

Wilkins Newsletter

Pam Schulz, Principal



April 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am amazed that we are already in April! This year has flown by, but we still have a lot left to do. Have you been receiving e-mails from the office? We are using the PowerSchool system to send e-mails so that the teachers do not need to forward messages to you. Please double check that the e-mail addresses in PowerSchool are correct.

Even though we have about 40 days of school left in 2016-2017, we are starting to think about 2017-2018. We begin developing preliminary class lists by the end of April. To most effectively balance classrooms we look at a number of different things including learning styles, gender, academic ability, and past relationships with families. Our goal is to match your child with the teacher and peers that will provide them with the best environment to meet their needs and promote the kind of learning that will foster success. We meet as a staff to help place all the students in the best possible classrooms. If there is something that I should know about your child and their learning style please feel free to e-mail me during the month of April. My e-mail address is: pschulz@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

I wanted to let you know that I have resigned my position as principal at Wilkins Elementary effective June 30, 2017. The district has begun the hiring process and is working with staff to find just the right fit. Wilkins is a special place and one that keeps what is best for kids at the very heart of everything that we do. I will be working with the district to help make the transition to a new principal as smooth as possible.

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

Monday, April 24

Monday, May 29

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela C. Schulz".

Pamela C. Schulz

Important date change to note: The Wilkins Art Show/Clay night has been moved from Thursday April 27th to Thursday May 11th.

April Dates to Remember:



- April 3 - 7.....Iowa Assessment testing for 3rd - 5th grades
- April 4.....Wilkins McTeacher Night
- April 8.....8:30 Coffee Conversation @ HS Pride Rock Commons
- April 10.....5:00 Board Meeting @ Indian Creek
- April 11.....PTO meeting 6:30pm
- April 13.....5th grade LEO field trip to the University of Iowa
- April 14.....4/5 grade chorus field trip in morning
- April 14.....Volunteer Appreciation brunch at 8:30
- April 18.....Orchestra/Chorus concert 6:30pm
- April 19.....Band Orchestra Demo Day 8:15am - 9:45am
- April 19.....Betsy Lewin-Author visit for grades K -3
- April 20.....Volunteer workshop 8:30am
- April 20.....Kindergarten music program at 6:30pm
- April 21.....PTO Wilkins Carnival 5:00 - 7:00pm
- April 21.....Kindergarten field trip to Bloomsbury Farm
- April 21.....4th Grade State Day
- April 22.....Linn Mar Growl Prowl
- April 24.....No School - Professional Development for staff
- April 24.....5:00 Board Meeting
- April 25.....Chick Fil A Spirit Night (chorus will be singing at 6:30 pm)
- April 27.....Mentoring activity after school



Wilkins Volunteer Workshop
Thursday, April 20th 8:30 – 10:30 am
Multi-Purpose Room



April PTO meeting April 11 at 6:30pm

Band News

5th Grade Band

The 5th Grade Band will give its Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 2nd. The concert will be held in the HS Auditorium and begin at 6:15 p.m. All band students should report to the HS Little Theatre between 5:45 - 6:00 p.m. The program will last about 30 minutes. Nice dress clothes should be worn for this MAJOR performance. In preparation for the Concert, we will be rehearsing together THAT MORNING at L-M HS. Please drop your student off at the HS Auditorium Main Entrance (circle drive) between 7:15 - 7:20 am for our 7:30 - 8:30 am rehearsal. Students will be bused to school after the rehearsal. Since this is our only chance to practice together before our concert it is very important that ALL Band students attend.

MUSIC MATTERS!



Current 5th Grade Band students are able to sign up for the Summer Band Program. They can participate in Program #2 - Private Band Lessons. Students receive a weekly, 15-minute individual lesson with a MS Band Director for 6 weeks. Program #2 will run from June 5th - July 14th. 5th Grade students can also participate in the 5th Grade Band Camp - Program 3.5. This is a Group Band experience directed by Mrs. Nuss that meets daily from 8:00 - 9:00 am Mon - Fri for two weeks beginning June 5th. This year all of the Summer Band Programs will be held at Oak Ridge MS. Sign up forms will be sent home with band students in late April and will be due by May 19th. If you don't see one before our May concert we will have extra's available there...

Keep the kids working hard at home!

Beginning Band for Current 4th Graders - THE BAND IS COMING!!!

All 4th graders will meet during late April to see a Band instrument demonstration, and try out some instruments. On April 26th they will hear the 8th Grade Band and MS Chamber Orchestra perform. It is a very exciting time to be a 4th Grader! Students will be bringing home information about the band program, instrument choices, and parent meetings at that time.

Informational meetings for Parents of 4th Graders who would like to start a band instrument are being scheduled for Monday, May 1st and Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM. Meetings will be held in the High School Little Theatre and last about 45 minutes. Parents only need to attend one meeting and your child does not need to attend. At the meeting parents will receive information about the 5th Grade Band program and our Summer Beginner lessons. Parents will also sign their child up for an individual 15 minute *Band Interview* to try out instruments (with parents in attendance). **NOTE: All beginner band students MUST interview to select an Instrument.** Interviews will be held between May 16th - 24th. Parents who are unable to attend either meeting can call/email for information and to sign up for an interview beginning May 4th. Voice mail - 447-3310 or kmakinster@linmar.k12.ia.us (email is preferred).

April Notes from the Music Room



CONGRATUALATIONS 2nd graders on a fantastic performance of the musical "Stone Soup"!!

April has a lot in store as well! The Kindergarten will be having their music concert on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 at night. Our theme is "Friends and Family". Students are being asked to dress up (clothes you would wear to a concert or church) for their evening concert. We will have a dress rehearsal for the school at 2:00. The students need to return to school by 6:15 to get ready for the 6:30 concert.

CHORUS has some very important things coming up too! The Chorus will be going on a field trip on Friday, April 14 from 8:00 - 11:30. Chorus students need to wear their Chorus shirt and black pants to school for the concerts that will be a part of the morning! We will be singing for the Volunteer Appreciation at Wilkins, and then singing at Linn-Mar High School for the upperclassman choirs and finishing up at Summit Pointe Nursing Home. We will return to school on time for lunch.

The final Chorus concert of the year will be Tuesday, April 18 at 8:10 for the school at 6:30 PM. The Wilkins 5th grade orchestra will also be a part of this concert. Chorus students will need to also wear their Chorus shirt and black pants to school on Thursday, April 18 as we will have an assembly for the school that morning at 8:10 and will need to return to school that night at 6:10 for the end of the year concert.

Wilkins is having a Spirit night at Chick Fil A on Tuesday, April 25 from 5-8. They will be donating a portion of the sales to Wilkins that evening. The Chorus will be singing at Chick Fil A at 6:30PM. Students need to wear their Chorus shirts and black pants and meet Mrs. Peterson there at 6:15.

We are thrilled that the Linn-Mar Foundation has provided money to bring part of Orchestra Iowa to Wilkins to give informative concert/assemblies to some of our grade levels. On March 8 the Woodwind Quintet had a presentation for our 3rd graders during Specials class. Our 2nd graders had an assembly on March 24 with the String Quartet and Maestro Hankewich. Next month the Brass Quintet will be here to present to the 4th Graders.

Kindergarten Music Program will be presented on Thursday,

April 20th at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Orchestra Events this Spring:

- Wilkins Orchestra & Chorus Concert - Tuesday, April 18th @ 6:30 PM in the Wilkins Gym
- 5th & 6th Grade Orchestra Spring Concert - Monday, May 8th @ 7:00 PM in the HS Auditorium
- Orchestra Recital/Talent Show - Friday, May 12th (during our morning rehearsal)
- Last day of Orchestra - Friday, May 19th
- Summer Orchestra Program - Classes and individual lessons will be held during the month of June in the High School Orchestra Room. Students may register online on the high school orchestra website: <https://sites.google.com/site/linnmarorchestra/>



Attention 4th Graders and Parents:

The Band & Orchestra presentations will be held later this month to demonstrate each of the instrument families for students. If your child has any interest in some day playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass, then your child is in for a treat!!! Students will receive a packet of information on how to join the orchestra program during the presentation. If your child misses the presentation or if you would like further information on our program, please attend the parent meetings described below.

Beginning Orchestra - Informational Meetings

4th and 5th grade students interested in starting a string instrument should attend one of the orchestra informational meetings with their parents. There are two meeting times scheduled for **Monday, May 1st**. The meetings will be held at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Auxiliary Gym and will cover information about the Linn-Mar Orchestra Program as well as the *Summer Beginning Strings Program*. The meetings will last about 45 minutes. Representatives from local music stores will also be there with suggestions for renting or purchasing instruments!

** 5th grade students wishing to learn to play a string instrument should attend the information meetings described above with their parents. Students are encouraged to take private lessons with a string teacher in the area or may sign up for the Linn-Mar summer beginning strings program in order to become a member of the 6th grade orchestra next fall. Questions: contact Mrs. Vieth at kvieth@linnmar.k12.ia.us or (319) 447-3219



2017 Linn Mar Growl Prowl



Saturday, April 22

To register: <http://www.growlprowl.com>

Wilkins Way!

WE are Safe.....**WE** are Respectful.....**WE** are Responsible.....**WE** are Ready

In March, our students earned a whole-school Beach Day on the Friday before spring break by filling the fish tank with paw prints. Students got to wear their favorite beach clothes, sunglasses, hats, flip-flops, and they brought towels to sit on. Fun activities were planned, and students got to eat sack lunches on the floor of the lunch room! If students are able to fill the fish tank again in April, the Wilkins Way team will hold a special assembly at the end of the month which will include a contest involving students and staff. Students are encouraged to keep up the awesome behavior so we can fill that fish tank!

Grade Level News:



Kindergarten News: It is hard to believe that it is already April! This year has gone by quickly! Our kindergarteners have been busy in math learning about money. We have been working on the names of the coins and how much they are worth. We have also been reviewing measuring with different objects and working with patterns. We have been working on improving our addition and subtractions skills using story problems. **Reading:** We are continuing to work on Heggerty focusing on rhyming, adding phonemes, deleting phonemes, final sounds in words, onset sounds and blends. The student are showing a tremendous amount of growth in these areas. We are using Braidy each week with our retelling and story comprehension. Braidy helps us identify the characters and their feelings throughout the story, the kickoff event, the setting, events and the tie up because of the kickoff event. The students enjoy using Braidy each week and it has helped with our retelling and comprehension. **Science:** We are starting our animals 2x2 unit. Throughout this unit we will explore goldfish, guppies, snails, bird, worms and isopods. The students have already had a great time exploring these different animals.

First Grade News: First graders are learning about life science with our unit about "Plants and Animals". We have planted two kinds of grass (alfalfa and rye), we planted a wheat seed inside of a straw, we also did stem cuttings and soon we will be "mowing" our lawns! We continue to work in our Journeys reading books, and we have been reading a lot of informational texts and doing plenty of writing. We are nearing the end of our unit 5 of Journeys, with just one more unit left to do this school year. In math, we are on Unit 8, which works on money and making change. We will also learn about fair shares and basic fractions (halves, thirds, and fourths). All of the first graders are getting excited about our Junior Achievement lessons beginning very soon! Our grade level will learn about jobs, wants & needs, maps, and other fun things. We are very grateful for our JA volunteers!

Second Grade News: What fun we are having in 2nd grade. Lots of fun and learning is ahead for our 2nd graders in our plants and insects unit. We even have some visitors in our rooms, meal worms. In math we have started working on fractions and measurement. In social studies we talked about people around the world and all the cultures, traditions and customs they have. In April we will be starting Junior Achievement. It's hard to believe the year is winding down.

Third Grade News: April is sure to be one of our busiest months yet. We will kick off the month with Iowa Assessments. Math will introduce multiplying two- and three-digit numbers using the lattice method and the partial products algorithm. Students should continue working on their math fact fluency! Social studies has wrapped up for the year. We just completed our Maps and Globes Unit. Students memorized the 7 different continents and 5 oceans. We are working on a science unit called Structures of Life. In this unit, students will be able to identify properties of plants and animals and sort organisms based on their properties. We are awaiting the arrival of live crayfish to help us learn all about this! We write for so many different purposes, and this month the focus is narrative. Students will be participating in a swim experience at the Linn-Mar Aquatic Center the week of April 17th. More information to come. Please encourage your child to continue to find time to read as the weather starts to get warmer.

Fourth Grade News: 4th grade is flying by! We wrapped up our Iowa Assessments on April 6, and now we're gearing up for the rest of the year. Our math units start to go by quickly- you can expect an assessment at least every two weeks, but the nice thing is we are now applying skills we learned in the first half of the year. We have wrapped up our final social studies units and are working on our final project for the end of the year. In science, we've begun our environments unit, which comes with lots of crawling critters! As always, continue to practice spelling at home at least three nights a week, and keep reading 20 minutes each night- NWEA is right around the corner and this makes such a big difference!

Fifth Grade News: April is a busy month for the fifth graders. In math, students will find the area of rectangles, volume of rectangular prisms, and they will use formulas to find the area of triangles and parallelograms. In literacy, students will complete informative writing. In reading, the focus of instruction will be on how to analyze the text by drawing conclusions and generalizations, using text and graphic features, and understanding theme. The primary focus of Pride, our intervention block, will be literacy skills. In social studies, students will continue to learn about the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. Science instruction will include either Sun, Moon, and Planets, or Living Systems. At the end of the month, all students will start their study of the reproductive unit. The first week will include learning about the male reproductive system, and the second week will include learning about the female reproductive system. Fifth graders will also have a one day swim experience at the Aquatic Center. We will also begin our transition to the middle school by having one of the Excelsior counselors visit each classroom to discuss next school year.





News from the Reading Team

Thanks so much for attending conferences, it was great to share how hard your children are working with you! We cannot believe we are already in the last trimester of the year. We will be seeing students and boosting their skills until the very last week of school. Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any questions. Thanks again for supporting your child.

The Reading Team



Mark Your Calendars!

May 31st is the last day of school this year 😊



Linn-Mar 5th Grade Track Day

Indian Creek Elem., Novak Elem., Linn Grove Elem., Wilkins Elem.

On **Thursday, May 4th** the fifth grade students will be participating in the annual Linn-Mar 5th Grade Track Day. Four elementary schools will be competing at the same time. The meet will be held at the new Linn-Mar Stadium beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. If this date gets rained out, we have a rain date scheduled for Friday, May 5th.

The order of events for that day:

Individual Races

- 50 meter dash
- 100 meter dash
- 200 meter dash
- 400 meter run
- 800 meter run

Field Events-simultaneously

- Long Jump
- Soccer Dribble
- Soccer Punt
- Football Throw
- Frisbee Throw
- Softball Throw

Relays

- 50 meter shuttle
- 4x100 meter
- 4x100 meter – mixed

RULES

1. Each participant will enter two running events and one field event.
2. There will be a boys' and girls' division in every event except the 400 Mixed Relay, which has an alternating boy / girl order.
3. Ribbons will be awarded for the first six places in the individual events and relays.
4. The number of entries in each event will be limited. Places are based on time and distance.
5. There will be two tries for the long jump, frisbee throw, soccer punt, football throw, and softball throw. There will only be one trial in the soccer dribble.
6. The Soccer Dribble consists of zig-zagging the ball with the feet around three cones and back across the finish line. Cones are 10 yards apart.
7. Participants will sit in the stands listening for their races and cheering on their classmates.
8. Wear comfortable clothing and running shoes on the day of the meet. **NO SPIKES!** Wear sunscreen too!
9. Small water bottles will be allowed, but **NO COOLERS!**
10. **Students will need to bring a sack lunch with them to the track.** Please no glass containers, gum, or soda pop. If would like to get a sack lunch from school, please indicate below that you would like your child to have a sack lunch from school. **Bring bottom part back to school by April 21st, 2017.**

*** Each year a great group of parent volunteers help to make this a special day for the kids. If you are interested in helping out please contact me at msinnott@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

I would like my child _____ to have a sack lunch from school. Date: _____

Print Student's Name: _____

Guardian Signature: _____

