are definitely having fun in music!

One of the things I love about teaching music is helping kids understand that what they learn in music connects very closely with other subjects that they are learning elsewhere in our school. They study math when they are working with rhythms and meter. They study language as they are singing songs in both our own English language, as well as other languages. They learn about history as they sing songs from different time periods or as they learn about historical musicians. Science is studied as we experiment with various sounds and their sources. And we tackle reading on a daily basis as we read both the words of a song, as well as reading the musical symbols that are found in a piece of music. I tell the kids that music makes them smarter...and it DOES! J

But, music for music's sake is just as important. And I love it that our kids are gaining an understanding of music. They are growing in knowledge of how music is made and how to make it! And, they are hopefully developing an appreciation of all kinds of music. My goal as a music teacher is that my students grow to be individuals who appreciate music and understand what they are listening to.

We have one more music performance this school year. The 1st and 2nd graders will have their music programs on Thursday, April 22nd. The 1st grades perform at 6:15 p.m. and the 2nd graders will perform at 7:30. These performances will be in the Lincoln Gym. Congratulations to all of the classes who have already performed this year. We have had some amazing performances from our talented kids!

It is a joy to make music with your children!



First Grade News with Mrs. Stewart

I would like to send a big thank you to all of the parents that made it to conferences. Our year is slipping away and it was good to touch base with all of you on your child's strengths and needs.

Many students in our class are reaching grade level in reading. Grade level is considered level 14 or higher. Our ultimate goal is to reach a level 16 or higher by the end of the year. It is so amazing to see the progress made in reading so far. Much of their success is due to hard work, willingness to practice, and parent help every night.

In math we have been gaining "Fact Power" with our math facts. Thank you for helping out with this by practicing addition and subtraction facts at home. We will continue to do fact families, geometry, time, and money throughout the remainder of the year.

On March 3rd we will be helping celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. We have a fun day planned with lots of reading activities.

Kindergarten News with Mr. Rivers

The kindergartens did an AMAZING job on their music program! Thank you to everyone who was able to come support us during the dress rehearsal, and for the evening's performance! An extra big "THANK YOU" to Mrs. Todd for all her work!



Math

The kids have been learning a lot in Math lately. They've been practicing trading pennies for nickels, dimes and quarters, and will begin working on fractions very soon! We're also counting by 2's to 20 and estimated how many objects are in a jar. Comparison stories like: Billy had 8 cars and Suzy had 5 cars. Who had more? How many more does Billy have than Suzy? Are also very popular in the kindergarten rooms at the moment! J

Second Grade News with Mrs. Daugharthy

On February 2, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, and it seems that his prediction of 6 more weeks of winter is coming true! We certainly will be glad when spring arrives!

First of all, I would like to thank those parents who were able to attend (or have rescheduled) Parent-teacher conferences. Communication is vitally important to our students' successes in school.

In second grade we have been busy learning lots of new concepts. In Math, we are learning all about fractions! Students are doing a great job grasping this sometimes complicated concept. Luckily, we have an OU student, Whitney Bowen, who is completing her Math practicum in our classroom. She gives us wonderful help and support while she is herself learning how to be a teacher.

What matters in Science? Why, Matter of course! We have been studying matter and its three forms. Using hands-on experiments and United Streaming on-line videos, we are able to explore concepts of matter many different ways.

Second graders are also having fun supporting our buddy 4th grade class as they take state assessments. We are cheering for Mrs. Smith's class as they tackle their reading, math, and science tests with posters, banners, and small treats for encouragement. We know the 4th graders will work hard and use all their brain power to do well!