

Wilkins Newsletter

Amanda Potter, Principal



April 2018

Dear Wilkins Family and Friends,

Although our weather hasn't been cooperating, Spring is here and we are working to fit in as much learning as possible before the summer break. Iowa Assessments will take place this week for our 3rd-5th grade students. This is an important assessment for our students so please help your child by getting to bed early each night and starting the day with a big, healthy breakfast. This month we will also have 2nd-5th grade students completing the NWEA assessments.

April is also the month we begin thinking about class lists for next year. It is important to realize our students are unique individuals. Classroom placement is a difficult task that requires much thought and effort. Prior to making any room assignments, we try to gather as much information as possible. We begin by asking teachers to group their current students for the following year. When teachers place children in groups, they look at a number of things including learning styles, gender and academic ability. We take into account students who work well together and which students need to be separated. We try to keep the class sizes at each grade as close to the same number of students as possible. Both the counselor and I review these groups before making initial room assignments. After initial room assignments are made, we once again get input from current teachers and specials teachers to make sure that we have not overlooked anything.

I believe that we have a quality staff at Wilkins Elementary. Wilkins teachers follow a consistent Linn-Mar curriculum at each grade level. Each child is exposed to the same curriculum materials and taught the same skills. Consistent grade level expectations are also in place and are followed at each grade level. Our goal is to match your child both with the teacher and peers that will provide them with the best environment to meet his or her needs and promote the kind of learning that will foster success. Therefore, specific teacher requests are discouraged and will only be honored for special circumstances.

Sincerely,

Amanda Potter

April Dates to Remember:



- April 2 - 6.....Iowa Assessment testing for 3rd - 5th grades
- April 3.....Wilkins PTO meeting 6:00 pm
- April 9.....School Board Meeting at 5:00 pm
- April 10.....Wilkins McTeacher Night 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- April 13.....4/5 grade chorus field trip in morning
- April 13.....Volunteer Appreciation Celebration @ 2:15 pm
- April 17.....Orchestra/Chorus concert 6:30pm
- April 19.....Kindergarten music program at 6:30pm
- April 19.....5th grade LEO field trip to the University of Iowa
- April 20.....Dental screening for grades Kindergarten and 2nd
- April 21.....Linn Mar Growl Prowl
- April 23.....School Board Meeting @ Wilkins 5:00 pm
- April 23 - 27.....NWEA Testing Window
- April 24.....Chick Fil A Spirit Night (chorus will be singing at 6:30 pm)
- April 25.....Band Orchestra Demo Day 8:15am - 9:45am
- April 27.....PTO Wilkins Carnival 5:00 - 7:00pm
- April 30.....No School - Professional Development for staff
- April 30.....Beginning Band Parent Meetings @ the High School 6:00 pm
- May 15th Grade Band Spring Concert 6:15 pm at the High School



The University of Iowa Community Credit Union (UICCU) offers a great member program each April which is a huge win for area school foundations. UICCU members (new & existing) can make a donation through UICCU's Give & Grow program, from \$25 up to \$500.00 per household, and designate the Linn-Mar School Foundation. UICCU will generously match the donation of the member to the Linn-Mar School Foundation up to \$15,000!

You can even further match your Give & Grow gift through your employers matching gift program. Learn about Double the Donation here. (linked to <https://www.linnmarfoundation.org/matching-gifts/>)

These gifts make an important and timely impact in our Linn-Mar K-12 classrooms.

To make a gift through UICCU's Give & Grow program click here (linked to <https://www.uiccu.org/uiccu-give-and-grow-initiative>)

Band News

HEY 4th GRADERS - THE BAND IS COMING!!!

MUSIC MATTERS!



Beginning Band for Current 4th Graders

All Wilkins 4th graders will meet on April 18th to see a Band instrument demonstration and try out some instruments. On April 25th they will hear the 8th Grade Band and MS Chamber Orchestra perform. It is a very exciting time to be a 4th Grader and we look forward to having you in the Linn-Mar Band Program! 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, April 30th and Wednesday, May 2nd at 6:00 PM. Meetings will be held in the High School Little Theatre and last about one hour. Park in the HS lot by the digital sign and North of the LRC and enter Door #1 near the Auditorium. 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 15th - 23rd. Parents who are unable to attend either meeting can call/email for information and to sign up for an interview beginning May 3rd. Voice mail - 447-3310 or kmakinster@linnmar.k12.ia.us (email is preferred).

5th Grade Band News

The 5th Grade Band will give its Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 1st.

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.

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 7th - July 17th. 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 1 1/2 weeks beginning June 6th. 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 18th. If you don't see one before our May concert we will have extras available there...

Keep the kids working hard at home! Kevin Makinster and Amy Sams

April Notes from the Music Room

CONGRATUALATIONS 2nd graders on a fantastic performance of the musical "Bremen Town Jam"!!



April has a lot in store as well! The Kindergarten will be having their music concert on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 at night. Our theme is "Music All Over Me". 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 13 from 8:00 - 11:30. Chorus students need to wear their Chorus shirt and black pants to school. We will meet early at 7:30 to practice with the orchestra. If you are in both Chorus and Orchestra, go to Orchestra first. Our field trip will consist of: 8:30 Depart for Marion Hy-Vee, 9:30 sing at Village Ridge, 10:27 Sing for Excelsior 8th Grade Vocal. We will return to school on time for lunch.

The final Chorus concert of the year will be Tuesday, April 17 at 8:10 for the school at 6:30 PM. The Wilkins 5th grade orchestra will also be apart of this concert. Chorus students will need to also wear their Chorus shirt and black pants to school on Thursday, April 17 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 24 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.

The final Chorus concert of the year will be Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 PM. The Wilkins 5th grade orchestra will also be a part of this concert.

♪ **Tuesday, April 24** Chorus sings at Chick-Fil-A for Wilkins Spirit Night between the hours of 5-8PM 217 Collins Road NE
Meet at 6:15

6:30 Sing

When you mention "WILKINS" at the register, a portion of sales from that order will be given to our school.

The last concert of the year will be Kindergarten on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30. The theme is called "Music All Over Me".

Music notes continued.....

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 kpeterston@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

Upcoming Orchestra Events this Spring:



- Wilkins Orchestra & Chorus Concert - Tuesday, April 17th @ 6:30 PM in the Wilkins Gym
- 5th & 6th Grade Orchestra Spring Concert - Monday, May 7th @ 6:00 PM in the HS Auditorium
- Orchestra Recital/Talent Show - Friday, May 11th & Monday, May 14th during morning rehearsal
- Last day of Orchestra - Monday, May 14th (students may bring breakfast treats to share!!)
- 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 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 **Tuesday, 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 21



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

The mission of the Growl Prowl is to raise funds from the community in order to help provide the basic needs for living and learning that a growing number of Linn-Mar children lack.

Each year, our district's children benefit from the funds raised by the Growl Prowl event. Last year a large portion of this money was spend on Christmas gifts for children that may not have gotten anything during the holidays. These funds provide so much for so many. In recent years, this race's funds have decreased and we'd like to make a HUGE come back. If we could get even 5% of each school to participate, it would be great! Please spread the word or register for this great event at <http://www.growlprowl.com/>

Wilkins Way!

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

Students have been doing a wonderful job of following the Wilkins Way of being safe, respectful, responsible, and ready in our classrooms and the common areas of our school. In fact, students earned so many pawprints that we were able to have a schoolwide "Beach Day" celebration on Friday, March 10th --- right before spring break! We had so much fun dressing up for the beach, with hats, sunglasses, flip-flops....and we even got to listen to Beach Boys music as we ate sack lunches picnic style, sitting in the cafeteria on our beach towels!

During the month of April, the excitement will continue with some mystery Double Pawprint days (students will need to watch for teachers wearing their Wilkins or Linn-Mar shirts on those days, since that's the clue for double pawprint times), and we'll also have some Surprise Paw Draws for fun activities and special prizes.

Grade Level News:



Kindergarten News: : It is so hard to believe that it is already April! This year has gone by very 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 been working on improving our addition and subtractions skills using story problems. In literacy, 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 also 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. We have started our Animals 2x2 unit in Science. Throughout this unit we will explore goldfish, guppies, snails, birds, worms and isopods. This is such a fun unit!! We look forward to seeing you all at the Kindergarten concert on Thursday, April 19th. The kiddos have been working really hard and we are positive that you will enjoy every minute of the concert!

First Grade News: First graders are learning about life science with our unit about plants and animals. We have planted two kinds of seeds (alfalfa and rye grass), and we also planted a wheat seed inside of a straw. We are "mowing" our lawns and seeing how long they take to grow back. Next up will be planting potatoes and setting up terrariums!

We continue to work in our Journeys reading books. We have been reading lots of informational texts and realistic fiction and doing plenty of writing. We completed unit 5 of Journeys, with just one more unit left to do this school year. In math, we are finishing up Unit 8, which worked a lot on money and making change. We also learned about fair shares and basic fractions (halves, thirds, and fourths).

You may hear first graders talking about getting their "Lexia" minutes completed. Lexia Core 5 is a computer based intervention that is being piloted by Wilkins this year. Students were given a placement test at the start and are assigned activities based on their specific skills needs. Watch for certificates to come home when your child has completed a level. The students are working hard and enjoying their Lexia activities!

All of the first graders are getting excited about our Junior Achievement lessons beginning soon! Our grade level will learn about jobs, wants & needs, maps, and other fun things when we do "Our Families" for J.A.

Second Grade News: April will be a busy month for the 2nd graders! We have just begun our plant and insect unit for science. We will be studying the structures and living environment/needs of mealworms, milkweed bugs, silkworms, and painted lady butterflies. These habitats will be scattered all around the room for the kiddos to enjoy and learn from! To go along with the science unit, we will be taking a field trip this month to the Indian Creek Nature Center. We are continuing to move forward in math with more area/perimeter, money, place values, and multiplication/division. This is a busy time of year, even though the year will soon be coming to an end. Please continue to support your child's learning at home with reading and spelling/vocabulary practice. As a grade level, we are consistently working on respect and responsibility in and out of the classroom. Please help encourage this at home as well. Thank you for everything you do!

Third Grade News: April is sure to be one of our busiest months yet. We will kick off the month with Iowa Assessments on 4/2. 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 9th. 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 has been busy preparing for Iowa Assessments, which will be the week of April 2. Please remember to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast each morning. In Journeys, we have continued to read a story a week and work on a variety of comprehension skills. In math we are wrapping up Unit 9, which has focused on fractions, decimals, and percent. Please continue to work on mastering multiplication and division facts, as these skills are used in every unit. In Social Studies, we've wrapped up our exploration of the Southwest region, and are now focused on the West. We will be having someone from Farmers State Bank visit with us about saving and financial facts of life on April 16. 4th grade will also have band and orchestra tryouts, all students will try the instruments on April 18. As the weather gets nicer, don't forget to still find time to read- even if you read outside in the sunshine!

Fifth Grade News:

Math: In unit 10, students will:

*Solve equations using a pan-balance model, represent relationships as algebraic expressions, generate input-output tables, and link data in tables to corresponding points on coordinate grids.

Literacy: In Unit 6, students will focus on:

*Reviewing vocabulary strategies such as; multiple-meaning words, suffixes -ness, -less, -ment, idioms, Latin roots, and word origins.

*Target skills such as; text and graphic features, theme, fact and opinion ,conclusions and generalizations, and main ideas and details.

*Target strategies such as; visualizing, analyzing and evaluating, questioning, inferring and predicting, and summarizing.

*Informative writing including; definition paragraphs, journal entries, summaries, and prewriting, drafting and revising an informational essay.

5th grade news continued.....

Social Studies: In chapter 5, students will study The New England Colonies. In chapter 6, students will study The Middle Colonies. These chapters focus on the 13 English colonies and how they were founded in different regions of North America and for different reasons.

Science: Continuing Living Systems Unit.

*Investigation 2: Students will investigate nutrient systems of yeast, plants, and animals.

*Investigation 3: Students will learn that all cells have basic needs: water, food, gas exchange, and waste disposal

*Reproductive Unit (Male and Female)

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 2-6 Iowa Assessment Window

April 23-27 NWEA Testing Window

Monday, April 30th, NO SCHOOL/ Professional Development

Tuesday, May 1st, Aquatic Center Visit

Thursday, May 3rd, 5th Grade Track Meet

Tuesday, May 8th, Excelsior Counselor visiting students at Wilkins

Wednesday, May 9th, 5th Grade Field Trip to Wapsie

Friday, May 11th, students tour Excelsior

Tuesday, May 22nd, heart dissection

Monday, May 28th, NO SCHOOL

Friday, June 1st, Last day of school, Report cards sent home



Skip the kitchen and join us for a community-wide Dine Out For Our Schools event on **Thursday, April 19th**. The event is all day (for most locations) and includes dine-in, takeout and delivery! We currently have 17 area restaurant partners to choose from with a few additional being added soon.

10% - 20% of your total bill will be donated back to the schools. Proceeds will be directed to the Linn-Mar School Foundation which benefits K-12 students in all ten of our Linn-Mar Schools. Visit www.linnmarfoundation.org for more information.

Fun opportunities for swag for those who tag us on Facebook & Twitter with #DineOutLinnMar

All restaurants require patrons to mention the event to your server or present our Dine Out flyer to qualify. If you are dining at Buffalo Wild Wings, you must show them your BWV Home Team Advantage card which is available on the Foundation website and Facebook event. Look forward to seeing you on April 19th for Dine Out!

News from the Reading Team



Thank you so much to those of you who were able to attend the Cuddle Up and Read Title I Night on March 27th. We greatly appreciate your support and enjoyed watching families explore books together and spending time as a reading community! We as a reading team are so grateful for the opportunity to spend time with your children everyday!

The Reading Team Presents: April Book Picks!

Mrs. Brown's pick of the month

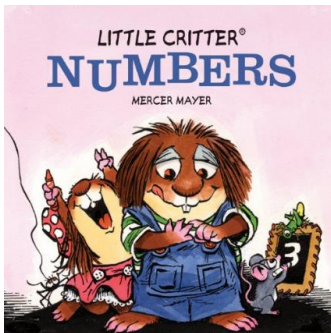


Divia and Flea by Mo Willems and illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi

From the author of the Pigeon and Piggy and Elephant books and the illustrator and co-writer of The Spiderwick Chronicles comes Diva and Flea. Diva is a small, timid dog who lives in a nice apartment in Paris. Flea is a cat who roams the streets of Paris and has no home at all but loves it. An unlikely friendship begins and each animal teaches the other an important life lesson.

This book can be read independently and enjoyed by 2nd or 3rd graders through adults! Or a sweet read aloud for younger kids.

Mrs. Dalton's pick of the month



Little Critter: Numbers by Mercer Mayer

Little Critter is a character in many of the stories written by Mercer Mayer. Most of these books are written at a late first or early second grade reading level. Sometimes it is helpful to get early readers into a series. Knowing the characters and style of writing gives your child prior knowledge to help make reading a new book independently go more smoothly.

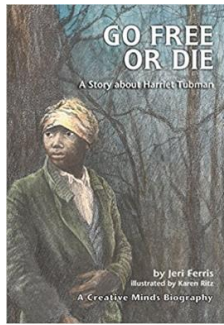
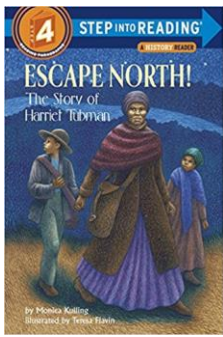
Mrs. Wells' pick of the month



The Hero Two Doors Down by Sharon Robinson

How many kids get to become friends with their hero? This book is about Steve, an eight year old boy, living in Brooklyn, New York, in 1948. There is only one thing that he cares about - the Dodgers. Steve hears a rumor that an African American family is moving to his all-Jewish neighborhood, and some of his neighbors are against it. He knows this is wrong. His hero, Jackie Robinson, broke the color barrier in baseball just the year before. Then it happens! The new neighbor in his neighborhood is none other than Jackie Robinson! Steve is beyond excited about living two doors down from his hero. He can't wait to meet Jackie! This is going to be the best baseball season yet! This book would be a good one for children in 3rd-6th grades to read independently.

Mrs. G's picks of the month



Both of my book choices introduce students to Harriet Tubman, an incredibly brave slave who risked her life to escape north to freedom. I typically read Escape North with my 3rd graders, and Go Free or Die with my 4th graders. Reading nonfiction books allows kids to experience history and connect with real people. Students have loved learning about Harriet and what made her so brave as she kept returning to the South to help lead more slaves to freedom. Discussing how Harriet was first taken away from her parents when she was about the age of a kindergarten student helps teach empathy and compassion for others. Many of my former students have made such a connection with Harriet's story, that they have continued reading other books about her life.

University of Iowa Community Credit Union Give & Grow Program April 1st - 30th



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Hills Bank Celebrates 10 years of Stories Alive! at Linn-Mar



We would like to send a BIG thank you out to Hills Bank & Trust for their 10th year of supporting the Stories Alive! visiting author program in our district. The Stories Alive! program, now 27 years at Linn-Mar, hosts a national author/illustrator to visit each of our elementary buildings to share their journey to becoming an author with our young readers and writers.

This year, Katherine Hannigan visited seven Linn-Mar schools in the last week of March to talk about how she became a children's author at 40! Katherine encouraged our students to "follow the fun" in their writing, don't worry about it being perfect, read, read, read and don't forget to believe in yourself as a great writer. Thank you Hills Bank & Trust for believing in our students and supporting literacy in our schools.



Linn-Mar 5th Grade Track Day

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

On **Thursday, May 3rd** 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 you 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 20th, 2018.**

*** 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: _____

