



Wilkins News

December 2017

Dear Wilkins Families,

It is so hard to believe December is here! This is the time of year we reflect on the months past and start looking towards the new year. Time flies by so quickly and the memories made throughout the past year will hopefully be treasured forever.

Many of our Wilkins families and staff members have contributed to the Giving Tree to support area families during the holiday season. This will help the holidays be brighter for so many. Thank you for all you do to keep this community so vibrant and caring!

The month of December is always a busy one - students and staff feel the excitement of the holidays and we work diligently to maintain as much of the normal routines as possible. With that being said, we also want to take the time to celebrate and have fun together. On Wednesday, December 20 at 2:00 PM we will have our Winter Party. We will also have our Sing Along on Thursday, December 21 before we leave for the holiday break.

We have been so fortunate with our weather up until this point but colder air is in our future...please make sure that you are sending your child with a warm winter coat, hats, gloves, boots, and snow pants so that they are able to enjoy the winter weather at recess.

Thank you and Happy Holidays! Amanda



Kindergarten Students for 18/19 school year

We are gathering contact information of children that would be eligible to attend Kindergarten at Wilkins for the 2018/2019 school year.

***Child needs to turn 5 by September 15, 2018**

If you have a child or know of any child that is eligible please e-mail or call the Wilkins' office with the following information:

- Child's full legal name
- Date of birth
- Address
- Indicate if they attended preschool or if they are currently in a blended program
- A contact phone number

****Parent meeting at Wilkins School will be the evening of Tuesday, January 30th.**

Wilkins phone: (319)-447-3380

Wilkins E-mail: VFaulkner@linmar.k12.ia.us

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
- *has sores on mouth or skin that are crusty, yellow or draining
- *displays an unexplained skin rash or red eye (with or without crusting/drainage)

Crossing Guard Change: Beginning in December there will be no crossing guard on duty at the 35th Street/McGowan intersection, during the morning time frame. There will still be a crossing guard at this intersection for the after school time frame. This change will continue through the winter season. We will go back to having the morning crossing guard at this intersection in the Spring.



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 is 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 10 and above.

Fri, Dec 15th from 5³⁰-9⁰⁰
**Linn-Mar Cheer
Brings Holiday Cheer**

**Let Us Wrap Your
Presents FOR FREE!**

Where: Lower Commons, outside the Roar Store

When: Varsity Bball Doubleheader vs Prairie

**100% of donations will go to
Gems of Hope!**



GRADE LEVEL NEWS

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners have completed their Jolly Phonics program and are now using these sounds in their reading and writing. Guided reading small groups are going well and they are all building confidence in themselves and their reading abilities. Please continue to practice the rainbow sight words at home! The kids have enjoyed learning how to play many math games during math time. These games are beneficial to them because they are interacting with their peers and learning lifelong math skills at the same time! Some of the games they have learned are Monster Squeeze, Spin a Number and Roll and record. We are still working on our Materials and Motion unit in Science. We will continue that through December. All classes are working hard at following The Wilkins Way. The teachers are always looking for reasons to hand out paw prints and the kids are doing a great job at being safe, respectful, responsible and ready! Keep it up Kindergarteners!!!

First Grade: First graders are working hard in their third 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 fourth unit. Measurement is the main concept taught in this unit, and students have been learning about standard and non-standard units of measure, using rulers and tape measures to find lengths and heights, and why using our bodies to measure things isn't usually the most reliable thing to do. We are also beginning to learn about telling time to the quarter-hour. Our next science unit, light and sound, is here. We are very excited to begin learning all about it during December and January! We will be using flashlights, learning about shadows, playing and making some musical instruments, and learning about volume and pitch. The first grade music program on the evening of November 30th, "Twas the Night Before Christmas", was a wonderful program for everyone to enjoy! The students did a fantastic job, and they looked like they had a great time, too. All of the children looked so great in their fancy outfits!

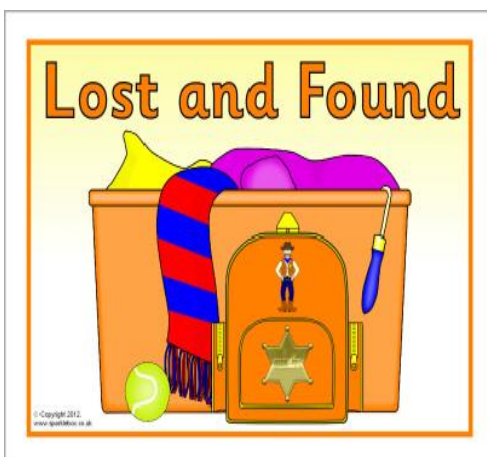
Second Grade: These 2nd graders have been busy! We finished our air and weather unit for science and received our new solids and liquids unit. We will begin the new kit in a few weeks. Currently we are working on units 2 and 3 of social studies. A lot of great discussions are happening about the earth, its rotation, seasons, cardinal directions, and reading maps. During math time, the kiddos have been practicing ballpark estimates, double digit addition, measurements, and working with money. After the holiday break, math will really start to pick up. We will work more on polygons, plotting line segments, and using subtraction to find the difference between numbers. We are reading every day and continuing to work on accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. Please continue to have your student read each night for 20 minutes (or more). Thank you for all that you do to help them learn and grow!



Third Grade: 3rd graders are moving right along! In math, we have completed Unit 4 which was learning about multiplication and division! In social studies we are finishing up our unit about Communities. 3rd graders have become familiar with the similarities and differences in suburban, rural, and urban communities. We will continue with social studies and learn a bit about government! The students continue working on great sentence and paragraph structure in writing. The most recent type of writing learned was opinion writing. The students have done a great job creating strong opinion statements and reasons to support those opinions. One of our favorite writing activities has been to persuade the farmer that they are not Thanksgiving turkeys! Keep reading and logging those minutes! Thanks to the parents and families for their support! We are looking forward to December and all that it brings.

Fourth Grade: Fourth graders wrapped up the first trimester! We've recently completed our Northeast Region in Social Studies and will begin to learning about the Southeast Region. We've been working hard on some very creative persuasive writing pieces. In math, we're growing in our math skills, and are now applying our basic multiplication facts to extended, multi-digit problems. And finally, Invention Convention is almost here! This is an exciting event in 4th grade and we look forward to seeing the creativity of each student and what they invented! Mark your calendars to join us for Invention Convention the afternoon of Friday, December 7. As always, keep encouraging your child to read 20 minutes each night and keep practicing those math facts!

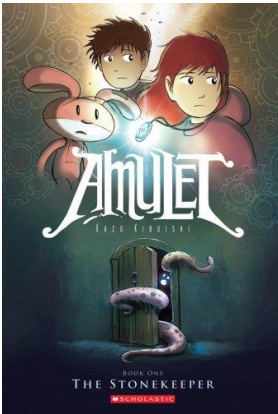
Fifth Grade: In math, we recently finished unit 5, which included comparing fractions and converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and mixed numbers to improper fractions. In unit 6, we will be adding and subtracting fractions, while finding common denominators. Skills and strategies taught in reading this month include: drawing conclusions and generalizations, sequence of events, and compare and contrast. In writing, students are completing persuasive essays. The focus of instruction in social studies this trimester is European Explorers. Students will know why Europeans explored different areas of the world, routes they followed, and how they changed the lives of Native Americans. In science this trimester, students are completing the kit, Mixtures and solutions. Investigation 1 has students making and separating mixtures. Students become engineers by solving problems during their hands-on experiments.



LOST & FOUND:

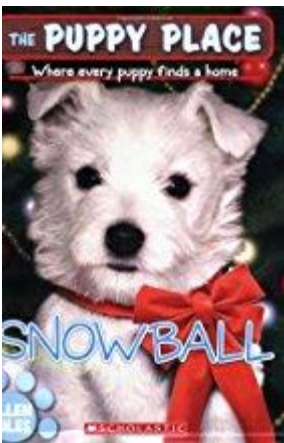
If your child is missing any clothing items, please remember to check the lost & found items. You will find them outside of the Wilkins' media center

The Reading Team Presents: December Book Picks!



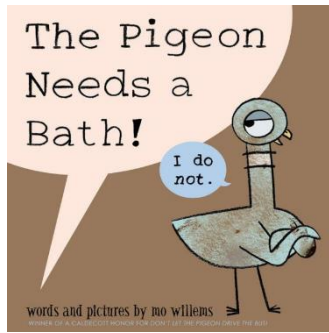
Mrs. Brown's Pick of the Month!

Amulet Book One: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi: The Stonekeeper is the first graphic novel in a series of seven books (the 8th and the 9th and final book are currently being written). In The Stonekeeper, we are introduced to Emily, who is destined to find the Amulet and go on an intense and often scary adventure to rescue her mother. She has help along the way from her brother, Navin, and a group of kind and compassionate characters. As she discovers the powers of the Amulet and her new, unknown world, she has more questions than answers. People who enjoy fantasy, adventure, and a well-developed story with amazing illustrations will love The Amulet series. The grade level listed for this book is grades 3-7, but the vocabulary may be hard for some kids in 3rd and 4th grade. Adults who enjoy fantasy would also like this series.



Mrs. Wells' Pick of the Month!

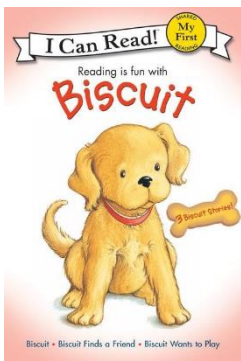
Snowball, a book from The Puppy Place series, by Ellen Miles - where every puppy finds a forever home! Charles & Lizzie Peterson are very good with dogs. They want one of their own, but their mom isn't ready for them to have one full time. For now, they help take care of puppies that need to find a new home. They are a foster family for young dogs. The Peterson kids hear about Snowball. Someone left the fluffy puppy all alone at a gas station in a tattered, old box. Snowball is sick and hungry. He needs a family of his own. Can Charles and Lizzie find one that is just right?" This book takes place during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, making now a perfect time to read it! (The books in the series do not need to be read in order; they are all great stand alone novels on their own.) This book centers around a Westie, but the series has books about many other kinds of dogs, too. Once your child gets started on The Puppy Place series, they may want to read them all! This series is targeted especially for children reading at, or above, the 2nd grade level - as well as dog lovers of all ages! Any of the books in the series would make for a great read aloud at home as well.



Mrs. Gostonczik's Pick of the Month!

The Pigeon Needs a Bath by Mo Willems.

If you are searching for a high interest read aloud book, Mo Willems is my go-to author. I don't know what it is about this series, but I am hooked. The pigeon is quite the animated character with a flair for the dramatic. Children (and adult children, like myself) get carried away with how much fun it is to read! You won't believe the expression you will hear while listening to your child read any of the books in the series. Picture books are not just for young readers! My 5th graders love them! These books have great vocabulary and challenging words to explore. Some examples are: sensation, celebration, reflective, educational, recently, unimportant, impolite, purely, coincidental, etc. The target audience is listed as PreK-2, with guided reading levels ranging from G to J.



Mrs. Dalton's Pick of the Month!

If you are looking for a just right book for your first grader, I highly recommend the Biscuit books by Alyssa Satin Capucilli. The books are written at about a level 12 or G, which is a typical book level for mid to late first graders. The books are highly engaging with adorable illustrations that any pet lover is drawn to. The text has some repeated phrases to build fluency and confidence, but also gives children the opportunity to problem solve new words.

Best of all Biscuit is a series carried by Scholastic books, so they are available in soft cover and reasonably priced. Plus being a series, once your little one is hooked there are many titles to choose from. Enjoy!



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 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 choose any additional volunteers that will help for the classroom party. These volunteers must 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 made prior arrangements with the classroom teacher and are an active registered volunteer.

We appreciate your understanding and support with these guidelines.

December Calendar:

- Dec. 7.....Invention Convention for 4th Grade
Dec. 11...Board Meeting work session
Work session cancelled, Regular session @ 7:00pm
Dec. 12....Wilkins night at Chipolte 4:00 – 8:00 – mention
Wilkins and 50% comes back to WE
Dec. 14....4th/5th Grade Chorus Concert 6:30 pm
Dec. 15....4th/5th Chorus sing at HS basketball game
Dec. 15...Volunteer Workshop 9:00 – 11:00 am
Dec. 16...Chorus caroling at Village Ridge 10:00 am
Dec. 20...Winter parties 2:00 pm
Dec. 22 – January 2 – **NO SCHOOL** Winter Break
Jan. 3.....1st day back to school after Winter break

MUSIC NEWS



December Notes from the Music Room

Congratulations to the 4th Grade and the wonderful job they did honoring our Veteran's for their concert on November 9! We learned so much about Veterans and how to show respect and honor.

The 1st Graders also did a fantastic job on their performance! They did a show on November 30 called "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Way to go Wilkins with your amazing performances!!

Our fabulous 4th & 5th Grade Wilkins Chorus is gearing up for four performances this month. Their first concert of the year will be Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 PM. Chorus students will need to be in the music room dressed in their Chorus shirt and black pants that night by 6:10. They should also bring a Santa Hat (or Elf Hat, or Reindeer antlers...) Here are a few important upcoming announcements for Chorus members. On the following page there are some important upcoming dates for Chorus members.

Coming up in Chorus for December

- ♪ December 5 (Tuesday) NO 5th Grade Practice
- ♪ **December 6 (Wednesday) 7:30AM ALL 4th & 5th Grade practice with accompanist.**
- ♪ **December 7 (Thursday) 2:45 - 3:30 Combined Practice**
- ♪ December 12 (Tuesday) 5th Grade Practice 7:30AM
- ♪ December 13 (Wednesday) 4th Grade Practice 7:30AM
- ♪ **December 14 7:30AM Combined Practice**

8:10AM Assembly for the School
(No Chorus after school - because we meet before school)
6:10PM Meet in the Music Room
6:30PM Chorus Concert wear your Chorus shirts and black pants. Bring a Santa hat, or elf hat, or reindeer antlers...
- ♪ **December 15 (Friday) 5:30PM High School BB game**
Wear your Chorus shirt & black pants. LM vs. Prairie. Come to door #10 Gym Door. We sing at 5:55. Singers get in for free and can stay for the game. Admission for others: \$5 Adults; \$4 Students (K-12), \$3 Senior Citizens (62+)
- ♪ **December 16 (Saturday) 10:00AM Sing at Village Ridge followed by caroling. Meet at 9:45 at 7th Avenue. Wear your Chorus shirt and black pants. Bring a Santa hat, reindeer antlers...**
- ♪ **December 19 (Tuesday) 7:30AM 5th Grade Party**
Please bring a snack to share. Drop it off in the Music Room before school
- ♪ **December 20 (Wednesday) 7:30AM 4th Grade Party**
Please bring a snack to share. Drop it off in the Music Room before school
- ♪ **December 21 (Thursday) 7:30AM All 4th & 5th Grade meet for caroling throughout the school. Wear your Chorus shirt and black pants.**

Chorus will have a short break. Practices will begin again on Thursday, January 25 at 2:45.

Please remember the Linn-Mar district policy in the event of inclement weather. If there is an early out from school, all after school activities will be cancelled. In the event of a late start to school, there will be no before school activities held.

Music News continued.....

These are the remaining concert dates we are looking forward to this year:

5th Grade - February 22

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.

Happy Holidays!