

# November

2017

Amanda Potter, Principal

Dear Wilkins Elementary Families,

It is hard to believe we are already in the month of November. We are so thankful for the opportunity to work with your child(ren) each and every day!

The end of the first trimester arrives on Thursday, November 9th. Teachers will complete report cards during a “No School Day” on Friday, November 10th. These report cards will be sent home with students on Monday, November 20th.

Conferences were a wonderful success in October. Building relationships between home and school is a priority at Wilkins Elementary, and we appreciate any opportunity to discuss your child’s learning with you. One of the common questions we heard at conferences was, “What can we do at home to help our child with reading?” Here are some techniques on how to teach your child that reading is enjoyable and valuable, as well as to improve their reading skills ([www.FamilyEducation.com](http://www.FamilyEducation.com)):

- **Set aside a regular time to read to your child every day.**
  - Research shows that reading aloud to children, no matter what the age, will result in significant gains in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and the decoding of words.
- **Surround your child with reading material.**
  - Tempt your child to read by keeping a large supply of books and magazines at their reading level throughout the house.
- **Have a family reading time.**
  - Set aside 15-30 minutes each night when everyone reads together silently. When your child sees you reading, it inspires them to do the same! Daily practice (even just 15 minutes) will increase their reading fluency.
- **Encourage a wide variety of reading activities.**
  - Daily activities such as reading menus, roadside signs, weather reports, game directions, and much more are easy ways to make reading an integral part of your child’s life. Also remember that riding in a car or waiting for an appointment are excellent opportunities for your child to read.
- **Develop the library habit.**
  - Take your child to the library every few weeks to get new reading material. Also, many libraries have reading programs for all ages of children and could help further their interest in reading.
- **Use a variety of aids to help your child.**
  - Use books, computer programs, and games to allow your child to have fun as they work on their reading skills.
- **Show enthusiasm for your child’s reading.**
  - Praise your child for their efforts – they will be proud of themselves and work harder in the process!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Potter, Principal



# Calendar

- Nov. 6..... PTO Meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- Nov. 6 – 17.....”Families Helping Families” Food Drive Week
- Nov. 8..... Hearing Screening for all Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
5<sup>th</sup> grades
- Nov. 9..... 4<sup>th</sup> grade Music Concert 6:30 pm
- Nov. 10..... **NO SCHOOL**
- Nov. 14..... Book Fair 3:00 – 5:00 pm
- Nov. 14..... Parade of Bands 7:45 pm
- Nov. 15..... Book Fair 3:00 – 4:00 pm
- Nov. 16..... Open House/Book Fair/PTO Supper  
5:00 – 7:00 pm
- Nov. 16.....PTO Blood Drive 3:15 – 7:00
- Nov. 17..... Volunteer Workshop 9:00 – 11:00 am
- Nov. 18.....PTO skate night 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- Nov. 20.....Report Cards will be sent home
- Nov. 22-24.....**NO SCHOOL**
- Nov. 28..... PTO Wendy’s Night 5:00 – 7:00 pm  
(10% back to Wilkins)
- Nov. 30.....1<sup>st</sup> Grade Music Concert 6:30 pm





**Kindergarten:** We were able to go on our first field trip of the school year. We had so much fun getting to explore Bloomsbury Farms and getting to take our first bus ride for many, and they loved getting to bring home their own little pumpkin. Thank you to all of the parents who joined us and made it possible for us to go.

**Literacy-** We have been plugging along with our Jolly Phonics and will be done next week with all 43 sounds. The kids are doing fabulous learning all of those pair sounds such as ch, sh and th. We will start sending home books for you to read with child at night within the next few weeks. In our writing we have really been working on adding adjectives to our writing and making our sentences more interesting to read.

**Math-** we have started learning about estimation and when would be a good time to use an estimation. We will be sending home a little container for a child to add small things in it like M&Ms, cotton balls, cheerios or anything that is small that the children can practice estimation. This was a favorite activity of years past. We focused a lot on teen numbers and how they are tricky because you hear to second number first before the number one.

**Science-** We have moved into our leaves part of our tree unit. We had the chance to go outside and explore the trees around the playground and look closely at their leaves. We looked at the colors, size and shape of them. We compared the shapes of the leaves and learned there can be spears, triangles, ovals, lines, heart, and paddle.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** First graders have had a busy fall! The teachers are really impressed with the improvement in reading we have seen so far. After analyzing all the beginning of the year testing data we have worked very hard to give each student the instruction he/she needs. This month our core stories will be Dr. Seuss, A Cupcake Party, At Home in the Ocean, and How Leopard Got His Spots. This gives kids exposure to a wide variety of literary genres: biography, fiction, non-fiction, and fables. First grade math continues to build on their knowledge of money, which can be a very difficult concept for young children! Students are learning to identify and continue patterns and learn time to the half hour. We are finishing our Pebbles, Sand, and Silt. Investigation 3 focuses on creating things with clay and sand sculptures. Students study how we use things in everyday life: sidewalks, roads, flower pots, and bricks. They also experiment with different grades of sandpaper and discuss its uses. We enjoyed meeting all the families during conferences. It is important to have those face-to-face meetings for us to collaborate about your child.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Second graders are having so much fun learning about so many new things. In November, we will be finishing up our science unit on Air and Weather. In math we continue to work on our fact fluency, time and money skills. We are writing like crazy. November will be filled with writing how to papers and stories about our lives. We continue to focus on having a growth mindset. Thanks to all the parents for conferencing with us we are so proud of our second graders.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** We are near the completion of our trimester-long study of water. Students have investigated the three states of water through various hands-on activities. November will bring our first social studies unit entitled “Communities.” Third graders will learn about the different types of communities people live and work in. In reading, we continue to work on comprehension skills. We are completing the lowercase cursive alphabet and will begin the uppercase alphabet soon. The students are doing a great job! Opinion writing will be our new writing focus as the children continue to learn to state their opinion and include supporting reasons. In math, we have studied measurement (US and Metric lengths) as well as area and perimeter. November also brings the first unit of MULTIPLICATION! Students will now be working to learn these facts up to 6 x 6 for November and December. Keep reading for your monthly reading log goal of 350 minutes!

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Thank you for attending conferences! We enjoyed being able to sit down with you to discuss your child’s progress in fourth grade thus far. In math, we are beginning unit four on decimals. Remember to practice your basic math facts at home. Also, please use your Everyday Math and Moby Max accounts online! Expect to see math homework being sent home several times a week. In Science, students recently completed the Soils, Rocks, and Landforms unit. We have kicked off the Invention Convention; your child will have the opportunity to invent something and present it to judges on December 7. In Social Studies, students will begin learning about the Northeast Region. In Journeys, we read a story from our textbook and focus on specific comprehension skills. Please continue to check Seesaw every night to see daily assignments and upcoming tests and events in fourth grade.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** In math, we will complete Unit 4 on division, which includes whole numbers and decimals, and both single digit and double digit divisors. Unit 5, students will explore fractions, decimals, and percents. Students will find equivalent fractions and add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. Soon we will finish Unit 3 in literacy. Target comprehension skills will include: conclusions and generalizations and main Ideas and details. In Unit 4, students will revisit author’s purpose and analyze story structure. Students will continue informative writing in Unit 3 and will complete narrative writing in Unit 4. In social studies, we will conclude our study of Native Americans. During the second trimester, our focus of instruction will be on European explorers, what they discovered, and the impact of their journeys. In science, we will finish our kit Earth and Sun and will begin our new chemistry unit titled Mixtures and Solutions.

## ***Wilkins Way November News***

Our Wilkins Way Paw Store is now open for the students to use their paw prints to shop for fun items and special trinkets. Each grade level has their own day to redeem their paw prints once per month until we get to the point where we can have students come every other week to buy.

Along with the Paw Store, special Paw Draws will be happening at various times each month, as will special all-school Wilkins Way celebrations. The students are doing a great job of following the Wilkins Way and earning those paw prints!

***Keep up the great work, Wilkins students!***

# BAND NEWS



## “PARADE OF BANDS” CONCERT:

On Tuesday November 14th, the NOVAK/INDIAN CREEK/LINN GROVE/WILKINS (Eastside) Bands will have their first concert. The program will be held in the Linn-Mar High School Auditorium and begin at **7:45 PM**. The concert will include performances by the Eastside 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, the Excelsior MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, and the Linn-Mar HS Wind Symphony. The concert should last about one hour. We ask that students arrive at school between **7:10 – 7:30 PM** (but not before 7:00 PM). All Band students should report to the HS Little Theatre for instructions before proceeding to the stage. *Please* have students wear nice dress clothes for this major performance. A free will donation can be made at the door.

In preparation for the concert, we will be practicing together that **MORNING** (Nov. 14th) at **L-M HS**. Please **drop your student off** at the HS North (Stadium side) main entrance Door 3 between 6:45 and 6:50 am for our **7:00 -7:45 am morning rehearsal**. It is *very important* that your student attend this rehearsal. Students will be bused to school after the rehearsal. Percussion, baritone and tuba instruments will already be at the HS. All other students should bring their instruments and Band music.

Please note - With winter approaching, please remember that if there is a weather-related **LATE START**, *Group Band WILL NOT meet* - but students should still bring instruments to school for lessons.



## News from Mr. Sinnott

Hello Parents and Students... What a great past couple of months! It is great to see new and old faces for another exciting school year. This month, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will begin the **Jump Rope for Heart** Fundraiser Campaign. JRFH is a valuable program that promotes physical activity, heart healthy living, and community service to children. This year we are looking to raise \$2,000.00 as a school. All students are to ask for donation, in-person or online, from friends and family members. The money will be used to continue finding a cure for heart disease and to purchase PE equipment. All JRFH Donation packets are due on 11/30/17. The link to our Team Webpage is

[http://www2.heart.org/site/TR?company\\_id=35437&fr\\_id=3193&pg=company](http://www2.heart.org/site/TR?company_id=35437&fr_id=3193&pg=company)

It takes heart to be a hero. Thanks...Mr. Sinnott



## Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair is coming!! The next book fair at Wilkins will be held in November. We are excited about giving students the opportunity to purchase books for their own collections. The dates and times are as follows:

<b>Tuesday, 11/14/17</b>	<b>3-5pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, 11/15/17</b>	<b>3-4pm</b>
<b>Thursday, 11/16/17</b>	<b>5-7pm (Open House)</b>

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!



## ICCA Book Club

The students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade have the opportunity to be part of the Iowa Children's Choice Award book club. The students can read books off of the ICCA list for 2017-2018 and take a quiz. Fifth graders have to read 6 books and fourth graders have to read 5 books to join the club. After they have read enough books, their name is put on a poster in the library. We will have a party to celebrate these students in the spring. This club is optional.



## News from Mr. Mohwinkle Wilkins Counselor

The holidays are just around the corner. We will be doing the Giving Tree again this year. If you would like some assistance with gifts, please contact Jackie Butz or Nick Mohwinkle. The deadline to turn in your forms for assistance this year is November 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jackie (447-3382) or myself (447-3383).

## Wilkins "Families Helping Families" Food Drive

Food Drive Dates: November 6 – November 17

**Who:** Wilkins families and staff are encouraged to support this great cause

**Where:** Wilkins Elementary, of course!

**Why:** Wilkins families and staff can do their part to fight hunger in our community. What an awesome way to show "Character Counts!" Food Donations will be given to the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Mission Food Pantry. Bring non perishable food items and please check expiration dates.

Donations may be brought to the classroom.



Food  
Collection

**NO GLASS PLEASE**



## November Notes from the Music Room

CONGRATULATIONS to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class for doing a FANTASTIC job on their music program. What a wonderful turn out we had of parents, grandparents and other family members who attended the program. Thank you so much for supporting your child and all of the effort they put into this!

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class will have the next program. This will be held in the gym on Thursday, November 9 at 6:30. This is a patriotic concert and we will be recognizing Veterans in the audience so we can express our thanks to them for serving our country. Our concert has the theme of "We Honor You!" Students need to be in their classroom by 6:15 that evening and have been asked to wear red, white, and/or blue clothing. The concert will last approximately 30 minutes. Students are expected to be at their grade level concert. You are welcome to invite other veteran's to this program so we can let them know we appreciate them.

The 1st grade will have their music concert on Thursday, November 30 at 6:30 in the gym. They will presenting "'Twas the Night Before Christmas". We have been learning the catchy songs for this concert and the students are doing a fabulous job! For this concert students will be able to dress up nice in dressy clothes.

Wilkins received very exciting news! Two of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were selected to be in Opus, an All State Honors Choir. Opus is sponsored by the Iowa Choral Directors Association. This year over 3,000 students from across the state tried out for Opus. There are four choirs (grades 5-6, Treble Clef 7-8 Grade, Bass Clef 7-8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir) of 180 students each.. CONGRATULATIONS to Lindsey Corner and Brynlie Peery for making it into Opus!! This event takes place at Iowa State on November 16 along with the All-State Music Festival activities.

Please mark your calendar so you can set aside the date your child will have their classroom Music Concert. This is one of the highlights of the year for the students and you won't want to miss it. All concerts will be held in the Wilkins Gym at 6:30

4<sup>th</sup> Grade - November 9

1<sup>st</sup> Grade - November 30

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Chorus - December 14

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus - December 15 at High School for Basketball game. We will meet at the HS cafeteria next to the gym at 5:30 and sing at 5:55.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - February 22

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - March 22

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us).



## Thinking Ahead to Cold Winter Weather

Students should bring the following winter clothing **EVERY DAY** once winter hits. Even if there is no snow on the ground, the wind is cold and the ground damp.

***Please send:***

***Winter Coat – Snow Pants – Boots – Gloves or Mittens***

(If your child needs any of the above items, please contact the Wilkins office.)

Also, please remember to send an extra pair of socks, mittens or gloves with your child to school to keep in their bag in case they become wet.

**Students are outside when the wind chill is 10 and above.**



## Too Sick for School?



From: Health Services

Each day many parents are faced with a decision:

**Should they keep their sick children home or send them off to school?** The following guidelines, recommended by experts at the Mayo Clinic, should be considered when making this sometimes difficult decision. A student should remain home when he/she:

- \*vomits or has diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- \*has an oral temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- \*coughs almost constantly or complains of difficult breathing
- \*has sores on mouth or skin that are crusty, yellow or draining
- \*displays an unexplained skin rash or red eye (with or without crusting/drainage)

Keeping a sick child home prevents the spread of illness in the school. It also allows the child an opportunity to rest and recover. A sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in classes in a meaningful way.