

Wilkins Elementary February



February 2017

Pam Schulz, Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The students and staff at Wilkins are working hard toward our academic goals. We are seeing some excellent growth on the Winter FAST screener that measures reading fluency. The staff is looking forward to sharing all of this information with you at conferences. Be looking for information about how to sign up for Spring conferences. This is an opportunity for teachers and parents to work together for the child's success.

Dr. Quintin Shepherd delivered the State of the District report to the Board of Education on Monday, January 23rd. This report is available on-line at the newly designed Linn-Mar Website: www.linnmar.k12.ia.us. The State of the District is one of the news stories on the front page. You can also navigate to the Wilkins Elementary page underneath the schools tab.

Weather: 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/spring weather at recess. I know the weather changes daily in Iowa, so we will continue to be prepared if the temperatures are cold.

Starting this year, all district buildings, will be participating in ALICE training. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Staff received ALICE training at the beginning of the year and students will receive grade level lessons in their classroom. The first lessons will be completed before Spring break and will be taught by the guidance counselor, Nick Mohwinkle, and myself. We will start by reading the book, *I'm Not Scared...I'm Prepared! Because I Know All About ALICE* by Julia Cook. If you have any questions about ALICE please feel free to give me a call.

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

Friday, February 17

Monday, February 20

March 13 - 17 (Spring Break)

Pamela C. Schulz



Grade Level News

Happy
Valentine's
Day

KINDERGARTEN: This past week our FAST testing window opened again. As a Kindergarten our scores are looking amazing! Our kiddos are working so hard. We will go through those scores with you soon. In math this past month we have been working a lot with Gus the Plus and Linus the Minus while we have been talking about story problems. This has been helping them to grasp addition and subtraction facts better. We reviewed what it meant to have the same attributes. We played a "fishing" game where the teachers cast their pole out to catch the fish, the students, and the others had to figure out why she was choosing those students. Such as, choosing all the students with red on their shirt that day, all the brunette kids, all with black shoes on. We also have worked on putting things in order. First I brush my teeth, then get dressed, and last go to school. In our Journey's curriculum we have had a lot of science skills worked into our reading. We have read a lot about animals and why they have some of the body parts that they have. Such as, monkeys have long tails to swing on the trees. No two zebras look the same. During our grammar and writing parts of Journeys we have worked on editing our sentences to make sure all of them start with a capital letter and end with a period. We have worked on adding details to our sentences, or spicing them up. We have finished our science kit on wood, fabric and motion. We learned about different kinds of fabric, how each feels, what you used each of them for, and even got to pull them apart and put drops of water on them. We finished off with motion and how things move and what keeps them on the ground, gravity. They loved the part where they had to make ramps and test the speeds of them and make things collide at the bottom of their ramps.

FIRST GRADE: First graders have been enjoying our Science unit, Light & Sound. We learned about kalimbas and spoon gongs and we had fun playing xylophones. We also discussed volume and pitch. We will be learning about shadows in the weeks ahead. We are continuing to work in our Journeys reading books, we are in Unit 4. We have been doing a lot of writing, too! We now have ten spelling words per list and two or three spelling patterns. Although we practice our spelling words at school each day, practicing at home is just as important. In math, we have been working on math fact strategies. We have completed Unit 5 in Everyday Math. Our next unit in math will focus on number sense and math facts. Over the next few weeks, students will be taking various assessments as we prepare for our upcoming parent-teacher conferences in March. Thank you for helping your child succeed in 1st grade!

SECOND GRADE: The 2nd graders have been very busy since coming back from break! We got right into the swing of things with math, science, and literacy. Students have been working through their Solids and Liquids unit for science and finishing up unit 6 in math. It's unbelievable that the year is half over! This means that the students will be taking their Mid-Year math assessment soon. FAST assessments are also starting to take place. The students are very excited for their aquatic experience at the high school swimming pool! This will be a great opportunity for them to get out of the classroom, into a new environment, and practice their skills of swimming. This will be taking place in early February. Please continue to have your kiddos read at home each night and work on their spelling words. Roar for Reading has been a great success! Thank you for everything you do at home!!

THIRD GRADE: The third graders are getting excited about completing their cursive instruction! We have been doing a lot of practicing and they will soon earn their very own "cursive license" with their pictures and signatures on them! In science, they have been learning patterns in motion! They are enjoying the investigations that have taught them about gravity, balance, and motion... especially 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 3D shape. Our PRIDE intervention groups have been working on decoding skills and fluency skills. We have seen great growth after re-testing student's fluency and accuracy on the FAST assessment! In mid-February, students will have completed their biography timeline as an at home project. We can't wait for them to share the information that they have learned. We are revisiting opinion/persuasive writing again. The students are writing to share their opinion on whether a familiar book character should squish the ant or not! After a little bit of research on ants, we think some of them may change their minds. Maybe ants aren't so bad after all. Thank you to all of the parents for promoting reading at home during our Roar for Reading Month!

FOURTH GRADE: Fourth grade students have been working hard since returning from Winter Break. We recently finished Benchmark testing and writing that goes along with our Journeys series. We have been learning how to divide in math. Our Unit 6 math test will be given on Tuesday, January 24. Before beginning Unit 7, Fractions, we will take a brief break to review and take the Mid Year Test. We are taking a break from Social Studies, but when we resume, we will visit the Midwest Region. In Science we are learning about Energy. During this unit we have learned how to light a light bulb and how to create parallel and series circuits! We will also be learning about magnetism. Please continue to have students read 20 minutes each night. As hard as it is to believe, conferences are right around the corner; be looking for a note to come home with information on signing up online. We look forward to visiting with you about the progress your student has made in 4th grade!

FIFTH GRADE: Fifth grade will be very busy in February. Important information is highlighted below:

Literacy: We will be finishing Unit 4. Remaining focus for comprehension skills will be author's purpose, summarizing, story structure, and questioning. Personal Narratives will continue to be the focus for writing. The Unit Journeys benchmark assessments in reading and writing will take place toward to the end of February.

Math: We will be taking the Middle of the Year May assessment before beginning Unit 7 from our Everyday Mathematics curriculum. Unit 7 will focus on Exponents and Negative Numbers, where we will investigate pre-algebra concepts and skills. Students will be introduced to the notational conventions of exponents, scientific notation, and number-and-word notation.

Science: 5C and 5D will complete the Mixtures and Solutions Foss Science Kit. The following investigations will be covered: Investigation 3: Concentration—Students make their own silly putty at home. Investigation 4: Reaching Saturation— Students grow crystals in their home laboratory. Investigation 5: Fizz Quiz— Students use baking soda to determine if different liquids are acids. 5W will complete the Living Systems Foss Science Kit. The following investigations will be covered: Investigation 2: Nutrient Systems—Students and their families use a stethoscope or make their own listening device to list to the body's internal systems. Investigation 3: Transport Systems— Students investigate the transport systems of plants using colored water. Investigation 4: Sensory Systems—Students determine how quickly they and family members can respond to a visual stimulus by using a response timer.

Social Studies: We will continue exploring Building the First Colonies in Chapter 4.

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation for parents/guardians will be held on Thursday, February 9th at 6:15 (meeting begins 6:30 pm). Children must be 5 by September 15, 2017 to enter kindergarten next fall. Please bring verification of age (copy of birth certificate, hospital or baptism record), and also a proof of residence (copy of lease agreement, or a bill with your name/address). If you have NOT contacted Wilkins with your student's information, please contact Vicky Faulkner @447-3380 or vfaulkner@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 three, 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 Three Year Olds

- Age 3 on or by September 15, 2017
- \$200 Monthly tuition
- Half day, Four days a week

Preschool for Four Year Olds

- Age 4 on or by September 15, 2017
- 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 Monday February 8th, 2016 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, 2017, may be served in one of two program models:

Kindergarten

Contact your neighborhood school for dates and time of the kindergarten night for parents that is held in February.

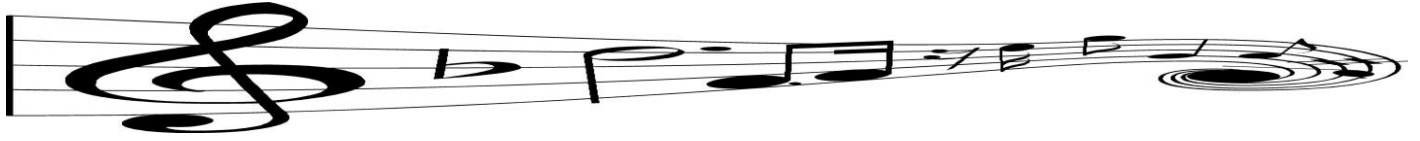
Early Childhood Blended Program

If you are unsure if your child is ready for kindergarten, Linn-Mar's Early Childhood Blended Program may be an option. This program is an all-day program for children

Screening dates are February 27, 2017 and March 6, 2017. 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 2017

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. If any 4th or 5th grader wasn't involved in Chorus in the fall, they are welcome to join the group now. Please contact Mrs. Peterson ASAP if your child wants to get started. This time of year it's a good reminder 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 23 at 2:00 for the school and 6:30 in the gym for parents, friends, and family. We will be presenting a fun and educational program called, "Let's Jam! It's Our Band".

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 can dress up nicely for this concert and will need a pair of sunglasses for one of our songs.

Next month the 2nd Grade will have their music program. They will be doing a musical called, "Stone Soup" on Thursday, March 23. There are a few 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.

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

5th Grade - February 23

2nd Grade - March 23

4th & 5th Grade Chorus April 14 morning field trip. Return to school by 11:30.

Chorus & Wilkins Orchestra Concert- April 18

Kindergarten - April 20

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 7th**. Students will be meeting in the High School Auditorium for the Dress Rehearsal before school that morning at 7:35 AM. They will ride the bus back to their building afterwards. The concert begins that evening at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend and support our 5th Grade Orchestra!!

Conference Information

*Conference Window is Feb 27 – March 9
Late night conferences: March 2 and March 7

Parents will be able to sign on to the online conference scheduling system from 7:00 am Monday, February 13 thru Sunday, February 26 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!



Wilkins Way!

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

This month, the staff has been reviewing the Wilkins Way expectations with students. We've reviewed common areas like the hallway, lockers, drinking fountains, etc. and classroom expectations and routines. Students are continuing to earn paw prints when they are following the Wilkins Way: be respectful, be responsible, be ready, and be safe. 2017 is off to a great start!



Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair is coming!! We are excited about giving students the opportunity to purchase books for their own collections. The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday, 2/28/17 2:45-4pm
Thursday, 3/2/17 2:45-7pm (conferences)
Tuesday, 3/7/17 2:45-7pm (conferences)

The money made through this fundraiser will go toward the purchase of new books for our library media center. We look forward to seeing you at the book fair!



At 6:30 PM

Free Childcare and Valentine craft for the kids.

Teacher Talk by Katie Mallie on STEM

Come have a Valentine treat with us and learn about upcoming events.

No membership dues

No registering

All Wilkins parents and staff are members of the PTO



Roar for Reading Coloring Contest Winners



Wendy's
GET TOGETHERS
Having Fun Raising Funds

Join us on Tuesday, February 28
from 5:00-7:00 PM at
Wendy's—190 Collin Rd NE, Cedar Rapids
10% of all sales from 5:00-7:00 PM will go to Wilkins PTO
Visit us at the Wilkins PTO table for treats





We need students and parents to help teachers & staff open doors, greet guests, wipe tables, and carry trays from 4-8 PM in 30-60 minute shifts.

To volunteer, contact shannonhampson@yahoo.com.



DONATE WHILE YOU DINE

Visit Culver's of Marion on Tuesday February 7th between 4-10pm and we will donate 10% of sales to Wilkins Elementary PTO.

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



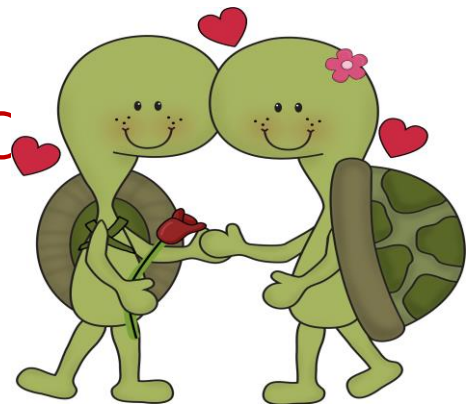
Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

Culver's of Marion
1375 Red Fox Way
Marion, Iowa 52302
(319)373-7575

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February Calenc



- *February 2.....5th Grade Winter Band Concert
- *February 6.....Board of Education Meet 5:00pm Work session 7:00pm regular session
- *February 7.....5th & 6th Grade Orchestra Concert 7:00pm at HS Auditorium
- *February 9..... Kindergarten Orientation 6:15 (for parents only)
- *February 13..... Conference sign up begins at 7:00 am
- *February 14.....Friendship Parties @ 2:15
- *February 14.....PTO Meeting 6:30
- *February 16.....Volunteer Workshop @ 8:30
- *February 17.....**NO SCHOOL** – teacher workday
- *February 20..... **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher Professional Learning
- *February 20..... Board of Education Meet 5:00pm Work session 7:00pm regular session
- *February 23.....5th grade Music Program 6:30 pm
- *February 24.....Report cards sent home with your child
- *February 26.....Conference sign up ends at 10:00 pm
- *February 28.....Wilkins day at Wendy’s 5:00 – 7:00, 10% of sales goes back to Wilkins

Part-Time position available



The Linn-Mar Foundation has a non-exempt part-time accounting and administrative assistant position available. If you are looking for flexibility and working for an organization that supports education, this might be for you!

[Click here for a job description.](#) Interested applicants should forward their resume electronically to the Foundation by February 15th.

Linn-Mar School Foundation Funding in Action!



The next few months are exciting for the K-5 students in our building! The Linn-Mar Foundation is bringing three very special programs to our elementary students across the district. Over 3500 students will receive these enrichment opportunities treasured by staff and students alike.

February - Opera Iowa returns to Linn-Mar for a fun, interactive full opera performance of Jack & the Beanstalk courtesy of our Foundation. Students will be engaged, entertained and educated by the touring performance group [Opera Iowa!](#) Thank you to the Linn-Mar Foundation and community partner [Farmers State Bank](#) for supporting music in our schools.

March - Orchestra Iowa will be bringing in brass, string and woodwind ensembles to our district 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students. Both educational and entertaining, Orchestra Iowa performers bring music to life for our students!

April - Stories Alive, a 27 year tradition at Linn-Mar is made possible by the Linn-Mar School Foundation and community partner [Hills Bank & Trust](#). National author [Betsy Lewin](#), children's author & illustrator, will meet and visit with all district elementary students. Our students will go on exciting journeys as she takes them from her studios to far-flung reaches of the world, and back again - with stories to tell!
Mountain gorillas in Africa! Tigers in India! Camels and elephants and bears. Oh my!

The Stories Alive program encourages and inspires our young Linn-Mar readers!

Save the Date! Friday, March 24th, 6:00 p.m. [Reserve Your Tickets Here!](#)

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 24th! Join the Linn-Mar School Foundation for a ROARING good time at the Annual Mane Event dinner and auction. This signature fundraiser will feature a Roaring 20's theme, mobile bidding, a fun Escape Room, Speakeasy, Casino games, Roaring Improv dinner show, photo booth, auctions and more. Ticket reservations available now. Plan your table now and get ready for an amazing night to benefit our Linn-Mar students.



