

Wilkins News

January 2018



Dear Wilkins Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season. We are excited to be ringing in the year 2018 with a review of the Wilkins Way with all of the students. Now that January is upon us, we are able to settle into more of a routine and establish consistency since we have less interruptions to our school calendar. This is a great opportunity to continue and/or recommit to reading each night for 20 minutes with your child(ren). Next month we will kick-off "Roar for Reading" and we will be asking students to keep track of their reading, so this will be good practice for them in advance.

If you haven't already signed up for Remind, it is not too late to do so. I will use this communication tool to remind you of upcoming events and any weather delays/cancellations.

In order to sign-up, please enter this number:
81010

And text this message:
@wefam

We will be heading outside for recess anytime the weather and "real feel" is above 5 degrees so please be sure your child has the appropriate winter wear. Hats, gloves, snow pants, and snow boots are necessary on a daily basis. Please contact the Wilkins office if you need any assistance with these items.

Don't forget that Monday, January 15th is a NO SCHOOL day for our students.

Have a wonderful month!

Sincerely,

Amanda Potter



Kindergarteners for 2018/2019 School Year

We are gathering contact information of children that would be eligible to attend Kindergarten at Wilkins for the 2018/2019 school year.

***Child needs to turn 5 by September 15, 2018**

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 Tuesday January 30, 2018 at 6:30pm**

Wilkins phone: (319)-447-3380

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

Reminder Crossing Guard Change: 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.

The Wilkins staff would like to send a huge Thank-you out to our PTO and anyone who helped donate or helped in some way. We appreciate the special lounge decorations, the delicious holiday lunch and the gifts for the staff. You make a difference for us. Thank you!



Grade Level News



Kindergarten: It is hard to believe that it is already January! This year is going by quickly and the kindergarteners have been busy learning! The kids have been working hard on their math concepts. We have been working on simple addition and subtraction using our "Gus the Plus" and "Linus the Minus" riddles to help solve their story problems. We have seen huge improvements when writing their numbers 0-20. The kids loved doing paper mache in Science and they are enjoying the materials part of our Science unit. We will be finishing up this unit within the next few weeks. The boys and girls are starting to soar with their writing skills also. They are beginning to hear all of the sounds in the words and applying it to their writing. We will continue to work on our writing by creating stories that have a beginning, middle and end. We are fastly approaching the 100th day of school and the kids are getting very excited for this fun filled day!

First Grade: Our Journeys anchor stories for unit 3 have included At Home in the Ocean, How Leopard Got His Spots, Seasons, The Big Race and Animal Groups. Students are now expected to learn eight high frequency words each week. Starting with lesson 16, first grade spelling lists will increase to ten words each week. These ten word lists are trickier, because they feature two or three different spelling rules. Extra practice with these words at home always helps!

Before Christmas break, we started our science unit about Sound and Light. We are using a variety of materials to learn that all sounds are caused by vibrations. We are working on recognizing loud and soft sounds, as well as high pitched and low pitched sounds. Be sure to ask your child about using tuning forks, the sound generator and xylophones!

We'll soon be finishing up unit 5 in Everyday Math and then we'll take the mid-year test. Thanks for all your help with completing math homework and returning it to school promptly!

First graders are ready to get outside and enjoy the snow! Please be sure to send boots and snow pants for your first grader every day. Even if the snow melts, we need boots and snow pants to protect from the cold and wet. It's really important to mark everything your child brings to school with his or her name. We often have students with the exact same boots or snow pants and there is no way to tell them apart unless they are marked.

Second Grade: By the time February begins we will have been in school 100 days! Where has our time gone? Second graders will be working on patterns in counting, doubles and halves, collecting and graphing data and learning about median values in math. They will be completing 2nd trimester assessments and will be trying their hand at writing fictional narrative essays. Students will also be finishing their study of Solids and Liquids in science. And we are sure we will have discovered some potential engineers coming out of the tower and bridge building in that unit! Second graders love it when their teacher is out for duty. That means, "It's our day to sled!" Happy winter!

Third Grade: Our third graders were very busy in December! In math, we learned about area, perimeter, very large numbers and decimals. The students learned all about urban, suburban and rural communities in social studies. Making dioramas of the different types of communities was a lot of fun and allowed them to work cooperatively and to make decisions as a group. After completing the communities unit we dove into Government. Students learned about the branches of government, patriotic symbols, and the leaders that run our community, state, and nation. In writing, the kids wrote persuasive letters to Santa! Each child took on a role of an elf that was applying for different jobs in Santa's workshop. They did a fantastic job and would all have been hired if it were up to us! We are happy to be back in the swing of things and look forward to a great month of January! Keep on reading at home!

Fourth Grade: Fourth grade has been busy!! We've completed the Southeast Region in Social Studies and have moved on to our Energy unit in Science. During this unit we are learning how to light a light bulb, how to create parallel and series circuits! We will also be learning about magnetism. We continue working hard on some very creative persuasive writing pieces. We are also exploring our Life as an Ant and are excited to share that 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 beginning to learn division with remainders. As always, keep encouraging your child to read 20 minutes each night and keep practicing those math facts!

Fifth Grade: In math, we are completing the Mid-Year Assessment. In unit 7, we will be exploring exponential notation, scientific notation, and order of operations. In addition, students will be adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers.

Skills and strategies taught in reading this month include: author's purpose, fact/opinion, story structure: plot, characters, conflict, events, and resolution. In writing, students are completing narrative essays.

The focus of instruction in social studies this trimester will continue to be European explorers. Students will learn more about the impact of European explorers' expeditions.

In science this trimester, students will continue learning with the kit Mixtures and Solutions. The focus of instruction will be on developing models, planning and carrying out investigations, and analyzing and interpreting data.



January notes from the Music Room



Congratulations to the wonderful job our 1st Graders did on their concert, "Twas The Night Before Christmas"! They sang to a full house on November 30.

I want to give a huge shout out to the Chorus for your outstanding performance on December 14. A special thank you to parents for providing transportation to our many events! The Chorus did a fantastic job singing the National Anthem for the varsity double header Basketball game at the High School on December 15. The Chorus gave a repeat performance at Village Ridge Care Facility on Saturday, December 16. This meant so much to the residents there. We caroled together before leaving which was special for everyone. Thank you to our wonderful Chorus parents for getting their children to these special events!!!

Chorus will begin again on Thursday, **January 25**. Be sure to have your rides arranged to be picked up at 3:30☺. All 4th and 5th graders meet on Thursday from 2:45- 3:30. The following week 5th Grade has practice Tuesday morning, (January 30) at 7:30 AM and 4th Graders meet on Wednesday morning (January 31) at 7:30. If there is a late start to school, all before school activities are cancelled. Also, if there is an early out, there will be no after school activities.

The 5th Grade will have their grade level concert on Thursday, February 22 at 6:30. They will be presenting "Rock Around the 50's". They will dress in 50's style clothing for school that day and for the performance.

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

5th Grade - February 22

2nd Grade - March 22

4th & 5th Grade Chorus April 13 morning field trip. Return to school by 11:30.

Chorus & Wilkins Orchestra Concert- April 17

Kindergarten - April 19

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 kpeterston@linnmar.k12.ia.us.



Donation request for the health office

Elastic waist pants for boys & girls

Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12

A note from the Band Director



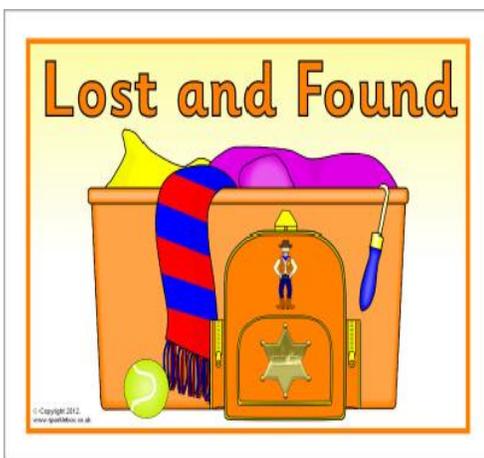
Winter Band Concert

The 5th Grade Band Winter Concert will be held on Thursday, February 1st, 2018 in the HS Auditorium. Concert time is 6:15 PM, and monetary donations will be accepted. Band students from all 7 buildings will be performing together!

All fifth grade band students should arrive at the High School between 5:45 and 6:00 PM and be in the Little Theatre ready to warm-up **NO LATER** than 6:05 PM. Coats and cases can be kept in the LT. Students will need to bring their Instrument, and Band music from home. Tubas, baritones, and all percussion instruments will already be at the HS. Please have students wear nice dress clothes for this **MAJOR** concert (no jeans or tennis shoes please). During the concert we will be having a group photo taken by Hall's Photo. 8 x 10 color photographs can be ordered for \$10.00. Order forms will be sent home with students that day, and available at the concert.

In preparation for the concert we will be practicing together **THAT** morning **BEFORE** school (7:30 am - 8:30 am) in the HS Auditorium. **Please drop your student off at the HS AUDITORIUM Circle Drive entrance (DOOR 1) - Not the North Entrance...**between 7:15 and 7:20 am. All students will be transported from the HS to their building after our rehearsal. Because this is our only chance to rehearse with all 173 students together, it is **VERY** important that every Band student attend this rehearsal! The students have been working extremely hard to prepare for this big concert. We hope you will attend.

Kevin Makinster Director of 5th Grade Bands kmakinster@linnmar.k12.ia.us



LOST & FOUND:

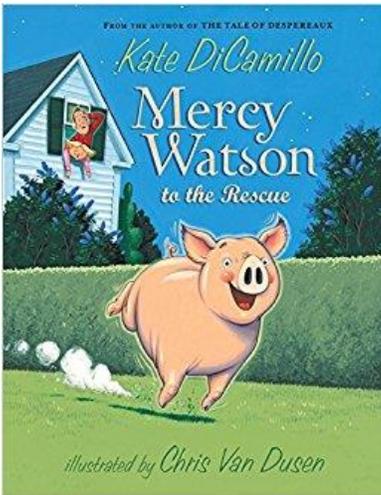
If your child is missing any clothing items, please remember to check the lost & found items. You will find them outside of the Wilkins' media center

The Reading Team Presents:

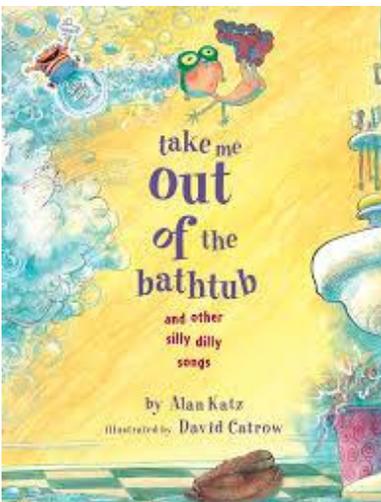
January Book Picks & Upcoming Events

Roar for Reading Month will be in February this year. Our theme is "An Expedition Through the Polar Regions". Each week of the month is devoted to a different topic: Polar Bears, Penguins, Icebergs, and Whales. Our kick-off is planned for February 1st at the end of the school day. We will be sending a t-shirt order home soon and look forward to having a month full of reading activities!

Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo



Mercy is a pet pig that Mrs. and Mr. Watson treat as if she were their daughter! In book 1, the Watsons believe that Mercy is trying to get help after they almost fall through the top floor of their house while sleeping, but she's really only trying to find the thing in life that is most important to her; buttered toast! Soon the neighbors and the fire department get involved in an unlikely way, and Mercy is named the hero of the day! This series of books is geared toward kiddos in 2nd Grade, but would be a fun quick read for older kids and younger kids would enjoy listening to these stories as well! Kate DiCamillo is one of my favorite authors. She has written amazing stories such as Because of Winn Dixie and The Tale of Despereaux just to name a few.



Take me out of the bathtub: and other silly dilly songs by Alan Katz and illustrated by David Catrow

Kids not only love the songs in this book but also love giggling at the pictures! Some of the favorites include "Take Me Out of the Bathtub" (sung to the tune of "take me out to the ballgame), "Stinky, Stinky Diaper Change" (to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"), and "Go Go Go to Bed" (to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"). The rhymes are great, and the kids love to figure out how to sing the 'new' song with the 'old' tune! Of course, due to its popularity, the authors have written additional titles if your child likes this one!