



Wilkins Elementary Newsletter -- May, 2017 Pam Schulz, Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a year! ...and so much still left to do. During this very busy month of May, we are working hard to complete year end assessments, learn at field trips, set up class lists for the next year, solidify friendships for the summer, make plans for summer camps, and so much more. In the midst of this busyness sometimes we forget to take the time to reflect. As I look back at this the last two years at Wilkins, I am very proud and excited by the reflection that I see. Our staff are some of the best. You can see that in every one of your interactions with them. They care for, challenge, motivate, inspire, facilitate learning, direct focus, and keep juggling all of these responsibilities as they get to know each child in their classroom. It is an honor to watch and see the growth in the student-teacher relationship that is developed over a school year. In the work of John Hattie, the student-teacher relationship has one of the largest effect sizes on academic achievement. Our teachers make connections with our kids.

The Wilkins volunteers and PTO are a solid foundation and support for our staff and students. The parents, grandparents, and community members that walk along-side us benefit students daily. Thank you for your gift of time and caring for our kids.

Finally, a thank you to all of the parents at Wilkins. Education is a true partnership between home and school. You make the time to read with your kids, practice spelling, and support the behavioral expectations for all. It makes a difference. I am excited for the next step in my journey, but I am also a little melancholy. I will miss the students, families, and staff at Wilkins. It is a special place that will be kept close to my heart.

Please check your calendars and mark days that students will not be in session at Wilkins:

Monday, May 29 - No school Memorial Day Holiday

Wednesday, May 31 is the final day of school for 2017-2018.

Pamela C. Schulz

The mission of Wilkins Elementary School is to ensure high levels of learning for all in a safe and nurturing environment.

Orchestra News



5th Grade Orchestra Spring Concert

The 5th Grade Orchestra students have been working hard in preparation for their final concert on **Monday, May 8th**, which will be held in High School Auditorium at 7:00 P.M. Members of the 6th Grade Orchestra and 6th Grade Choir will also be performing that same evening. All friends and family members are invited to attend!

Students will also have a Dress Rehearsal BEFORE SCHOOL that same morning at Excelsior Middle School - please drop your child off between 7:00 - 7:05 A.M. and have your child meet in the Orchestra Room #905 (across the hallway from the main gym). Students will ride a bus back to their elementary building following the rehearsal. Cello and bass students are welcome to leave their instruments at the middle school until later that evening! Questions: contact Mrs. Vieth at 447-3219 or email at kvieth@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Beginning Orchestra Informational Meetings

4th and 5th grade students interested in starting the Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass are encouraged attend one of the orchestra informational meetings with their parents on **Monday, May 1st**. The meetings will be held at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Auxiliary Gym. Information will be given about the Linn-Mar Orchestra Program as well as info about the Summer Beginning Strings Program. Each meeting will last about 45 minutes. Representatives from local music stores will also be there to help answer any questions about renting an instrument and can offer suggestions to any family wishing to purchase an instrument. Students should also plan to attend with their parents so they can be fitted for the correct size!

If you are unable to attend either of the meetings and would like to receive more info about joining the Orchestra, please email Mrs. Vieth at kvieth@linnmar.k12.ia.us. Families may also visit the Linn-Mar Beginning Orchestra website and **register for Summer Classes** at: <https://lmorchestraregistration.wordpress.com/>



“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents”.

Emilie Bushwald

Reading to or with your child for even ten minutes each day shows them you value reading and their progress at school. Thanks for all you do to support your child's education!

Wilkins BackYard Bash

Hello Parents and Students!

As we begin the last month of the school year, we are getting excited about the Backyard Bash! It will be held on May 26th, with a rain date on May 30th. We are having our end of the year celebration for all of the students' hard work throughout the school year. This has been a very successful event for the past few years. We are looking for parents to volunteer for the event. The volunteer form will be e-mailed and sent home with your child. If you are interested in helping out, please fill out the form with your information and return it to school by May 15th. We hope to see you there!! If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Miller or Mr. Sinnott.

Thanks,

Backyard Bash Planning Team

Meal Account Balances

Meal account balances will carry over next fall. Accounts will automatically roll to the building where your student will attend.

If you are leaving the Linn-Mar District, please request your meal account balance refund from Ruth Noth, Total Access Meal Account Coordinator. She can be reached by phone at 533-5559 or by email at rnoth@linnmar.k12.ia.us. You may also designate your refund be directed to a family who may have a difficult time paying for school meals.

Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility

If your family is eligible for free school meals based on **food stamp eligibility**, you do not have to complete a new application form next fall. If you qualify for free or reduced meals based on your **income**, we will need a new application completed in August. Forms will be mailed to households this summer. Please return your form on registration day. Sometimes families are surprised to see the upper limits of eligibility. Please take time to read through the information you receive. Reduced price meals are \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. This can be a **BIG** savings for families. All meal choices are available to all students regardless of their status. Information regarding meal status is confidential and is not "identifiable" at the cashier station. Please contact the Nutrition Services office at 447-3302 if you have questions.

Grade Level News

Kindergarten: It is crazy to think about the school year being almost done! Your children have been working incredibly hard over the last few weeks. We have begun some of the final testing for the year and it is so incredible the amount of growth that these children have made through the year. To say that we are proud of these kids would be an understatement! Over the last month we have really dove into our animals 2X2 unit in science. We have had goldfish and guppies, water snails and land snails, red worms and earthworms and isopods (rolly polly bugs) visit our room. The children focused on observing them and learning the different body parts of each animal and a focus on their behaviors, such as how do they move and what do they like to do. We also have spent the last month with chicken eggs in our incubators. Each class was lucky to have 4 to 5 chicks hatch this year. Each class was able to watch at least one egg hatch live! Now we are observing our chicks and learning about their behaviors. In our PRIDE groups, we had a focus on writing. We focused on including adjectives into our writing. It was exciting to see how the kids took off with their writing. We incorporated a writing strategy called The Genius Ladder, which focuses on adding in details and adjectives into their writing by spicing them up and making it more interesting to read for the reader.

First grade: First graders are working really hard these last weeks of school! Our Journeys curriculum is wrapping up and we are testing to see how much we've learned! In Math, we are reviewing many concepts and skills as we work in our final unit and are preparing for the end-of-year testing. In science, we continue to learn about plants and animals and have developed quite the green thumbs during this unit! Please remember that our Thomas Park field trip is Thursday, May 4th. Students should wear comfortable clothing and shoes (no sandals or flip-flops). We will eat lunch at the park in the large pavilion at 11:00, and parents/families are welcome to join us for lunch at that time. Let's hope for great weather that day! As the school year begins to wind down, please remind your child to keep reading and working hard. It's been an amazing year in first grade. We are thankful for all the great families we got to work with this year.

Second grade: Wow, this year has flown by! The kiddos are getting ready to become 3rd graders! We have begun working on multiplication and division in math. The students are using arrays and math facts to solve their problems. These are things you can practice each night at home to make them more automatic. Science is winding down now that we have received and studied all of our critters. We have habitats for mealworms (now beetles), milkweed beetles, silkworms (soon to be moths), and painted lady caterpillars. We are hoping to see the final life cycle stages before the end of the year. Junior achievement has also come to an end. It went along well with our final unit for social studies. The students got hands-on learning about goods, services, voting, taxes, and money in the community. Thank you for everything you do to help support your students outside of school!



Third grade: April showers... have brought May PLANTS! We are well into our Structures of Life unit in science. This unit begins with the study of seeds and germination. Just like the kids, our seeds are growing like weeds. We will continue to watch them flourish while learning more about their life cycle. This unit has also brought some visitors to 3rd grade... CRAYFISH! The crayfish are teaching us about their physical structures, habitats, behavior, and territory. We will conclude this unit with the study of bones. On May 9th, we will be visiting the Indian Creek Nature Center so that we can learn more about animals, adaptations, and habitats. In math, we have been learning about double digit multiplication by way of lattice method and partial products! In literacy, our Journey's curriculum has switched gears to fiction and non-fiction magazine articles. We are also reading chapter books together in small groups. This allows us to dig deeper into the study of characters, plot, setting, and more! In writing, we have wrapped up our fictional narratives. Our students have had a great time using their imagination to create a fictional story that includes a problem and solution. As the school year begins to wind down, please remind your child to keep reading and working hard. It's been a phenomenal year in third grade. We are thankful for such great families to work with all year long.

Fourth grade: Wow!! Where has the year gone? It's hard to believe that we are already winding down and that soon your child will be a 5th grader! We have had the privilege of hearing the band and orchestra this month and instrument tryouts. Don't forget to attend the Band/Orchestra meeting if your child wants to participate in one of them. As the year winds down we still have a lot to do. We are wrapping math with Units 11-12 in math focusing on geometric solids and volume. In Social Studies we are working on our state projects. We will have our Celebration of the States on May 23 at 2:00, we hope you will be able to join us. We will be attending Careers on Wheels on May 12 at St. Mark's Church, this is an opportunity for students to learn about careers based out of vehicles. Please remember to continue to read and return weekly Reading Logs.

Fifth grade: May is an exciting time for our fifth graders. They will participate in Track Day on May 4. All students will do both running and field events. Barry Grove will be here on May 10 to do a special presentation about the colonial times. He takes on the character of a colonial person and also shares special artifacts from that time period; it's a great way to bring our social studies curriculum to life. On May 16, fifth graders will dissect a pig's heart as part of our Living Systems science curriculum. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's teacher. Fifth graders will spend May 17 at Camp Wapsie. Students will participate in canoeing, team building, archery, etc. On May 19, fifth graders will be touring Excelsior as part of our transition to the middle school. In addition to all the fun things we have planned, we will move forward with academics as we finish our fifth grade curriculum. We will miss our fifth graders but are excited for them as they get to experience new opportunities in middle school.





Notes from the Music Room May 2017

The school year is beginning to wind down. The Chorus had a gorgeous day for their field trip on April 14. They sang some songs of appreciation at the Volunteer Appreciation held in the Multi Purpose Room. Then they sang for an enthusiastic group at Linn-Mar High School. When we were done singing, two the choirs sang for us. They next went to Summit Pointe and sang and visited with the residents there.

Our home concert was held on April 18. I am so proud of the GREAT job our singers have done this year!!!!

We also did our part to help out Wilkins by singing at Chick-Fil-A for Spirit night. This was April 25. Thank you to those who came out for this!

Congratulations goes out to Wilkins wonderful Kindergarteners and their excellent music concert "Friends and Family". This was held on April 20.

It's been a fantastic year of music concerts and wonderful memories. Keep on singing and making music. Enjoy your summer. I'm looking forward to seeing you next year. Best wishes to our graduating 5th graders!!!

Wilkins Family Clay Night and Art Show



May 11th 5:00 – 7:00

Please come join us Thursday, May 11th from 5 to 7 for a fantastic night full of ART© Student artwork, in grades kindergarten through 5th, will be on display all over the halls of Wilkins. All of the students have worked very hard and are very proud to be showcasing their creativity. The same evening, we will also be hosting our 2nd annual Family Clay Night! Bring the family and have fun making creative creations out of Model Magic and then tour the school to view the artwork! A flyer will be coming home soon with more information about this night. Students are allowed to take home their 3 dimensional art that evening. The students and I would love your support! Please stop by for as long or as little as you can ☺

Looking forward to seeing you!

Sara Hovden

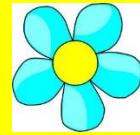
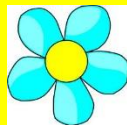
Wilkins Art Teacher



If you have a Wilkins student that will NOT BE RETURNING for the 17/18 school year, please contact Vicky Faulkner in the office at 447-3380 or vfaulkner@linnmar.k12.ia.us. Please give the students name, grade, reason they are not returning, and a phone number in case we need to reach you with questions. Thank you!

Thank you to all the wonderful Wilkins Volunteers!
You helped in so many ways this school year.
We appreciate you!

Also a huge thank you to our wonderful Wilkins PTO who have supported the staff and students.



Important Year End Information from the Wilkins Health office

Medications: If your child has medication in the nurse's office please pick it up on or before the last of school. (Prescription and over the counter medicine). Any medications remaining after the last of school will be discarded.

Contact the health office with any questions @447-3385



PLEASE JOIN US!

Linn-Mar School Foundation Annual Lion Open Golf Classic

Lion Open proceeds will help fund classroom & curriculum projects throughout the Linn-Mar Community School District in 2017-2018

Enjoy a fun day on
the links with the
Lion Pride!



THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH

Hunters Ridge Golf Course

Tee off at 8:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.* Four person best shot

**Limited afternoon spots available*

**\$100 per person/\$90 per alumni or LM staff*

Catered lunch served 11:30-1:00

Flag Events, Golf Contests, Raffles & Prizes!

Golf sponsorship opportunities available
contact Shelley Woods at 730-3638

To register to golf visit linnmarfoundation.org or call 447-3065 today!

Save your Hy-Vee receipts to earn money for Wilkins



Collect receipts dated April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018

\$1 will be earned for every \$200 collected in receipts.

We collected over \$213,000 in receipts this year for \$1066!

All Marion & Cedar Rapids area HyVee grocery, HyVee Gas, & HyVee DrugStores, along with Starbucks and Caribou Coffee in HyVee. Good for grocery, catering, pharmacy, fuel, postage, and more. Ask your friends and family to collect them also!

May Calendar Events:

- May 1.....Beginning Orchestra Parent Meeting @ Oakridge 4:30pm & 7:30pm
- May 1.....Beginning Band Meeting @ 6:00pm at the High School Little Theatre
- May 2.....5th Grade Spring Break Band Concert @ 6:15pm in the High School Auditorium
- May 3.....Beginning Band Meeting @ 6:00pm in the High School Little Theatre
- May 4.....5th Grade Track Day 9:00am – 1:45pm
(students need to bring a sack lunch)
- May 4.....1st Grade field trip to Thomas Park 9:00am – 1:00pm
(students need to bring a sack lunch)
- May 5.....Raindate for 5th Grade Track Day
- May 5.....Kindergarten AG in the Park Field Trip 8:45am -12:20pm
- May 6.....Wilkins night at the Kernels game 6:35
- May 8.....PTO event – Chalk the Walk 6:00 pm
- May 9.....5th Grade Orchestra Spring Concert @ High School 6:00pm
Wilkins (Indian Creek, Linn Grove, Novak, Wilkins only)
- May 9.....PTO Meeting @ 6:30pm
- May 9.....3rd Grade Field Trip to Thomas Park & Indian Creek Nature Center 10:45am – 2:00pm
- May 11.....Art Show and Family Clay Night 5:00pm – 7:00pm
- May 12.....4th Grade Career On Wheels 8:30am – 10:15am
- May 17.....5th grade field trip to Camp Wapsie all day
(students need to bring a sack lunch)
- May 18.....Volunteer Workshop 8:30am
- May 19..... Kindergarten field trip to Bever Park in morning
(students need to bring a sack lunch)
- May 23.....Tacky Tourist Day for 4th grade @ 2:00pm
- May 23.....Wilkins night at Wendy's from 5:00pm – 7:00pm – 10% of sales back to Wilkins
- May 26.....Backyard Bash day
- May 29.....MEMORIAL DAY – **NO SCHOOL**
- May 30.....Backyard Bash rain makeup day
- May 31.....LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



May 31st...Last day of school –
dismissal at normal time 2:45 pm

August 23.....First day of school for 17/18 school year

Goodbye to our 5th
grade students and
parents!

We will miss you as you
head to Excelsior.

Good Luck!

