



From the Principal

Dear Families,

Our first trimester is almost over. In school terms that means parent-teacher conferences, teacher professional learning, and report cards. For kids and families, that means some four-day school weeks.

Thanks to everyone that was able to come to conferences. Over 75% of the teachers reported that at least 90% of their families were able to attend a conference. We know the importance of the home-school partnership so we appreciate you making the effort to attend. We know there are many other responsibilities pulling on your time. We appreciate any feedback on the conference system. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. [Parent Fall Conference Survey](#)

Staff Learning

On October 26th and 27th, while your children were not in school, teachers were learning from national experts on Professional Learning Communities. This allowed Novak teachers to collaborate with teachers across the district. We are improving our teaching practices in order to raise student achievement.

FAST

FAST is a State required reading assessment given to students in our Early Childhood Blended Program, kindergarten, and first through fifth grade. As a building, we have raised our beginning of the year proficiency score up 6% from last year. We are starting the year with 70% of our students proficient on this assessment. Any student not meeting the State benchmark is receiving extra support in reading. Students at proficiency are receiving enrichment in reading or math.

Red Cross Donations

Last month we collected change to donate to the Red Cross for the victims of recent hurricanes. As a result of this, we collected \$269.64 that has been donated. Thanks to everyone that was able to contribute.

Upcoming Events

11/14 - Parade of Bands (5th gr.)

11/14 - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm

11/16 - Title Reading Night 6:30-7:30 pm – Milk & Cookies

11/20 – Reports Cards go home

11/21 - 4th Grade Invention Convention

11/22 - NO SCHOOL - Comp Day
11/23 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
11/24 - NO SCHOOL - Vacation Day

12/05 - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm

12/7 - Volunteer Workshop - 8:15 am

ALICE: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate

As you read in the August newsletter, your children are learning how to keep themselves safe in the unlikely event of an intruder. In child language, an intruder is someone who doesn't follow the rules and may want to cause us harm. We have talked to your children about what to do and have practiced evacuating to a safe location away from school. On November 10th, staff continued their learning by participating in an ALICE drill conducted by the Marion Police Department.

More Important News

BAND NEWS

"Parade of Bands" Concert:

On Tuesday, November 14th, the bands from Novak, Indian Creek, Linn Grove and Wilkins (Eastside) will have their first concert. The program will be held in the Linn-Mar High School Auditorium and begins at 7:45 pm. The concert will include performances by the Eastside 5th Grade Band, the Excelsior 6th Grade Band the Linn-Mar High School 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 High School Little Theatre for instructions before proceeding to the stage. **Please** have the 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 the morning of Tuesday, November 14th at Linn-Mar High School. Please drop your student off at the north side of the High School (stadium side) at **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 high school. All other students should bring their instruments and band music.

Winter Weather 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 their instruments to school for lessons.



PBIS News

In PBIS this month our focus is respecting all adults at Novak. We want students to respect not only the teachers in our building, but also associates and office staff. We are targeting this skill in the hallway, at recess, and at lunch. In these three areas students have the opportunity to earn special golden tickets for showing respect to adults. These gold tickets are going into a special container for 2 drawings over the next two weeks. Students who have their names drawn will be able to have lunch with a friend at a special golden table in the lunchroom. You can support this skill at home by talking with your student(s) about ways they can be respectful while at school.



BrightBytes Survey

We are once again partnering with **BrightBytes**, an educational research and analytics company, in order to learn more about our students' school and home technology use for learning.

We are reaching out to ask you to take part in our Linn-Mar questionnaire. Your participation helps us form a complete picture of technology use for learning. Please know that all of your responses will remain anonymous to protect your privacy and they will help your child's school choose the right technology for their classrooms. It will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

The last day to complete this questionnaire is **November 17, 2017 @ 4:00pm CST**.

Please go to: <https://bbyt.es/2Z2UC>

Seesaw – Tips for Parents

Remember that we welcome your meaningful comments on your child's posts through Seesaw. Please try and include specific praise or improvement. Instead of: "Good Job!" Try: "Great job on your reading! I could hear every word clearly!"

When commenting remember or try these:

- Can you tell more about...
- I wish I understood why...
- I am curious about...
- What do you think about...
- Your post reminded me that...
- This was interesting to me because...
- I think you did a great job because...

The students love to hear from you, so remember to comment on your child's post!

Novak Physical Education

It's been a very busy first months of school. We enjoyed our time with student teacher, Mr. Smith. During his time here, Mr. Smith Developed and taught a soccer unit to all grade levels. Skill focus was on dribbling, passing, shooting, as well as some basic offensive and defensive strategies. The weather this fall has been very helpful and students in third through fifth grade had the opportunity to utilize our soccer fields throughout the unit. Grades K-2 also reviewed a variety of locomotor skills. These included walk, run, jump, hop, gallop, side-slide, and skip.

October

This month, students in **fourth and fifth** grades are completing their fall Fitness-gram testing. Once all the date is entered, you will receive an email with a printout of their scores as well as information on whether or not they are in the healthy fitness zone. Ideas will also be presented on ways in which to improve any areas that are no currently within the healthy fitness zone. This is all done within the Fitness-gram software.

Third grade just completed a fitness unit in which time was spent practicing the Fitness-gram tests for next year as well as learning how to find and measure their pulse. We also participated in different fitness activities and discussed how they met the five Health-Related Fitness Components (Cardiovascular Endurance, Muscular Endurance, Muscular Strength, Flexibility, and Body Composition).

Kindergarten through 2nd grade tried out some different equipment during stations including jump ropes, hoppity balls and scoops. We've also begun our throwing unit. Students should be able to explain and demonstrate and underhand throw. I use the cues (tic-toc for the arm motion, step with the opposite foot, throw). We are just beginning to practice an overhand throw (Mr. T, Muscle, Step, throw, follow through).

Looking Ahead

Spooky Stations – look for fun photos and videos on Seesaw.

Throwing – Upper grade levels will focus primarily on the overhand throw.

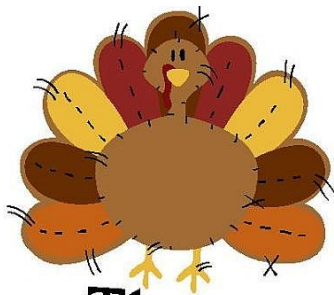
Reminder: Sign up for your classroom Seesaw account. I will be updating the P.E. folder regularly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Holly Fencil

hfencil@linnmar.k12.ia.us

447-3321



Happy Thanksgiving