



Wilkins News



November 2016 Pam Schulz Principal

November 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the month of October we were able to celebrate reading with the America Reads program. There were many visiting adults to our building and our students enjoyed hearing them read. Our visiting readers included parents, grandparents, Marion police officers, firefighters, area newscasters and many others. Keep the interest in reading alive in your home. Let your children see you reading the newspaper, magazines or on-line information. Encourage your child to read 20 minutes every day. The Iowa Reading Research center has a website that tells you about reading in Iowa, provides resources for parents and shares some research articles. The address for the website is: <http://www.iowareadingresearch.org/about/> At Wilkins, WE are Readers!

We love our volunteers! Wilkins is thankful for parents and grandparents that listen to kids read, support in the classroom, help in the lunchroom and many, many other tasks. If you are interested in helping out at school, going on a field trip or attending a party 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.

Colder weather is on the way. Please make sure that you are sending a jacket or coat with your child every day to school. We will go outside for recess when the wind chill is 0 or above. Students wait outside in the morning until 7:50 AM. Our staff provides supervision at 7:40 AM. Please drop off students after 7:40 AM.

Please check your calendars and mark days that students will not be in attendance at Wilkins:
Friday, November 11
Wednesday, November 23 - Friday, November 25

Pamela C. Schulz



Have you heard about the Golden Plunger?



Once a week, our school custodians choose a classroom to receive the Golden Plunger award. The Golden Plunger award goes to the classroom that is neat and tidy. It is announced over the intercom. The winning class gets to keep the Golden Plunger in their classroom for a week until a new classroom is announced! We are encouraging students to take responsibility for their environment and pride in their classroom.



Have you heard about Golden Tickets?

Adults in our building have special Golden Tickets that they can award to a class that is following Wilkins Way expectations. Reasons why classrooms might receive a Golden Ticket may include: walking quietly in the hallway, following directions, or safe playground behavior. Classes collect their Golden Tickets outside their classroom door in a pocket chart. At the end of the month, the classroom with the most Golden Tickets per grade level, will receive a special Wilkins Way doormat to put outside their classroom door.

Wilkins "Families Helping Families" Food Drive



- When:** November 7-18
- Who:** Wilkins families and staff are encouraged to support this great cause.
- Where:** Wilkins Elementary, of course!
- Why:** Wilkins families and staff can do their part to fight hunger in our community. What an awesome way to show "Character Counts"!

Food donations will be given to the 29th Street Mission food pantry.

Bring non-perishable food items and please check expiration dates. Donations may be brought to the classroom.

NO GLASS PLEASE

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
- *exhibits abdominal pain for more than two hours
- *has sores on mouth or skin that are crusty, yellow or draining
- *shows symptoms of contagious diseases such as chicken pox, mumps, whooping cough, Strep throat
- *has constant runny nose with green or yellow discharge
- *displays an unexplained skin rash or red eye (with or without crusting/drainage)

Keeping a sick child home prevents the spread of illness in the school. It also allows the child opportunity to rest and recover. A sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in classes in a meaningful way.

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 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 holidays are just around the corner. We will be doing the Giving Tree again this year. If you would like some assistance with gifts, please contact Jackie Butz or Nick Mohwinkle. The deadline to turn in your forms for assistance this year is November 3rd. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jackie (447-3382) or myself (447-3383).



November Calendar:

- Nov. 7.....Board Meeting - 5:00 pm work session, 7:00 pm regular session
- Nov. 8.....PTO Meeting 6:30 Pm
- Nov. 8.....Kindergarten & 1st grade hearing screening
- Nov. 10.....4th Grade Music Program
- Nov. 11.....No School (K - 8) Teacher Work day
- Nov. 11.....4th Grade singing at the Marion Hy-Vee 9:00am
- Nov. 12.....Coffee Conversation with the Superintendent 8:30am @ Wilkins
- Nov. 15.....5th grade band concert 7:45 pm @ the high school
- Nov. 15.....Wilkins day at Zio Johnos from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, 10% to Wilkins
- Nov. 17.....Volunteer Workshop @ 8:30 am
- Nov. 18.....Report cards go home
- Nov. 19.....PTO Skate Night Super Skate 4 - 6 PM
- Nov. 21.....Board Meeting - 5:00 pm work session, 7:00 pm regular session
- Nov 22.....Wendys day at Wilkins from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, 10% goes to Wilkins
- Nov. 23 - Nov. 25.....NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK

The Wilkins staff would like to send a huge thank you out to Tammy Evans and our PTO for providing a fall appreciation treat day and for providing dinner on one of our late conference nights. Everything was delicious!!



Grade Level News

Kindergarten: In math we have been focusing on patterns, coins, counting, measuring, number recognition and writing numbers. The kids are showing great strides in these areas! In reading we have been learning about nouns and verbs, antonyms and synonyms, rhyming, syllables, along with beginning and ending sounds. We have focused on the themes of pets, and community helpers during our read aloud large groups. As we read we are learning about characters, main ideas and predicting. The children learned many of their 88 sight words. From each class there are many students who were able to fill in their red band on their rainbows, for knowing all of the "red" words. We are close to being able to test for the orange band words! We have covered many Jolly Phonics sounds and are learning to blend the sounds into words. We are entering the fun and exciting holiday season and look forward to this time of year with our students.

First Grade First graders are working hard in their second unit of Journeys. We have gotten into our routine of whole group and small group reading/literacy time each day, and the students are really enjoying their guided reading groups! We are learning about different genres of books, such as informational texts, fantasy stories, realistic fiction, and fairy tales/fables. We are also learning about and applying many writing skills to our everyday work. In math, we are well into our third unit. Patterns are the main topic of this unit, and we have been working on number patterns, even/odd patterns, domino patterns, and also using pattern blocks and our templates to create patterns. As well, we are practicing counting on number lines. Our first science unit, Pebbles, Sand, and Silt, is wrapping up in November. We have had a lot of fun learning about all of the different sizes and properties of rocks. We did lots of experiments with rocks, sand, silt, and clay. We also learned how sand can be used as part of a matrix in creating sculptures. There are so many things around us that are made using rocks! America Reads was a really fun event in October, and there were four wonderful guest readers in each of our classrooms! Many, many thanks to the great volunteers who gave their time to come and read to us!

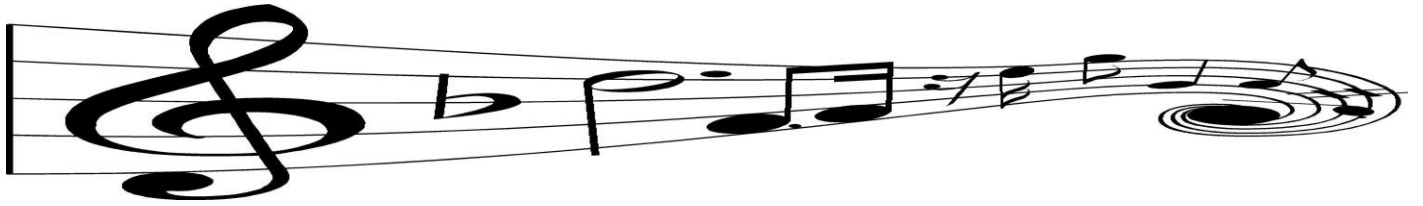
Second Grade: "I think I can, I know I can!" Second graders are focusing every day on what they can do with a positive determination for their learning. We love to see our students achieving things that might have seemed hard in the beginning. November is upon us, how can this be? We will be completing Unit 3 for math and moving into more addition and subtraction work as well as exploring estimating, temperature and using partial sums to solve 2 digit addition. Our new science kit, Solids and Liquids will arrive which has lots of very fun hands on activities. Social studies will include looking at natural resources and finding the differences between rural, urban and suburban living. "Being kind is never wasted", something we work on all the time in second grade.

Third Grade: We are near the completion of our trimester-long study of water. Students have investigated the three states of water through various hands-on activities. November will bring our first social studies unit entitled "Communities." Third graders will learn about the different types of communities people live in and who helps to run these communities. In reading, we continue to work on comprehension skills. Students will be working on their first book report by reading a fiction book and presenting a finished book report to the class. This will be due after Fall Thanksgiving Break. Work continues on the lowercase cursive letters. Opinion writing is our writing focus as the children continue to learn to write opinions and support these opinions with reasons. In math, we have studied measurement (US and Metric lengths) as well as area and perimeter. November also brings the first unit of MULTIPLICATION! Students will now be working to learn these facts up to 6×6 for November and December. Keep reading for your monthly reading log goal of 350 minutes!

Fourth Grade: Thank you for attending conferences! We enjoyed being able to sit down with you to discuss your child's progress in fourth grade thus far. In math, we are finishing unit four on decimals. Remember to practice your basic multiplication facts at home. Also, please use your Everyday Math account online! Expect to see math homework being sent once a week. In Science, students recently completed the Soils, Rocks, and Landforms unit. We will kick off our Inventors unit; your child will have the opportunity to invent something or research an inventor and write a biography. The Invention Convention is scheduled for December 2. In Social Studies, students will begin learning about the Northeast Region. In Journeys, we are halfway through unit two. Each week, we read a story from our textbook and focus on specific comprehension skills. Please continue to check and sign your child's agenda every night to see daily assignments and upcoming tests and events in fourth grade.

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade students will be finishing up their Native American Unit in Social Studies. 5C and 5D will be completing the Sun, Moon, Planet science kit, while 5W will be wrapping up their Mixtures and Solutions science kit. We will continue unit 2 (lessons 6-10) in our literacy curriculum called Journeys, focusing on informational writing. PRIDE time is our intervention block. We will focus on specific needs of students in the area of literacy. This will take place 4 days a week at the end of the day. Students will develop division concepts in Unit 4 of our Everyday Math curriculum. We'll begin by reviewing basic division facts and the partial-quotients division algorithm. There will be no school Friday, November 11. Please enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday break November 23-25.





BAND NEWS



"PARADE OF BANDS" CONCERT:

On Tuesday November 15th, the NOVAK/INDIAN CREEK/LINN GROVE/WILKINS (Eastside) Bands will have their first concert. The program will be held in the Linn-Mar High School Auditorium and begin at **7:45 PM**. The concert will include performances by the Eastside 5th Grade Band, the Excelsior MS 6th Grade Band, and the Linn-Mar HS Wind Symphony. The concert should last about one hour. We ask that students arrive at school between **7:10 - 7:30 PM** (but not before 7:00 PM). All Band students should report to the HS Little Theatre for instructions before proceeding to the stage. *Please* have students wear nice dress clothes for this major performance. A free will donation can be made at the door.

In preparation for the concert, we will be practicing together that **MORNING** (Nov. 15th) at **LinnMar High School**. Please **drop your student off** at the new HS North (Stadium side) main entrance between 6:45 and 6:50 am for our **7:00 - 7:45 am morning rehearsal**. It is *very important* that your student attend this rehearsal. Students will be bused to school after the rehearsal. Percussion, baritone and tuba instruments will already be at the HS. All other students should bring their instruments and Band music.

Please note - With winter approaching, please remember that if there is a weather-related **LATE START**, Group Band **WILL NOT** meet - but students should still bring instruments to school for lessons.

MUSIC NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS to the 3rd grade class for doing a **FANTASTIC** job on their music program. What a wonderful turnout we had of parents, grandparents and other family members who attended the program. Thank you so much for supporting your child and all of the effort they put into this!

The 4th grade class will have the next program. This will be held in the gym on Thursday, November 10 at 6:30. This is a patriotic concert and we will be recognizing Veterans in the audience so we can express our thanks to them for serving our country. Our concert has the theme of "We Sing for our Veterans!" Students need to be in their classroom by 6:15 that evening and have been asked to wear red, white, and/or blue clothing. The concert will last approximately 30 minutes. Students are expected to be at their grade level concert. You are welcome to invite other veterans to this program so we can let them know we appreciate them.

Music News continued.....

Veterans Day is Friday, November 11. The Marion Hy-Vee asked Wilkins if we could help them celebrate Veterans by singing to them. We aren't scheduled to have school on Friday, November 11 (it's a teacher work day). Every year Hy-Vee corporate offices offer free breakfast to any Veteran. I've arranged for our 4th graders to do a repeat concert at 9AM at the Marion Hy-Vee. If you in any way could have your 4th grader there to sing, it would mean so much for the Vets. I hope you can make it. We will meet at 8:50, begin singing at 9AM and conclude at 9:30.

The 1st grade will have their music concert on Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 in the gym. They will be presenting "Flakes". We have been learning the catchy songs for this concert and the students are doing a fabulous job! For this concert students some students will be asked to wear white clothing and others will be asked to wear gray or white with black on it.

Wilkins received very exciting news that one of our 5th grade students was selected to be in Opus, an Honors Choir for 5th - 9th Graders sponsored by the Iowa Choral Directors Association. 3,000 students from across the state tried out for Opus. There are four choirs of 180 students. CONGRATULATIONS to Kelsey Barr for making it into Opus!! This event takes place at Iowa State on November 17 along with the All-State Music Festival activities.

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

4th Grade - November 10

1st Grade - December 1

4th & 5th Chorus - December 6

4th & 5th Grade Chorus - December 9 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.

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.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving break