

# Wilkins – Newsletter

## October

*Dear Wilkins Families,*

*Happy October!*

*It is so nice to finally have some Fall weather - it is a welcome change to the crazy heat we had in September!*

*We always look forward to this time of year because it is our first opportunity for parent/teacher conferences. We view this as a fantastic opportunity for us to collaborate with you on your child's progress so far in the school year and discuss ways we can continue to support their learning as the year progresses. If you haven't had a chance to sign up for your conferences yet, you can still do so. Please contact the elementary office if you have any questions.*

*We are looking forward to our America Reads event on Thursday, October 19th. If you are interested in reading or helping during this event, please contact Karla Terry at [kterry@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:kterry@linnmar.k12.ia.us). This is always a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience guest readers sharing their support of literacy and passion for reading.*

*We are continually working on how to show the Wilkins Way: WE are Respectful, WE are Responsible, WE are Safe, and WE are Ready! Staff is acknowledging positive behavior on a daily basis so keep asking your child about how their day is going at school. We love seeing so many students setting such a great example for others and we appreciate the support you provide at home as well.*

*Thank you for all of the support you have been providing our school with your volunteerism, teacher appreciation contributions, and fundraising for our Wilkins Way Tech Trek. We can't tell you how much we appreciate everything and we feel very fortunate to have such a supportive system of parents and community members.*

*Sincerely,  
Amanda Potter*



## *News from Mr. Mohwinkle, Counselor*

It is that time of year again. The "Giving Tree" process will be beginning soon. Please keep your eyes open for forms to fill out if you want assistance this year during the holidays. A big thanks to those of you that help make this a smooth process. If you have questions, please contact Nick Mohwinkle at 447-3383.

Thank you!

### Notes from the Music Room

We will have our first grade level concert of the year presented by our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 PM in the gym. They will be presenting the musical, "The Phantom of the Music Room". Students will need to arrive at their classrooms by 6:15. If you arrive before 6:15, please supervise your child in the gym. Classroom teachers will be in their rooms by 6:15. There will be a 2PM dress rehearsal that day for the school. For the students who were asked to dress like their part, please bring your outfit to school so they can be dressed in character for the dress rehearsal.



Our next concert will be a Veterans Day concert performed by our 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Students are asked to wear any combination of red/white/blue for this concert. Please invite any Vets you know as we want to honor them through this program. This will take place on Thursday, November 9 at 6:30 PM in the gym. There will also be a 2PM dress rehearsal and we would love to have some Vets in the afternoon performance as well so we can honor them.

Please mark your calendar so you can set aside the date your child will have their classroom Music Concert. This is one of the highlights of the year for the students and you won't want to miss it. All concerts will be held in the Wilkins Gym at 6:30 PM:

\*3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - October 19

\*4<sup>th</sup> Grade - November 9

\*1<sup>st</sup> Grade - November 30

\*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Chorus - December 14

\*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus - December 15 at High School for Basketball game. We will meet at the HS cafeteria next to the gym at 5:30 and sing at 5:55.

\*5<sup>th</sup> Grade - February 22

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - March 22

\*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us).



### \*Supervision:

This is a reminder that there is NO SUPERVISION outside in the mornings until 7:35. Students will not be allowed to enter the building until 7:45 am when the first bell rings. If your student eats breakfast at school, they will be allowed in the building at 7:30 am. All other students are asked to wait outside unless they participate in band, orchestra or intramurals. The weather will be changing with cooler temperatures so please keep this in mind.

### \*Cooler Weather:

Please remember to send your child with a sweatshirt or jacket - the temperatures are dropping☺

### \*Costume Guidelines:

Halloween is right around the corner and below is a reminder of the costume guidelines:

- \*Make sure they can change into their costume on their own and in a timely manner.
- \*Make sure your students are appropriately dressed and don't show too much skin.
- \*No gory
- \*No Blood
- \*No weapons
- \*No face paint/ hair coloring during school
- \*No Mask at school
- \*School appropriate wording on costumes

We appreciate your help and support with adhering to these guidelines. Thank you!



# Grade Level News

## Kindergarten

Math: We have been working on measuring items in our classroom using different objects. We worked with the terms longer, shorter and the same length. We have been working hard on writing and recognizing our numbers 0-10. \_

Literacy: We have continued working on beginning sounds, rhyming words, deleting and adding words, blending, segmenting and syllables. We are excited for our reading support teachers to join us for reading each day. Each classroom will have all of our reading teachers in our room for 10-15 minutes. During this time, each teacher will have a group of students and will focus on one of the following jolly phonics, letter ID, CVC words, story retelling or sight words while reading.

Science: We finished our fall tree unit. We will take a couple of weeks to work on the life cycle of an apple and of course do some taste testing.

Rainbow words: We have finished our "red" words. Please continue working on these words at home.

### 1st Grade

The first graders have been busy learning about rocks with our Pebbles, Sand and Silt science unit. We learned all about basalt, tuff and scoria, which are different types of rocks formed by a volcano. We have learned to sort river rocks by many different properties such as shape, size and color. We used screens to sort our river rocks by size. We learned that pebbles are larger than gravel and that gravel is larger than sand.

We started our first math boxes pages in Everyday Math. Math boxes allow the students to practice basic math skills with each lesson. We learned to play Roll for 50, which helps us practice counting up and back on a number grid. We've learned how to write our numerals 0-9. It is very common for first graders to still write their numerals backwards. If you see your child making backwards numerals on math homework, be sure to have them fix it. This usually works itself out with more practice. Thanks for all your help with math homework!

We continue to practice short vowel sounds with our Journeys spelling words. We read the anchor texts Curious George at School, Lucia's Neighborhood and Gus Takes the Train. We will soon be finishing up our beginning of the year FAST assessments. We look forward to meeting with parents and sharing that data at our upcoming conferences in October!

### 2nd Grade

Second graders are well on their way to a great year of learning! They are learning and practicing the Wilkins Way wherever they are in the building. Unit 2 math will provide much practice with strategies for solving addition facts quickly. Students will enjoy stories like Animal Homes and The Ugly Vegetables in our Journeys curriculum as well as work on their first graded piece of writing. This writing will be a narrative about the students themselves. Our work in Air and Weather will continue with investigations involving air pressure, weather tools and types of clouds. The second grade team really wants to emphasize focus on reading at home for enjoyment. One of our greatest goals is to help children find their way into the wonderful adventures that can be found between the covers of a book!

### 3rd Grade

This is adding up to be a great year! Our second unit in Everyday Math focuses on addition and subtraction. Third graders will practice adding and subtracting both 2- and 3-digit numbers. In reading, students are enjoying our weekly stories filled with great vocabulary and spelling. On Fridays, students are assessed on the vocab and spelling words. We encourage you to promote reading at home and challenge the students to a 350 minute/month goal. This averages out to be 15 minutes a night. Please record minutes read at home on the monthly logs located in the take home folders. In writing, we will finish up Unit 1 on narrative writing and move into Unit 2 on opinion writing. In Science, we are in our 2nd Water and Climate investigation. In the next few weeks, we will learn more about water temperature, weather, seasons, climates, and creating energy with water. We look forward to sharing your child's progress at our October conferences!



### 4th Grade

We recently finished taking the NWEA tests and your child's score in reading and math will be shared at conferences. In math, we just finished unit two on Large Numbers. We are starting unit three, Multiplication. Remember to practice your basic multiplication and division facts at home. Also, please use your Everyday Math account online! Expect to see math homework being sent home on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday nights. We took our first field trip to Old Capitol in Iowa City and the Museum of Natural History. Now we are ready to focus on Science beginning with our Soil, Rocks and Landforms science kit. Please continue to check your child's agenda every night on Seesaw to see daily assignments and upcoming tests and events in fourth grade. Please remember to read at home!

### 5th Grade

In math, we will investigate Unit 3: Geometry Explorations, and Unit 4: Division. Unit 3 examines properties of basic plane figures and the use of the tools of geometry. Unit 4 reviews basic division facts and then extends to include division of a decimal by a whole number.

We will begin Unit 2 in Literacy. Target comprehension skills will include: Cause and Effect, Understanding Characters, Author's Purpose, Conclusions and Generalizations, and Main Ideas. Informative writing will be our focus in this unit, specifically focusing on: Procedural Compositions, Cause-and Effect Essays, and writing a Research Report. In Social Studies, we will wrap up Chapter 2: Native Americans. We will have gained knowledge on using cultural maps as well as how the Eastern Woodlands, the Plains, the Southwest and the West, and the Northwest and the Arctic lived in the early days. In Science we will continue our Earth and Sun unit with investigations 3 (Earth's Atmosphere) and 4 (Heating Earth). We will use models to investigate the properties of air, describe the atmosphere using visual displays, and collect, organize, and interpret weather data. We will also conduct experiments with heating of earth materials and with solar water heaters to build explanations and design solutions. Don't forget conferences are this month! Late night conferences are October 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We can't wait to share the awesome growth your kiddos have made so far in 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

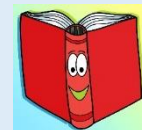
**Reading Support Groups are meeting and we cannot wait to visit with parents at conferences!**

**Just a few benefits of reading aloud to your child even after they know how to read themselves...**

- \*Reading aloud models word pronunciations as children hear and learn new vocabulary.**
- \*Reading together daily creates time with parents for children in this fast paced world.**
- \*The importance of reading fades if children do not see it as a priority at home.**
- \*Literacy is something that is not finished once your child learns how to read.**  
**Lifelong readers are lifelong thinkers!**

For further information read the following article.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-29/reading-to-kids-ending-too-early-study-says/8849622>







## Wilkins Way!

**WE** are Respectful.....**WE** are Responsible.....**WE** are Safe.....**WE** are Ready

We are off to a great start with our all-school PBIS (Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions), the Wilkins Way. We focus on these four big concepts: Being RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, SAFE AND READY TO LEARN! This program teaches clear and concise directions for how to act and what to do in the common areas of school: hallways, restrooms, recess, standing in lines, lunchroom behaviors, etc. Teachers model appropriate choices for group work, seatwork and transitions, among many other things. Students practice these behaviors every day in their classrooms, at specials, on the playground, and all other places at school.

In addition to learning and practicing behaviors, students earn Paw Prints for making good choices. They can choose to put their signed Paw Prints in a class envelope that is collected each week for school-wide drawings. Soon we will be opening the *Wilkins Way Window*. This window displays items students could "purchase" with their saved Paw Prints. For example, one item might cost 25 paw prints to purchase and another might be as many as 100 paw prints. We also have schoolwide incentives (such as all-school read and feed, dance parties, etc) and classroom incentives. The students have earned many paw prints already and are demonstrating responsibility in saving and keeping track of their paw prints as well as making excellent choices. The end result: a positive, enjoyable learning environment. GO WILKINS!!

## A Note from the Orchestra Director

~ Mrs. Kelly Vieth ~

The 5th Grade Orchestra members have been working very hard on reading notes and rhythms in preparation for our very first concert on Tuesday, October 24th in the High School Auditorium beginning at 6:00 PM. All family and friends are encouraged to attend!!! Students will receive more information about our performance later this month.



### *Attention All Adopt-a-Beginners...*

All students who signed up for this year's Adopt-a-Beginner Program will be finding out who their High School practice buddy will be very soon. Students accepted into the program will have the chance to meet and greet their buddy at our annual Adopt-a-Beginner Pizza Party, which will take place before our concert on October 24th. More details to come ☺

Keep up the hard work, orchestra students. Go Lions!!!



## 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, a volunteer for Wilkins Elementary. Room Parents will automatically be one of the volunteers that attend each party.

**\*\*The teacher** of each classroom is responsible to approve any additional volunteers that will help for the classroom party. These volunteers must be an active registered volunteer. If the approved classroom volunteer would like to bring their spouse to help, the spouse also needs to 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 approved by the classroom teacher and are an active registered volunteer.

**We appreciate your understanding and support with these guidelines.**



Hello Wilkins Parents:

**Picture re-take day is Wednesday, Oct 18th.** This is for students that may want/need to have their picture re-taken for various reasons. It is also for students that did not get their picture taken the first time when LifeTouch was here.

**Procedures for Students needing an actual re-take:** Return the picture packets into their teacher **before** Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. The unwanted picture packet will be turned in to LifeTouch when they have their new picture taken.

**Procedures for students that missed getting their picture taken the first time:** Students need a picture order form and they must have payment the day of our re-take pictures and turn the money into LifeTouch at the time their picture is taken. We have a few extra picture order forms in the office if you need one.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Wilkins Office. Thank you!

# Calendar for October



- Oct. 3 .....PTO Meeting
- Oct. 5 .....Homecoming Parade
- Oct. 6.....Homecoming game
- Oct. 9 – Oct. 19..Conference Window
- Oct. 9.....Board Meeting (Work session 5:00pm, regular session 7:00pm)
- Oct. 12.....Late Conference Night
- Oct. 13.....Volunteer Workshop 8:30am
- Oct. 17.....Late Conference Night
- Oct. 18.....Picture re-take day
- Oct. 18.....5<sup>th</sup> Grade LEO trip to Linn County Solid Waste Agency
- Oct. 19.....America Reads Day
- Oct. 19.....3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program 6:30 pm
- Oct. 23.....Board Meeting (Work session 5:00pm, regular session 7:00pm)
- Oct. 24.....5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Orchestra concert 6:00 pm at High School auditorium
- Oct. 26.....No school K – 12 Professional learning
- Oct. 27.....No school K – 12 Professional learning
- Oct. 30.....No school K – 8 Comp day
- Oct. 30.....PTO Trunk or Treat 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Oct. 31.....Fall Parties 2:00 pm



Wilkins staff is very appreciative of PTO and all those who have contributed to the staff appreciation activities.