

# Wilkins – Newsletter

## October

October 2016

Dear parents/guardians,

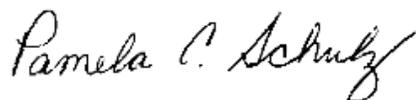
Welcome to Fall! We are looking forward to seeing you at your child's conference during the first few weeks of October. There is lots of information to share about academic progress and successes in the first six weeks of school. In addition to academics, our students are working hard to show respect, be responsible, be safe and being ready to learn each day. This is the foundation of the *Wilkins Way*, our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system.

Students will begin to attend PRIDE groups in October. Your child may be going to another classroom for instruction during this 30 minutes of time. The groups are very flexible and will change frequently based on the skills taught during that time.

Cold weather and snow will be coming. Remember to always send a jacket with your child for the cool mornings. All weather related announcements will be made on Txtwire (in addition to TV stations). This is the emergency notification system for the district. Make sure that you are signed-up for both District and Wilkins announcements if you are using Txtwire. There will no longer be twitter notifications about the weather. For more information about Txtwire scroll to the bottom of the Linn-Mar homepage. (<http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us>) and click on Emergency Notifications on the bottom right hand side of the page. It will take you to a page to sign up for the notifications.

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers and organizers of the Spaghetti Supper and Homecoming Parade with Character Council. We had the most beautiful weather for the parade and the kids showed all of Linn-Mar the Wilkins Way with their Linn-Mar Spirit as Super Fans. As a reminder, you will need to sign-in at the office when visiting or volunteering at Wilkins between the hours of 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM. We love having volunteers in our school!

Sincerely,



Pamela C. Schulz, Principal

## ***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!

### October 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 27 at 6:30 the gym. They will be presenting the musical, *Squirm*. Students 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.



### **\*Supervision:**

This is a reminder that there is NO SUPERVISION outside in the mornings until 7:40. Students will not be allowed to enter the building until 7:50 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 😊

# Grade Level News



## Kindergarten

It is hard to believe that we have already been in school for a month. We started the month off by celebrating Grandparents Day. We had an amazing turnout and the kids were so excited for their special person to join them for crafts and our songs. Thank you to everyone that was able to join us for this special day. Math: In math we have been working on recognizing and writing our numbers

1-10. We have also been using one to one correspondence through hands on activities during our math centers. The kids have enjoyed exploring with math tubs and working on sorting by different attributes as well as patterning.

## 1st Grade

First grade rocks! First graders are having fun learning about earth science in our unit called Pebbles, Sand, and Silt. Journeys reading lessons are five days long with a spelling test on the fifth day. Lessons do not always begin on a Monday, so look for the parent letter and word list to signal the start of a new lesson. In Unit 2 of Everyday Math, we've been learning about math facts with a sum of ten, uses of numbers, and telling time on analog clocks. Thanks for your help with completing math homework. We will continue to send math homework several times a week. We are looking forward to meeting with parents at our upcoming conferences!

## 2nd Grade

Looking ahead for second grade we see more great learning coming our way! Students will continue working on the Air & Weather unit for science with the focus shifting from air to clouds, graphing types of weather, moon phases and the difference between weather and seasons. Going right along with this is our study of landforms and basic mapping understanding including cardinal directions, absolute and relative locations in social studies. What kinds of weather and seasons do certain locations in the world experience? Unit 2 math will include addition fact fluency, doubles facts, fact families, name collections and frames and arrows. As we approach the writing Benchmark students will be working on narrative writing with practice using descriptive sentences in a true story. Our year is well underway and second graders are working hard!

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

First of all, thank you very much for attending Open House and the Spaghetti Dinner! 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. Students took this unit test on September 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 night and due on Thursday. We wrapped up our Iowa unit in Social Studies and will be taking our first field trip to Old Capitol in Iowa City. Students beginning to work on the Soil, Rocks and Landforms in Science. Please continue to check and sign your child's agenda every night to see daily assignments and upcoming tests and events in fourth grade. Please remember to read at home!

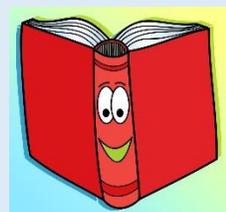
#### 5th Grade

In math, fifth graders are beginning their study of geometry, which includes exploring angle measures, using a protractor and compass, and properties of polygons. In science, students are continuing their study of Sun, Moon, and Planets or Mixtures and Solutions, depending on the class that they are in; however, all students will complete all kits by the end of the school year. In social studies, students are continuing their study of Native Americans. Students are learning about the different geographical groups and how the natural resources available to each group had an impact on the lifestyles of the people. In writing, students are finishing up narrative writing and will soon begin informative writing. Reading skills that will be taught this month include: cause and effect, characterization, author's purpose, and main idea and details. NWEA reading and math assessments have been given. Results will be shared at conferences.

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

We thought we would share a few favorite reading quotes...

To the parent of a young child,  
"Readers are made on parents' laps."  
For the older child needing encouragement,  
"Reading a chapter book is like making a movie in your head."



## Wilkins Way!

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

Hopefully, by now, you've heard your child mention, Wilkins Way. What exactly is this? It's our school wide positive behavior system. We are teaching our students to be respectful, responsible, ready, and safe. Teachers watch for these great behaviors in classrooms and in our common areas, such as hallways, lunch room, recess, and more! When students are "caught" following the Wilkins Way expectations, they receive a paw print. The student has two choices: turn the paw print in to their classroom envelope or save their paw prints to purchase something at the Wilkins Way Window. We have a school wide drawing each Friday where a student from each class is drawn. When a child's name is drawn, they can choose a reward such as: choosing to be a helper during art, lunch bunch with friends one day in the lunchroom, etc. After the weekly drawing, all the paw prints are put in a container in the library. When that container is full, we will have a school-wide celebration! Please encourage your child to continue following the Wilkins Way every day at school!

## A Note from the Orchestra Director



~ Mrs. Kelly Vieth ~

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra members have been working very hard on reading notes and rhythms in preparation for our very first concert on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 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 27th. More details to come ☺

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

~ Mrs. Vieth ~

## 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 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 Friday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.** 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. 7<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 .....Conferences begin**
- Oct. 3 – Oct. 7....4<sup>th</sup> Grade Aquatic Experience**
- Oct. 6 .....Late Night Conferences**
- Oct. 8.....Wilkins Parlor City Night**
- Oct. 7.....Picture re-take day**
- Oct. 10.....Board Meeting (Work session 5:00pm, regular session 7:00pm)**
- Oct. 11.....Late Conference Night**
- Oct. 11.....PTO meeting 6:30 pm**
- Oct. 13.....Volunteer Workshop 8:30am**
- Oct. 13.....Lunchtime learning with Karla Terry and Shannon Bisgard in the Boardroom at the LRC. Meeting starts at noon.**
- Oct. 20.....America Reads Day**
- Oct. 21.....NO SCHOOL**
- Oct. 24.....NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day**
- Oct. 24.....Board Meeting (Work session 5:00pm, regular session 7:00pm)**
- Oct. 25.....5<sup>th</sup> Grade LEO trip to Linn County Solid Waste Agency**
- Oct. 27.....Volunteer Workshop**
- Oct. 27.....5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Orchestra concert 6:00 pm at High School auditorium**
- Oct. 27.....3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program 6:30 pm**
- Oct. 31.....Fall Parties at 2:15**