



Wilkins News

December 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Fifty years ago on December 16, 1966 the doors of Wilkins Elementary were opened to serve children. We have a rich tradition of excellence and pride in our community. People care for one another and support one another in their learning. You can see that in each of our classrooms, and have throughout our history. This year, many have contributed to the Giving Tree to support area families. This will help the holidays be brighter for many. Thank you for all you do to keep this community so vibrant and caring. May this continue for another fifty years!

Celebrations! It was so fun to see our students and staff in their pajamas before Thanksgiving break. This school-wide celebration was held because our students met their Wilkins Way goal to fill the fish tank. Students were given two choices for the celebration and voted for PJ day on Election Day. We also had a few students' names drawn in a surprise paw draw for a staff vs. student kickball game on the last 70 degree day in November. School Resource Officer Tom Daubs joined the staff team in this fun acknowledgment of appropriate behavior. December 21 at 2:15 PM is the Winter Party. If you are interested in helping out you will need to register as an active volunteer with Karla Terry, Community Relations. You can reach her at 447-3110 or kterry@linnmar.k12.ia.us. I encourage you to register, even if you are unsure if you will be able to help, so that if you are able to help out if something would open up in your schedule.

Weather: Please make sure that you are sending your child with a warm winter coat, hats, gloves, boots and snow pants so that they are able to enjoy the winter weather at recess. Weather notifications will be sent as a text from the district. You can sign-up on the Linn-Mar homepage. On the bottom right hand side there is a link to Emergency Notifications (<http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/txtwire.asp>). Please make sure that you request "District Notifications" and "Wilkins Elementary". You can also find information if school is delayed or cancelled due to weather scrolling on the local TV stations or on the red district alert banner on the Linn-Mar homepage (<http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/>).

Please check your calendars and mark days that students will not be in attendance at Wilkins:

Friday, December 23 - Monday, January 2

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Friday, January 13

Monday, January 16

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Pamela C. Schulz, Principal



Kindergarten Students for 17/18 school year

We are gathering contact information of children that would be eligible to attend Kindergarten at Wilkins for the 2017/2018 school year.

***Child needs to turn 5 by September 15, 2017**

If you have a child or know of any child that is eligible please e-mail or call the Wilkins' office with the following information:

- Child's full legal name
- Date of birth
- Address
- Indicate if they attended preschool or if they are currently in a blended program
- A contact phone number

****Parent meeting at Wilkins School Thursday, February 09, 2017 at 6:30pm**

Wilkins phone: (319)-447-3380

Wilkins E-mail: VFaulkner@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Too Sick for School?

From: Health Services



Each day many parents are faced with a decision:

Should they keep their sick children home or send them off to school? The following guidelines, recommended by experts at the Mayo Clinic, should be considered when making this sometimes difficult decision. A student should remain home when he/she:

- *vomits or has diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- *has an oral temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- *coughs almost constantly or complains of difficult breathing
- *has sores on mouth or skin that are crusty, yellow or draining
- *displays an unexplained skin rash or red eye (with or without crusting/drainage)

Crossing Guard Change: Beginning in December there will be no crossing guard on duty at the 35th Street/McGowan intersection, during the morning time frame. There will still be a crossing guard at this intersection for the after school time frame. This change will continue through the winter season. We will go back to having the morning crossing guard at this intersection in the Spring.



Thinking Ahead to Cold Winter Weather

Students should bring the following winter clothing EVERY DAY once winter hits. Even if there is no snow on the ground, the wind is cold and the ground is damp.

Please send:

Winter Coat – Snow Pants – Boots – Gloves or Mittens
(If your child needs any of the above items, please contact the Wilkins office.)

Also, please remember to send an extra pair of socks, mittens or gloves with your child to school to keep in their bag in case they become wet.

Students are outside when the wind chill is 0 and above.



News from Mr. Mohwinkle, Wilkins Counselor

The Giving Tree is up 😊

If you are interested in taking an ornament from our tree to help, it will be located in the office area. When you take the ornament, please sign the clipboard with your name and all the information that is on the ornament. This helps us to keep track of who is responsible for which gift.

Unwrapped gifts are due back by December 9th.

Please make sure the tag is attached to the unwrapped gift.

Thank you for your generosity!





Grade Level News

Kindergarten: Kindergarten students have completed the Jolly Phonics program and are now working on using those sounds in their writing. Guided reading groups are going strong and students are gaining confidence in their reading. Continued practice on rainbow sight words is a MUST! Try having your child write the words along with reading them. Kindergartners have enjoyed learning how to play many games during math time. It is a great time to interact with their peers and learn math skills at the same time—some favorites are Monster Squeeze, Spin a Number, and Roll and Record. KC has finished their science unit on Materials and Motion. KN and KR are currently working on this unit and will finish in December or January. Classes have been working hard at following the Wilkins Way. Students are settling into the routine and a lot of learning is able to take place when we remember those rules. The kindergarten teachers are always looking for reasons to give out those positive paw prints for being respectful, responsible, safe and ready! Keep up the good work kids!

First Grade: First graders have been busy reading nonfiction texts in our Journeys reading program and will begin informative writing. The paw cart has been a hit with students for reading homework. In math, we have been measuring using standard and nonstandard units. Before winter break, we will begin Unit 5 by learning about place value. We started PRIDE time at the end of our day. It is being used for extra reading instruction and practice. Your child may talk about “switching teachers” or “going to a different class” during this time. Our earth science unit has ended, and we are taking time to learn about culture, traditions, and how life has changed over time in social studies. This would be a great time to share childhood/family stories with your child. In December, we will start our new science unit “Sound and Light”. We are excited for this upcoming month and all the fun this time of year brings!

Second Grade: The students have been very busy this trimester! We can't believe that it is already coming to an end. We just finished our first science kit, Air and Weather. We will be receiving the next kit soon and working on Solids, Liquids, and Gases. In math, we have been working a lot with money and making change. Unit 3 just ended and we started unit 4, working on addition and subtraction stories. These will help students develop mental math skills. Since we are taking a break from science, we are working on unit 3 of social studies. This unit is called “Using Our Resources”. We are discussing natural resources, how technology has changed the way we live, as well as different communities people live in. The students have been working hard on their writing skills and are working on opinion writing and writing to persuade. This year is going by fast and the kiddos are learning a lot!

Third Grade: 3rd graders are moving right along! In math, we have completed Unit 4 which was learning about multiplication and division! In science, the 3rd graders have just completed the water unit. We had a great time doing all of the investigations and learning about the water cycle. We are diving into a social studies unit about Communities. 3rd graders will become familiar with the similarities and differences in suburban, rural, and urban communities. The students continue working on great sentence and paragraph structure in writing. The most recent type of writing learned was opinion writing. The students have done a great job creating strong opinion statements and reasons to support those opinions. One of our favorite writing activities has been persuade the farmer that they are not Thanksgiving turkeys! The 3rd grade music program, “Squirm” was a huge success. Keep reading and

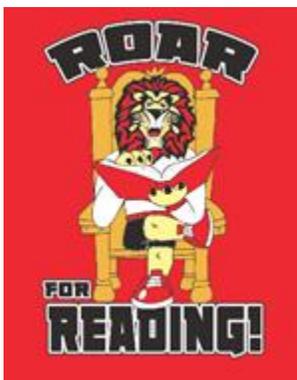
logging those minutes! Thanks to the parents and families for their support! We are looking forward to December and all that it brings.

Fourth Grade: Fourth graders are busy wrapping up the first trimester. We've completed our Science unit on Soils, Rocks, and Landforms and are beginning to learn about the Northeast Region in Social Studies. We've been working hard on some very creative persuasive writing pieces and are excited to share those with you. In math, we're growing in our math skills, and are now applying our basic multiplication facts to extended, multi-digit problems. And finally, most exciting is our work on Invention Convention. About half of all students have chosen some great inventors to research, while the other half has started creating some very unique inventions. Mark your calendars to join us for Invention Convention the afternoon of Friday, December 2. As always, keep encouraging your child to read 20 minutes each night and keep practicing those math facts!

Fifth Grade: In math, fifth graders are learning about fractions. Students will compare and order fractions, write fractions as decimals, and convert fractions into percents. Students are reading Revolutionary War themed books during our literacy block and are focusing on the skills of: cause and effect, fact and opinion, conclusions and generalizations, sequencing, and comparing and contrasting. The focus for writing will be to express opinions clearly. During the second trimester, students will learn about European explorers in social studies and will explore the world of chemistry with the kit called Mixtures and Solutions. The focus for Pride, our intervention block, will continue to be literacy.

Lost & Found: If your child is missing any clothing items, please remember to check the lost & found items. You will find them outside of the Wilkins' media center

Winter Greetings from the Reading Team



Attention parents: Your child will be welcomed back to school in 2017 by King the Linn Mar Lion mascot! He will be here to kick off our ROAR Reading Month at an assembly January 3rd. Look for more information about ROAR coming home soon!

Enjoy your winter break and family time.

Mrs. Gostonczik, Mrs. Tomash, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Wells & Mrs. Brown



December Calendar:

- Dec. 1....1st Grade Music Program 6:30 pm
Dec. 2....Invention Convention for 4th Grade
Dec. 5....Wilkins day at Panda Express from 5:00 – 8:00pm
10% of sales goes back to Wilkins
Dec. 6....4th/5th Grade Chorus Concert 6:30 pm
Dec. 9....4th/5th Chorus sing at HS basketball game
Dec. 12...Board Meeting work session
Work session @ 5:00pm, Regular session @ 7:00pm
Dec. 15...Volunteer Workshop 8:30 am
Dec. 20...Wilkins day at Wendy's from 5:00 – 7:00pm
10% of sales goes back to Wilkins
Dec. 21...Winter parties 2:15 pm
Dec. 23 – January 2 – **NO SCHOOL** Winter Break



Wilkins Guidelines for Volunteering for Classroom Parties

We are grateful and appreciative to have parents/volunteers to help at our school classroom parties. We are limited to the number of volunteers we are able to have in each classroom due to room space. Below are the guidelines and process we utilize for each of the classroom parties.

**Room Parents are assigned for each class by Tammy Evans, the volunteer coordinator for Wilkins Elementary. Room Parents will automatically be one of the volunteers that attend each party.

**The teacher of each classroom is responsible to choose any additional volunteers that will help for the classroom party. These volunteers must be an active registered volunteer.

**The teachers will provide the names to the office and the office will have name tags for the party volunteers. These are the only individuals that will be able to attend the party.

**Room parents are responsible for contacting volunteers to bring any needed supplies for the party. The volunteers bringing supplies are not automatically signed up to be a volunteer in the classroom for the party. They are only able to volunteer in the classroom if they were chosen by the classroom teacher and are an active registered volunteer.

We appreciate your understanding and support with these guidelines.

MUSIC NEWS



December Notes from the Music Room

Congratulations to the 4th Grade and the wonderful job they did honoring our Veteran's for their concert on November 10! We had a tremendous turn out to sing at Hy-Vee for the Veterans breakfast as well. There were hundreds of people there who were deeply moved by the songs. This put Wilkins in such a positive light in our community as well! Thank you parents who brought your children to sing on your day off from school!

The 1st Graders are up next with a musical called "Flakes". This will be held on Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 in the gym. Come see our enthusiastic 1st graders sing for you. Students in 1S and 1G need to wear all white for the program. Students in 1J need to wear gray or white with black for the concert.

Our fabulous 4th & 5th Grade Wilkins Chorus is gearing up for four performances this month. Their first concert of the year will be Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 PM. Chorus students will need to be in the music room dressed in their Chorus shirt and black pants that night by 6:10. They should also bring a Santa Hat (or Elf Hat, or Reindeer antlers...) Here are a few important upcoming announcements for Chorus members. Below are some important upcoming dates for Chorus members.

Coming up in Chorus for December

- ♫ December 1 (Thursday) regular practice 2:45 - 3:30
- ♫ **December 6 (Tuesday) 7:30AM ALL 4th & 5th Grade practice.**
- ♫ **December 6 6:10PM Meet in the Music Room**
6:30PM Chorus Concert wear your Chorus shirts and black pants. Bring a Santa hat, or elf hat, or reindeer antlers...
- ♫ December 7(Wednesday) **NO 4th Grade Practice**
- ♫ **December 8 (Thursday) 2:45 - 3:30 5th Grade Party**
Please bring a snack to share. Drop it off in the Music Room before school.
- ♫ **December 9 (Friday) 5:30PM High School BB game**
Wear you Chorus shirt & black pants. LM vs. Xavier. Come to door #10 Gym Door. We sing at 5:55. Singers get in for free and can stay for the game. Admission for others: \$5 Adults; \$4 Students (K-12), \$3 Senior Citizens (62+)
- ♫ December 13 (Tuesday) 7:30AM 5th Grade Chorus
- ♫ December 14 (Wednesday) 7:30 AM 4th Grade Chorus
- ♫ **December 15 (Thursday) 2:45 - 3:30 4th Grade Party**
Please bring a snack to share. Drop it off in the Music Room before school.
- ♫ December 20 (Tuesday) 7:30AM 5th Grade Chorus
- ♫ December 21 (Wednesday) 7:30AM 4th Grade Chorus
- ♫ December 22 (Thursday) **7:30AM ALL 4th & 5th Grade Chorus**
8:10AM Chorus Assembly for the school

Wear your Chorus shirt and black pants. Bring a Santa hat, reindeer antlers...

♪ Music news continued.....

♪ December 22 (Thursday) Wilkins Assembly

7:30 AM Chorus practice

Wear your Chorus shirt and black pants to school. Assembly will be in the afternoon.

Please remember the Linn-Mar district policy in the event of inclement weather. If there is an early out from school, all after school activities will be cancelled. In the event of a late start to school, there will be no before school activities held.

The chorus will be on a break until it starts up again on Tuesday, February 3, 2016.

These are the remaining concert dates we are looking forward to this year:

5th Grade - February 23

2nd Grade - March 23

4th & 5th Grade Chorus April 14 morning field trip. Return to school by 11:30.

Chorus & Wilkins Orchestra Concert- April 18

Kindergarten - April 20

If you have any questions or concerns about what is going on in Music, please don't hesitate to contact me. The best way is through school e-mail at Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

Happy Holidays!