



Wilkins – September Newsletter

Dear Wilkins Parents and Guardians,

We had a great start to the school year and have welcomed several new staff to the building:

Megan Bjork, Student Support Associate
Katie Brown, Reading
Mike Eddins, Student Support Associate
Tina Naaktgeboren, Kindergarten Teacher
Molly Rykhoek, Kindergarten Teacher
Susan Ward, Student Support Associate

All of the students have also met our new therapy dog, Tully. She is a 14 month old Labrador retriever that will be in our building every day. Nick Mohwinkle, guidance counselor, is Tully's primary handler. I know that you will hear more about her from your child. You can also read an article about her on the Linn-Mar home page: <http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us> under the *Headlines* tab. One of the policy changes is that dogs are not allowed on campus for the safety of all canines and people.

We are committed to ensuring that our students and staff are safe at all times. As we begin the 2016-17 school year, I wanted to update you on our school safety drill planning for students and staff. Our objective in having these safety drills each year is to ensure that students and staff are informed and can react appropriately and quickly should such life safety events ever occur at school.

We will conduct at least four fire drills this year (two per semester). During each fire drill, staff and students follow our evacuation plan, staff sweeps the building to ensure that everyone is evacuated and takes attendance.

We will conduct two storm drills this year (one per semester). During each storm drill, students and staff move to their designated safety areas and staff takes attendance.

Starting this year, all district buildings, including Wilkins, will be participating in ALICE training. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Staff received ALICE training in August and students will receive grade level appropriate lessons in their classroom. If you are interested, a Parent University informational session on ALICE will be held on October 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the LRC Board Room.

We are looking forward to a great and safe school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have regarding life safety drills and preparation.

Sincerely,

Pamela C. Schulz



Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair is coming!! The next book fair at Wilkins will be held in February/March. We are excited about giving students the opportunity to purchase books for their own collections. A flyer will be coming home this week with the dates as well. The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday, 9/13/16 3-5pm
Wednesday, 9/14/16 3-4pm
Thursday, 9/15/16 5-7pm (Open House)

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! You can also place orders online through Scholastic from through 9/17 and your purchase will still benefit the library! Here is the link:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/wilkinselementaryschool1>

ICCA Book Club

Fourth and fifth graders have an opportunity to join the ICCA book club. To join, they read books off of the ICCA list and take a Reading Counts quiz. There will be a celebration in the spring for the students that join the club. **This club is optional.** Students will be given a list of the books. The list also outlines the rules for the club. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Miller, timiller@linnmar.k12.ia.us.



FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Medication At School

To insure compliance with the Board Policy for administering medication at school, the following procedure must be followed:

- ⊕ **ALL MEDICATION MUST BE DELIVERED TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN IN THE ORIGINAL AND PROPERLY LABELED CONTAINER.** The container must include the following information: student name, medication, dosage, time, route and physician. Written authorization and instructions must be provided by parent/legal guardian for all medication. The school nurse shall have the right to contact the prescribing physician to confirm or clarify medication instructions. The time of medication administration may need to be altered slightly to fit your student's schedule.
- ⊕ **A physician/dentist signature is required before any non-prescription over-the-counter medication will be given.** This includes Tylenol, Advil, cough medicines, etc.
Physician signature/permission may be faxed to the school
Wilkin's fax number: 319-373-9195, Attn: Health Office
- ⊕ If any medication remains after the last day of school, it will be discarded within 24 hours.

Please call the Health Office at 319-447-3385 with any questions

****If you have any elastic waist pants, sizes 4-12 that you would like to donate, please drop off in health office. Thank you.**



Greetings from the Reading Team:



At the start of the school year teacher's often hear, "what can we do at home?" Research shows that both vocabulary and comprehension are linked to school success. Reading to your child at home is a great way to work on both. When they listen to an adult read an age appropriate book, that they cannot read independently, it is a great chance for them to learn the meaning of words that are new to them. Additionally, discussing the book with your child and asking them to retell events after reading increases their listening comprehension. Thanks for supporting your children at home!

PTO NEWS

Wilkins PTO is off to a great start this year! Donuts and Dropoff was a wonderful success, and the garden flourished over the summer.

Please join us for the first PTO meeting of the year, [Tuesday September 13th at 6:30pm](#) in the multi-purpose room. There will be refreshments, drawings for a door prize, and child care is provided! Upcoming events for the PTO include Spaghetti Supper during the Open House [on 9/15 from 5-7pm](#) and the Glow Run [on 9/16 from 6-8pm](#). We are looking for volunteers for these events, please contact Kim at kgeistke@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

For PTO information this year please find us on Facebook, email us at wilkinselementarypto@yahoo.com to be added to the email list, or see the PTO News board inside the school (in the first hallway to the left after entering the school).

Just by being a parent or teacher of a child at Wilkins you are a PTO member, and together we can provide more opportunities for our Wilkins family.



A Note from the Conductor... Mrs. Kelly Vieth

The 5th Grade Orchestra has officially started for this school year! Orchestra members will be practicing together on Monday and Friday mornings from 7:15 - 7:50 am. We will be reviewing skills that students learned over the summer and will also be practicing new songs in preparation for our first performance this fall, which will take place on [October 27th at 6:00 pm](#) in the High School Auditorium. In addition to orchestra class, students will receive a weekly lesson where bowing technique and other challenging pieces are learned. I am excited to be teaching the 5th Grade Orchestra and invite everyone to attend our upcoming events!

Wishing you and your family a fantastic school year! Go Lions!!

~ Mrs. Vieth ~



Grade Level News



Kindergarten:

Wilkins has a brand-new batch of eager Kindergartners who are ready to have a FANTASTIC school year! We have spent much of August learning the Wilkins Way. Classes have talked extensively and given examples about how to be respectful, responsible, safe, and ready in school. Quite a bit of time has been spent practicing routines and procedures in the classroom. Students began learning Jolly Phonics sounds, songs, and actions each day. This will continue until October. Students have practiced routines. This is an important foundational piece in learning how to read and write. Parent support at home is a must! Please take time to listen to your child sing the songs and practice the letter sounds. Students have been learning math skills through calendar math and the Every Day Math curriculum. Classes have worked on counting to 100, counting by 10s, counting back from 20, determining length and weight, how to write numbers 1-10, odd/even numbers, tally marks, patterns, and graphing. Students have enjoyed center time and learning how to interact with each other in social situations. We look forward to building a community of caring, supportive friends in our classrooms. We are off to a great start! Remember the importance of an early bedtime and stories read aloud to your child. Parents are the best models!

First Grade:

Our first graders have been very busy learning our school and classroom rules and routines. We have begun our first unit of Journeys reading, and we enjoy learning about friendship. We got our first spelling list and also began our high frequency words for first grade. In math, we have done a calendar review and are currently studying comparing numbers and learning some new games like "Penny-Dice Game", "Bunny Hop", and "Top It". We also got to draw shapes using our Everyday Mathematics templates! We began reading our first unit of social studies and we are learning about rules and laws. It is helping us to understand the importance of following the rules and being good citizens. We also did many reviews of the Wilkins Way schoolwide expectations during our first few days of school.

Second Grade:

Second grade is off to a great start! We have been enjoying many climate building activities and getting to know each other. We started our social studies curriculum by talking about our communities, government and leaders. We will even hold our own presidential election. We will be completing our beginning of year math assessments and then starting in on 2nd grade math. Our 2nd graders are looking forward to starting our first science unit on air and weather. It is going to be a year of great learning and fun!



Third Grade:

Third graders are off to a great start to an exciting year of learning. We are busy getting to know each other through a variety of activities, such as a HELLO people scavenger hunt game. In September we will start to learn lower-case cursive letters. Remind your child to only practice the letters we have learned! In math, we have been busy exploring our Numbers, All Around Museum and learning about number sequences, number grids, place value, and telling time. Water and Climate is our ten-week unit of study. We will be conducting many investigations to explore water. Beginning this month, students will need to record the number of minutes they read each night. They will be expected to read a minimum of 350 minutes by the end of the month. Part of being a third grader is taking more responsibility. That includes completing the agenda, then getting it signed by a parent and returning it each day. This agenda is a communication tool to help keep parents informed about what we are doing and help get conversations started about your child's day. Thank you for your support in helping your child become more responsible. We are looking forward to a very successful year of high levels of learning!

Fourth Grade:

Welcome back to school! We are so excited to have your child in fourth grade! In math, we took the Beginning of the Year math assessment and finished unit one which included reviewing and learning new concepts in Geometry. Remember to practice your basic multiplication and division facts at home. Expect to see math homework every Tuesday. In our reading curriculum, Journeys, there is a focus skill and strategy each week that we will practice with our anchor text. Students will also meet in a small guided reading group everyday. In Social Studies, students will have begun the Iowa Unit, learning many great facts about our great state! In Science, students will do many experiments and participate in hands on activities. Our first unit is Soils, Rocks, and Landforms. Please make sure 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 are off to a great start. They have been leaders and role models for the younger students in the building. In social studies, students will be learning about Native American groups. In science, students have begun their Sun, Moon and Planets unit of study. Students in 5W are starting the year with Mixtures and Solutions. In math, fifth graders are working on place value, factor pairs, and prime numbers. In reading, students are learning about story structure, point of view, irony, theme, elements of drama, compare and contrast, idioms, and formal and informal language. In writing, students are working through the structure of writing a paragraph.

News from Mr. Sinnott on Physical Education

Hello Students and Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting year at Wilkins! I hope you enjoyed the summer! I am glad to see and hear that students are coming back to school telling me they spent time being active, whether it would be going swimming, riding their bike, or just playing in the park. Please continue to be active during the school year; it is a great way to maintain a healthy body. **Any 5th Grade students that are interested will have the opportunity to participate in Intramurals. We will be starting on Monday September 19th, 2016.** The students will develop teamwork, leadership skills, and sportsmanship through many different activities. **Permission slips are due to me by September 9th.** Also, please help remind your child to have a pair of tennis/gym shoes and socks to wear on the days they have gym. Whether your workout involves running, walking, sports or gym, a decent sport shoe is a must. Injury caused by inappropriate shoes can needlessly derail your fitness. Proper shoes can help to protect you against common injuries associated with physical activities. Good shoes can lessen the impact of your step and cushion the foot from heavy landings, and can improve your performance, for example, quick direction changes.

Notes from the Music Room



Your children have all had a couple of Music Classes by the time you read this newsletter and we are off to a great start this year!

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:

3rd Grade - October 27

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 - April 18

Kindergarten - April 20

Chorus is a co-curricular activity open to 4th & 5th grade and will begin on **Thursday, September 8**. Chorus will meet in the Music Room two times per week. **Everyone** will meet together on **Thursday's** after school from **2:45 - 3:30**. In addition to this, the **5th Grade** will have Chorus on **Tuesday's** before school from **7:30 - 7:50** and **4th Grade** will meet **Wednesday** mornings from **7:30 - 7:50**. Chorus will begin with everyone on **Thursday, September 8 from 2:45 - 3:30**. Parents need to fill out a consent form to allow students to participate in Chorus. Registration is online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/OO92CPhIKId3i6oj1> Hard copies are available upon request. If you need more information, please contact Mrs. Peterson at Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

The 3rd grade will have the first Wilkins Music concert of the year on Thursday, October 27 at 6:30 in the gym. They will be presenting a musical called, "Squirm". Please mark your calendar to attend our first concert of the year.

Auditions for Orchestra Iowa children's choirs will be held Wednesday, August 31 and Thursday, September 1 from 4:00 - 5:30 at Orchestra Iowa School (119 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids). Harmony Chorus is for students grade Kindergarten- 1st grade, Odyssey Chorus is for students in grades 2-3, and Discovery Chorus is for students in grades 4-6. More information can be found at WWW.orchestraiowa.org or call Orchestra Iowa at 363-3960.

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.

I'm looking forward to having a great school year making music with your child!

If you haven't paid school fees yet, please send it with your child to school. Place it into an envelope and mark "registration fees" on the outside of the envelope. Fees are \$50.00 per child. If your child qualified for reduced meals, the cost is \$25.00. In September if you have not paid your school fees, you will be sent a notice from the district.

Thank you for your help in this matter!

Don't Forget!

*Meet and Greet for New Volunteers
Tuesday, September 13 at 9:00 am
We hope to see many new faces!*



It's the start of a new school year and several volunteering opportunities! If you've already signed up to become a Wilkins volunteer, awesome!!! If you have not, and you would like to, please join me on Tuesday, September 13th, at 9:00 am for Wilkins new volunteer meet and greet. It will be held in the lunchroom. I'm looking forward to meeting you 😊

I will be hosting the 1st volunteer workshop of the school year on Tuesday, September 13th, from 8:30 - 10:30 am. The volunteer workshops are an opportunity for volunteers to help make the learning days run smoothly for the teachers, by working on projects they're needing to use in their classrooms. It may be cutting things out, gluing pictures on paper, sorting papers, making the start of a craft project for the students, etc. It's a good way to connect with other parents and help out at the same time!

Thank you for your time 😊

Tammy Evans/Wilkins Volunteer Coordinator

September Calendar – Wilkins Elementary

- Sept. 8.....Picture Day
 - Sept. 13.....Meet and Greet for New Volunteers 9:00am
 - Sept. 13.....PTO Meeting 6:30pm
 - Sept. 15.....Open House/Spaghetti Supper/5:00-7:00pm
 - Sept. 16PTO GLOW Run 6:00-8:00pm
 - Sept. 19.....Conference Sign up window starts (open until Sunday October, 2nd)
 - Sept. 22.....Volunteer Workshop 8:30am
 - Sept. 29.....Homecoming Parade
 - Sept. 30.....Homecoming Football Game
- (NWEA testing will occur sometime within the Sept. 12 - Oct. 7th time frame)





Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conference Window:

October 3rd - October 14th

Late night conferences October 6th and October 11th

Parents : Please look for information to come home with your child regarding online conference sign up. It is important to sign up as soon as possible (dates will be included in information you receive). You will be able to get the best choice of times that fit with your schedule and if you have two students at Wilkins, you will be able to schedule them back to back!



To: Linn-Mar Parents and Students (K-12)

Re: Student Behavior/Supervision at Football Games

Dear Parents and Students,

We need your help! The Linn-Mar Stadium has 5,000 seats on the home side! That means there is enough seating to handle our crowds so we expect our students to stay in the stands and watch the game.

Some of our students prefer to congregate under the stands, which encourages horseplay and other types of inappropriate behavior that is unsafe. Students should stay in the stands unless they are going to the concession stand or restroom. We need parents to discourage students from loitering beneath the bleachers. Nobody will be allowed on the grassy hillside behind the South end zone, either.

Supervisors will monitor these areas and direct students to return to the stands if they are just milling about. Students who are uncooperative will be asked to leave. If asked to leave, students will be banned from future game(s).

Seating: There will be separate designated areas for Linn-Mar High School students, the band and Middle School students. These sections are all located in the lower level. All elementary students should be sitting with or in the vicinity of their parents. Please do not just let your children run around unattended or drop them off at stadium without an adult. Our first home football game is Friday, September 2nd against Cedar Rapids Xavier. Our sophomore game begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by the varsity game at approximately 7:30 pm. We anticipate a big crowd! We hope you can join us for this event!

Most importantly, we encourage students to be positive fans watching the game and cheering on our teams from the stands.

Thank you in advance for your support of our programs.

GO LIONS!

Sincerely,

David Brown, Athletic Director Dr. Jeff Gustason, High School Principal

Tonya Moe, Associate Athletic Director Dr. Quintin Shepherd, Superintendent



Recess and Lunch Times:

3 rd Grade	Recess: 10:45	Lunch: 11:05
Kindergarten	Recess: 11:05	Lunch: 11:25
5th Grade	Recess: 11:25	Lunch: 11:55
1st Grade	Recess: 11:55	Lunch: 12:15
2nd Grade	Recess: 12:15	Lunch: 12:35
4th Grade	Recess: 12:35	Lunch: 1:05