

Wilkins Elementary February



February 2018

Amanda Potter, Principal



Dear Wilkins Families,

We are settling into a great routine after the winter break and students are hard at work in the classrooms. We are very excited to announce that Wilkins Elementary has been asked to pilot a new literacy intervention for the district called Lexia Reading Core5. This is a web-based intervention that can take place on any electronic device, including iPads. I will be speaking more about this at the PTO meeting on

Monday, February 5th.

As a school, we will be working during the month of February to implement this research-based intervention into the school day. Students will begin by taking an auto-placement skills assessment that will determine where their intervention needs to begin. Once they are placed at the appropriate level, students will spend anywhere from 20 to 80 minutes each week working with Lexia. The program is very "game-like" so the students will be highly engaged while they are learning. As the month continues, start asking your child about this intervention, I have no doubt they will have positive things to report!

I also wanted to notify you that we will be continuing our ALICE lessons with students with a focus on barricading classrooms in case of an intruder. These lessons will take place towards the end of February and students will be learning what types of barricades work best if an intruder would ever enter our building. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions over these lessons.

Finally, I just wanted to remind you all that there are several NO SCHOOL days in February. Teachers will be working diligently on report cards on Friday, February 16th and there is also a teacher PD day on Monday, February 19th. Report cards will be sent home on February 23rd so please look for them at that point. Also, we are looking forward to the next round of parent/teacher conferences on March 1st & 6th - we always appreciate the opportunity to discuss student progress with parents!

Sincerely,
Amanda Potter



Grade Level News

Happy
Valentine's
Day

KINDERGARTEN: January was a big improvement for Kindergarten! Students came back from Winter Break ready to learn and put their skills into use! They have been working hard to fill their Sight Words gumball machines. We are now onto the blue words of our Rainbow words, so keep practicing them at home! Students have enjoyed more independence with their reading and writing as well. Some are able to write sentences and use nouns, verbs, and adjectives in their writing. Students are working on consistently using capital letters at the beginning of sentences, finger spaces between words and putting a punctuation mark at the end. Journeys, our reading curriculum, has focused on several science concepts as the theme for each week. Students learned about changes in weather during the different seasons. We examined how weather changes affect animals and how animals use their different body parts. Kindergarteners have learned about different types of animal homes and what is in the night sky. During math, we continue to work on counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s. We are writing and solving addition and subtraction problems as well. These young kiddos are super excited about their learning and show their teachers everyday how much they love school!

FIRST GRADE: Our Journey's stories during February include *Little Rabbit's Tale*, *Frog and Toad*, *Amazing Animals*, and *Whistle for Willie*. Students also receive literature that supports these themes during guided practice. Students will be exploring long vowel sounds and vowel patterns.

Our sixth math unit teaches students fact power, and also introduces quarters and centimeters. Addition, subtraction, and counting money can be hard concepts for first graders. Support and celebrate your child's progress at home.

When preparing items any food items for our Friendship Party please check with your classroom teacher about any food allergies. Our classroom parties will be Tuesday, February 14 at 2:00.

Science has first graders finishing their Sound and Light FOSS units. Students love this engaging curriculum that is the basis for further learning in years to come. This month students will learn properties of light and concepts such as it bounces, bends, and moves in a straight line.

SECOND GRADE: January was a BUSY month for 2nd grade! February we will be picking up the pace more with math. We are beginning to go over more multiplication, division, fractions, and measuring. We will discuss equivalent fractions, compare fractions, and use number stories with fractions. We are in the middle of our solids and liquids science unit. Once it wraps up, we will move on to the last unit: Plants and Insects. FAST assessments are taking place right now, as well as NWEA. Conferences are right around the corner, so be on the lookout for sign up and report cards coming home. Please continue to support your child's learning at home! Thank you for everything you do as parents!

THIRD GRADE: The third graders are excited about completing their cursive instruction! We have been doing a lot of practicing and have earned our "cursive license." Each student has the freedom to write in cursive whenever they choose. In science, they have been learning about patterns in motion! Students are enjoying the investigations that have taught them about gravity, balance, and motion. Soon we will be experimenting with ramps and wheels. The students have been learning about geometry in math. They've learned line segments, lines, rays, and how to label the parts of a 3-D shape. We revisited informative writing in January, using the social studies topic of communities. Each student wrote what they learned about for each community including important facts and details. Students completed the entire writing process which consists of planning, writing a rough draft, editing, and a completing a final draft. They take a lot of pride in this process! Thank you to all of the parents for promoting reading at home! Continue to fill out the monthly reading minute sheets please! We are so proud of our 3rd graders and look forward to yet another engaging month of learning! Stay tuned.

FOURTH GRADE: Fourth grade students have been working hard since returning from Winter Break. We recently finished Benchmark testing that goes along with our Journeys series. We have been learning how to divide in math will begin working on fractions after taking the Mid-Year test. We are wrapping up our Energy unit in Science. In Social Studies we will start learning about the Midwest Region. During this unit we will learn about resources in the region, geography and famous people that have made an impact on this region. Please continue to have students read 20 minutes each night. As hard as it is to believe, conferences are right around the corner! We look forward to visiting with you about the progress your student has made in 4th grade!

FIFTH GRADE: In math, we are completing unit 7, which involves order of operations and adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers. In unit 8, fifth graders will be comparing, adding, subtracting, and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

Skills and strategies taught in reading this month include: story structure: plot, characters, conflict, events, and resolution. In addition, we will further explore theme, characterization, and figurative language. In writing, students will finish narrative essays. Upon completion of narrative writing, our focus will return to opinion writing.

In social studies, we will finish our study of European explorers and their expeditions. Next students will learn about the first colonies which include: Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth. Students will discover why Europeans started settlements in the New World and the impact those settlements had on Native Americans.

In science, we will finish the kit Mixtures and Solutions. Towards the end of this month, we will begin our last kit called Living Systems. In Living Systems, students will investigate human, animal, and plant systems.





Many Hands Make LIGHT Work **Volunteers needed:** Mrs. Hovden in the Art room is looking for a few volunteers to help with prepping artwork and taking pictures for Artsonia. Please contact her if you are available to help at shovden@linnmar.k12.ia.us.



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Inspire Learning. Unlock Potential. **Empower Achievement.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

The Linn-Mar Community School District offers programs for four and five year old children. The number of sections, the location sites, and daily schedules for these programs will be determined by the district after schools have collected the data needed for making these decisions.

Preschool for Four Year Olds

- Age 4 on or by September 15, 2018
- No cost due to Linn-Mar being a part of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program
- Half day, Four days a week

Online registration will be held Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 at noon. Registration and preschool information can be located at <http://tinyurl.com/EarlyChildhoodLM>. Computers will be available at the LRC building at 2999 North 10th Street in Marion for those needing assistance for registering their three or four year old children.

Priority enrollment will be given to families that live in the Linn-Mar School District and 20% of the enrollment for the four year old placements will be reserved for families that qualify as low-income.

Children age 5 on or by September 15, 2018, may be served in one of two program models:

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Information Night is January 30th. The meeting at Wilkins will begin at 6:30 pm.

Early Childhood Blended Program

If you are unsure if your child is ready for kindergarten, Linn-Mar's ECBP may be an option. This program is an all-day program for children that qualify through a screening process.

Screening dates are March 5, 2018 and March 7, 2018. If you plan on having your child screened, please contact Dianne Van Praag at 447-3015 to set up an appointment.

Even if you are having your child screened, please plan on attending the Kindergarten Information Night at your neighborhood school.

For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/EarlyChildhoodLM>



Notes from the Music Room February 2018

After taking most of the month of January off, the 4th & 5th Grade Chorus have started meeting again and are working at learning all new songs. This time of year it's good to remember that if there is a late start to school, before school activities are cancelled. Likewise, if there is an early dismissal from school, all after school activities are cancelled. Just a reminder that Tuesday at 7:30AM is when 5th Grade meets, Wednesday at 7:30AM is when 4th Grade meets, and everyone has Chorus after school on Thursday from 2:45 - 3:30.

The 5th grade students will be giving their Music program on Thursday, February 22 at 2:00 for the school and 6:30 in the gym for parents, friends, and family. We will be presenting a fun concert with many familiar songs called, "Rock Around the 50s". Students need to wear their 50s style clothes to school that day.

Students are expected to be at this evening performance and your support is appreciated! Students will need to arrive to their classrooms by 6:15. If you arrive before 6:15, please supervise your child. The classroom teachers will be ready for students in their classroom at 6:15. Students are wearing 50s attire for this concert.

Next month the 2nd Grade will have their music program. They will be doing a musical called, "Bremen Town Jam" on Thursday, March 22. There are a several speaking parts and we will begin having try-outs for this in class. Students will need to dress up for this concert but if your child brings home a note about being a character in the play they will need to try to coordinate an outfit to match their part.

Congratulations to our very talented 5th graders who participated in the Eastern Iowa Choral Directors 5th & 6th Grade Honors Choir on January 26 at Coe College. Participating in the Honors Choir from Wilkins were: Gracie Asher, Abbigail Adney, Grace Bennett, Kiki Blockhus, Kamryn Kallas, Bryan Tomedonou. Congratulations!!!

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.



Orchestra News:

The 5th Grade Orchestra students have been working very hard on new notes and rhythms in preparation for the Winter Orchestra Concert on **Tuesday, February 6th**. Students will be meeting in the High School Auditorium for the Dress Rehearsal before school that morning from 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. Parents, please drop your child off on the north side of the building (door #3) by 6:50 a.m. to allow students enough time to unpack and find their seat on stage. A bus will provide transportation back to school following our rehearsal together.

The concert begins that evening at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and support our 5th Grade Orchestra!!

~ Mrs. Vieth ~

Upcoming Orchestra Events...

- Monday, March 5th - Members of the 5th Grade Orchestra will perform during the High School Band & Orchestra Assembly at 9:45 a.m.
- Monday, May 7th - 5th Grade Orchestra Spring Concert in the Excelsior Gym

Conference Information

*Conference Window is Feb 26 - March 8
Late night conferences: March 1 and March 6

Parents will be able to sign on to the online conference scheduling system from 7:00 am Monday, February 12 thru Sunday, February 25 at 10:00 pm. Information will be sent home with logon information.

If your child receives Reading or Math support or has an IEP...**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A CONFERENCE ON ONE OF THE LATE NIGHTS**
This will enable all teachers to attend the conference

Thank you!



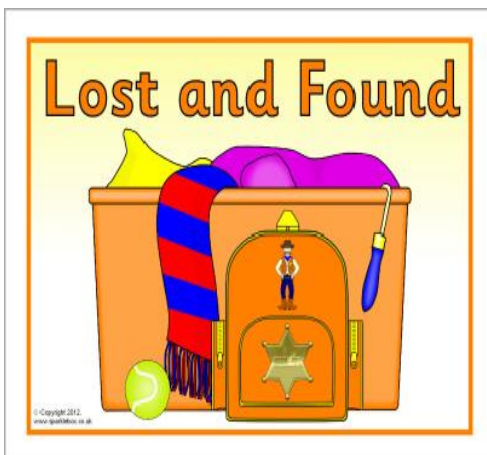


Parents/Guardians of 5th Grade Students:

Each year, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is given to all 5th graders in the district. The CogAT is a standardized test, but is quite different from NWEA and Iowa Assessments. The skills measured by the test show the cognitive processes that a child has developed to learn new things and solve problems. Experiences in and out of school affect this skill development.

The CogAT consists of three separate tests: Verbal, Non-Verbal, and Quantitative. The test battery will be administered over three days during the week of February 20-23 for 45-50 minutes each day. The results of this test, in combination with NWEA and Iowa Assessment scores, are used in the identification process for the Middle School Talented and Gifted (TAG) program.

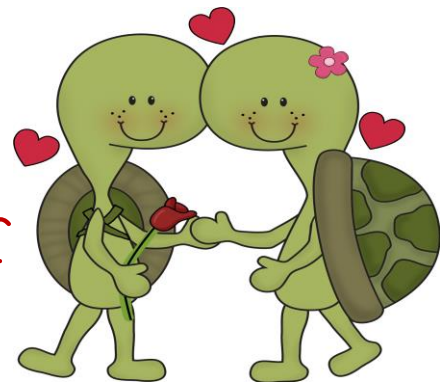
Please make sure your child is at school on time each day. It is important that students are well-rested and eat a healthy breakfast to help them do their best. If you have any questions about the test, please contact your school counselor or Brenda Bauermeister, Elementary TAG Coordinator, at bbauermeister@linnmar.k12.ia.us.



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

February Calendar



- *February 1.....5th Grade Winter Band Concert
- *February 5.....Board of Education Meet 5:00 pm Work session 7:00 pm regular session
- *February 5.....PTO meeting at 6:00 pm
- *February 6.....5th & 6th Grade Orchestra Winter Concert 6:00pm at HS Auditorium
- *February 6.....Culver's share night at Wilkins 4:00 – 8:00 -10% of sales back to Wilkins
- *February 9.....Volunteer Workshop 9:00 – 11:00 am
- *February 9.....Dental screening for grades Kindergarten and 2nd
- *February 12.....Conference sign up begins at 7:00 am
- *February 14.....Friendship Parties @ 2:00 pm
- *February 15.....PTO Ice skating at CR Ice Arena 6:30 -8:30 pm
- *February 16.....**NO SCHOOL** – teacher workday
- *February 19..... **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher Professional Learning
- *February 19..... Board of Education Meet 5:00pm Work session 7:00pm regular session
- *February 22.....5th grade Music Program 6:30 pm
- *February 23.....PTO STEM night 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- *February 23.....Report cards sent home with your child
- *February 25.....Conference sign up ends at 10:00 pm
- *February 27.....Hearing Screening for grades 2nd & 5th
- *February 27.....Wilkins Book fair 3:00-4:00 pm
- *February 27.....Wilkins day at Wendy's 5:00 – 7:00, 10% of sales goes back to Wilkins
- *March 1.....Late night conferences
- *March 1.....Wilkins Book fair 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- *March 2.....Wilkins Volunteer Workshop 9:00 – 11:00 am

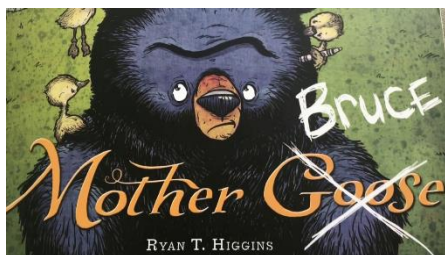
Reminder Crossing Guard Change: There will be no crossing guard on duty at the 35th Street/McGowan intersection, during the morning time frame. There will still be a crossing guard at this intersection for the after school time frame. This change will continue through the winter season. We will go back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

The Reading Team Presents: February Book Picks & Upcoming Events



***Roar for Reading month starts next Thursday, February 1st! Optional T-shirt and 'hoody' order forms were sent home Friday, January 26th and are due Wednesday, January 31st. We plan to wear these each Friday throughout the month of February. The three color options for the apparel are shown above. The word 'Read' will be on the front of the shirt.

***Mark your calendars! If your child receives reading support with a reading teacher at Wilkins, please join us at the annual Title I Reading night on Tuesday, March 27th. You will receive more information as the date approaches!



Mother Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins

This book is ADORABLE and witty. Bruce the grumpy bear who likes to steal eggs and create new recipes finds himself in an uncomfortable situation when some of the eggs accidentally hatch! Older kids (a couple of 4th graders read and loved it the other day) and young kids alike will enjoy reading this book. It's a great opportunity to talk about a play on words and fun to predict what is going to happen from the beginning of the book to the ending. The 4th graders said before reading this book, "This is a baby book!" NO WAY! Children's books are for every age of person! They use rich vocabulary, are usually fun or interesting, expose kids to all kinds of different topics/subjects, and are a great way to share reading time with all kids.



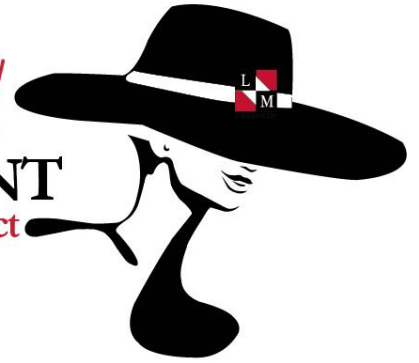
Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke

Zita is a, well, normal girl who ends up becoming a 'spacegirl' when she tries to save her brother after he gets pulled into a portal to another world. The characters and graphics make this graphic novel enjoyable for many ages of readers, but it is marked on Scholastic as a Level R which is meant for the average 4th or 5th grader.

This book is the first in a series of three; *Legends of Zita the Spacegirl* is the second book, and *Return of Zita the Spacegirl* is book three.

Racing for Linn-Mar Education!

Linn-Mar Foundation's MANE EVENT
proceeds benefit the Linn-Mar Community School District



EARLY BIRD tickets
through February 15th
\$60 per person
\$55 LM Staff & Alumni

After February 15th
\$70 per person
\$65 LM Staff & Alumni

Purchase individual tickets
or gather a table of 10

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.tinyurl.com/LMFManeEvent



Event Features

NEW Format - Heavy Hors
d'oeuvres, Social Time
& Live Music from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Easy & Fun Mobile Bidding

Exciting Silent & Live Auctions

Philips Diamond Necklace Booth

Blackjack, Craps, Derby Racing
Heads & Tails & Cash Raffles

Fun Photobooth

6:00-8:00 p.m. Doors Open, Casino
Games, Live Music - Hors d'oeuvres
available until 8:00 p.m. only

8:00 p.m. Main Ballroom, Special
Music by LM Band, Foundation
Program, Dessert & Live Auction!

Casino Games resume
after Live Auction

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Terry, Lockridge & Dunn



Thank you!

