



March

March 2018

Amanda Potter, Principal

Dear Wilkins Families,

It is hard to believe we are in the final trimester of the school year! As educators, we always look forward to this time of year as we have another opportunity to discuss your student's progress with you and start looking to the next school year. We hope you are all able to attend conferences but if you are unable to make things work, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher and schedule something for another time.

We are so excited about a new opportunity for intervention at Wilkins Elementary. The district has asked our school to pilot a research-based intervention called Lexia Reading Core5. This is a web-based program that includes all six components of reading (phonological awareness, phonics, structural analysis, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension). The program is highly engaging so students learn and practice these fundamental skills while having fun! If you haven't heard your child talking about this intervention, try asking them what they think about it so far. Also, feel free to ask your child's teacher for more details.

If you have a child in 3rd-5th grade, we will be administering Iowa Assessments at the beginning of April. This is an important assessment that helps us make decisions about your child's instruction and future support/enrichment that may be needed. More details will be communicated when the time for Iowa Assessments get closer.

Please note in your calendars that we have some non-school days coming up over the next few months.

March 12 - 16 (Spring Break)

Friday, March 30 (at this time, we will not be making up the Feb. 9th snow day)

Monday, April 30

Spring is almost here so we are looking forward to the warmer weather and hopefully lots of sunshine. As a reminder, we want students reading at least 20 minutes each night but it also helps greatly for students to get outside to get fresh air and exercise!

Sincerely,

Amanda Potter

GRADE LEVEL NEWS



Kindergarten Wow! The Kindergartners are making big gains in their learning! They are becoming more independent in their reading and writing each day. Students have learned almost all of the 88 "Rainbow Words." They are using their sight word knowledge in their reading and have been practicing different reading strategies during reading group time. The boys and girls have been learning how to write addition and subtraction problems during math time. They have enjoyed learning about coins, sorting, patterning, calculators, and 3D shapes as well. Students have a great time playing math games with their friends. We look forward to starting our Animals 2 X 2 science unit after Spring Break. It will be a very hands on and interesting unit for the kids! Keep practicing sight words and reading to your child at home!!

First Grade First graders are learning about our country and the patriotic symbols and holidays that represent our country as we read our social studies unit "We Love Our Country". We continue to work in our Journeys reading books, and we have been reading lots of informational texts and doing plenty of writing. We are in unit 5 of Journeys, and we have accomplished so much as readers and writers!

In math, we have been doing a lot of learning about shapes and geometry in Unit 7 of Everyday Math. We are also learning about what shapes are polygons and which are not. We continue to review fact families and number boxes.

Second Grade March is going to be a great month for our 2nd graders. We look forward to our music program after spring break. It will be a great show and we can't wait to show our families. In math we will continue to work on fractions and many new skills. Science will bring the delivery of many creepy crawlies as we begin our last science kit, Plants and Insects. In social studies we are learning about the past, our independence and change over time. It is a great unit full of great discussions. We look forward to sharing progress with parents during parent teacher conferences.

Third Grade 3rd graders are gearing up for March! In writing, they continue to learn about the different genres and focused on opinion this month. We read, Hey Little Ant. This is a story with a character that has a debate with an ant on whether he should squish the it or not. The ant does a great job of defending himself with reasons why he should live. We did some research about ants then students had to choose a side...squish or not. Their opinion writing included reasons and details to support their opinions. They did a great job! In math, Unit 7 has been covering multiplication and division problems. We appreciate any extra practice that you do at home with them. Flash cards are STILL a great practice for fact fluency. Unit 8 will focus on fractions! In Social Studies, we have been learning about Maps and Globes. The children love learning about the continents and oceans. We would like to thank you for your assistance recording your child's reading minutes each night! As we inch towards spring and our new FAST benchmark, reading at home will be very beneficial.

Fourth Grade Fourth grade students just finished the Benchmark testing that goes along with our Journeys series. We are currently working on fractions and just took the mid-year math test. We just finished the Energy Unit in Science. In Social Studies, we will begin learning about the Midwest Region. During this unit we will learn about resources in the region, geography and famous people that have made an impact on this region. Please continue to have students read 20 minutes each night and continue practicing math facts. We look forward to seeing you at your child's conference! We look forward to visiting with you about the progress that your student has made in 4th grade!

Fifth Grade Fifth graders are continuing to do a great job of modeling the Wilkins Way for the younger students in the building. They are respectful, responsible, safe, and ready to learn.

In math, fifth graders have been multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. They have also been dividing fractions. In unit 9, students will find the area of rectangles, triangles, and parallelograms. They will also find the volume of rectangular prisms and right prisms.

Skills and strategies taught in reading this month include: main idea and detail, cause and effect, and interpreting figurative language. In writing, students are completing opinion essays. All students are also doing Lexia, an intervention reading program, which is accessed with a computer. Students receive instruction at their reading level. The focus of Pride will continue to be literacy.

The focus of instruction in social studies this month is building the first colonies in North America. Students will learn that cultural differences and competition for land led to conflicts among the different groups of people in the Americas.

In science this trimester, students will begin learning about Living Systems. In the first investigation, students will learn about what makes up a system and a subsystem. They will also learn about food webs and will make and observe a red worm habitat.



NO SCHOOL

March 12th - March 16th

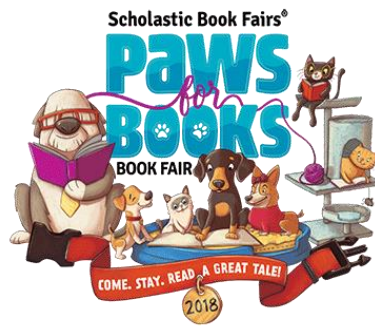
Spring Break

WILKINS WAY NEWS

Students have made great choices this month by being Safe, Respectful, Responsible and Ready! During our OCM (Olweus Class Meetings) times, we have been learning about and watching Wilkins short videos to remind us about following the Wilkins Way. So far, teachers have been catching students being respectful and ready, and those students have been earning double paw prints and will also receive a special certificate to recognize their excellent efforts. Kids have enjoyed shopping at the Wilkins Way Window with paw prints they have earned. Paw Draw prizes have included eating with friends at the Lunch Bunch table in the cafeteria and surprise paw drawings for special activities.

The students received special heart-shaped paw prints in February that went into a valentine box. There was a drawing and the winners were given a hot chocolate party!

In March, students will be able to spend their paw prints at the Wilkins Way Window, or they can participate in special school activities such as reading with our service dog Tully, helping out the classroom teacher, earning extra Lego or tablet time, or getting to have a day to chew gum in class! We look forward to a very Safe, Respectful, Responsible and Ready March!



The book fair is coming!! We are excited about giving students the opportunity to purchase books for their own collections. The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday, 2/27/18 **3:00-4:00 pm**
Thursday, 3/1/18 **3:00-7:00 pm (conferences)**
Tuesday, 3/6/18 **3:00-7:00 pm (conferences)**

The money made through this fundraiser will go toward the purchase of new books for our library media center. We look forward to seeing you at the book fair!



MUSIC MATTERS!



News from the Music Room March '18

Congratulations to the 5th Grade for an AWESOME performance of their musical, "Rock Around the 50s"! They did a terrific job of presenting their concert for the school on February 22!

The second grade concert is coming up March 22. You won't want to miss "Bremen Town Jam"! This is a great story with a wonderful message and fun songs! Please have your child at the school by 6:15 and meet in the Gym.

Looking ahead to April, the Chorus will be going on a field trip on Friday, April 13 from 8:00 - 11:30. Chorus students need to wear their Chorus shirt and black pants to school for the concerts that will be a part of the morning. We will be singing at Hy-Vee at 8:45, followed by a performance at 9:30, and from there singing for the 8th Grade choir at Excelsior at 10:27. We will return to school on time for lunch.

The final Chorus concert of the year will be Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 PM. The Wilkins 5th grade orchestra will also be a part of this concert.

Music news continued.....

♪ **Tuesday, April 24** Chorus sings at Chick-Fil-A for Wilkins Spirit Night between the hours of 5-8PM 217 Collins Road NE
Meet at 6:15
6:30 Sing
When you mention "WILKINS" at the register, a portion of sales from that order will be given to our school.

The last concert of the year will be Kindergarten on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30. The theme is called "Music All Over Me".

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 Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us.



From the Reading Team

(Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Gostonczik,

Mrs. Wells & Mrs. Brown)

Happy Spring, Everyone! ☺

We look forward to sharing our reading progress with you at your child's conference. Enjoy spring break with your families, but please don't take a break from reading with your child. If they resist reading with you, try spicing up the routine! If it is nice enough outside, take your book and a blanket outside. If you are traveling, please make sure you pack a book. Set up a family reading time where EVERYONE READS SOMETHING (magazine, newspaper, book, cookbook, etc.) When kids see you read, they see the value, purpose, and FUN that reading can bring to our days! ☺



Calendar

March 1.....	Late night conferences
March 1.....	Book Fair 3:00 - 7:00 pm
March 2.....	Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 11:00 am
March 5.....	PTO meeting 6:00 pm
March 5.....	Board Of Education Meeting 5:00pm work session/7:00pm regular session
March 6.....	Late Night Conferences
March 6	Book Fair 3:00pm - 7:00pm
March 9.....	Beach Day
March 12 - March 16.....	Spring Break
March 21	Spring Picture Day
March 22.....	2 nd Grade Music Program 6:30pm
March 24.....	PTO Skate night 4:00 - 6:00 pm
March 27.....	PTO fundraiser Gettogether at Wendy's 5:00 - 7:00pm 10% of sales goes to Wilkins
March 30.....	No school - K - 12 Comp Day

Iowa Assessment News from the Guidance Counselor

The third, fourth, and fifth grade students will be taking the Iowa Assessments in the beginning of April. The test is no longer Iowa Test of Basic Skills and is now called Iowa Assessment. Teachers will be talking with students about the tests that will be given in their classroom.

You can help, too. As always it is essential students get plenty of sleep (8-10 hours) and eat a good breakfast during this week. Being tired and hungry can distract a child from doing his/her best work. Please call 447-3380 or 447-3383 if you have any questions.

Nick Mohwinkle,-Guidance Counselor



