



# Wilkins – September Newsletter

Dear Wilkins Families,

Welcome back to the 2017-2018 school year! We are so excited to be back at school and ready for an exciting and fun-filled year of learning! Your student has already been hard at work showing us what they remember from last year and learning new information this year. We hope you all have a wonderful year at Wilkins Elementary!

We have made a slight change this year to the beginning of our school day and it is making a big difference already. The first bell will ring at 7:45am instead of 7:50am, which invites students into the building at that time. We have found that the extra five minutes allow our students to take care of their morning jobs so we can efficiently start our school day at 8:00am.

We also want to remind everyone of the drop-off time of 7:35am. Outdoor supervision does not begin until 7:35am and in order to keep our students safe at all times, please do not drop your child off prior to 7:35am. Additionally, if your student walks or rides their bike to school, please talk to them about the appropriate time to leave the house so they do not arrive to school too early. Again, safety is our top priority and we do not want anything to happen to our students prior to supervision being available. If we notice students consistently showing up too early to school, we will be in contact with you so you can make adjustments in your morning routine.

Students have done a fantastic job of learning and/or reviewing the Wilkins Way: WE are Respectful, WE are Responsible, WE are Safe, and WE are Ready! Our staff is working hard to notice the positive behaviors from students and we are all acknowledging their positive behavior choices with paw prints. Ask your child if they have received a paw print this year!

Our goal is to communicate frequently with you so we can keep you updated on your child's progress at Wilkins Elementary. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns and we would be happy to discuss how we can best serve our Wilkins families. Thank you!

**Amanda Potter**  
Wilkins Principal

## **Recess and Lunch Times:**

Kindergarten	Lunch: 11:05	Recess: 11:25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Lunch: 11:20	Recess: 11:40
1st Grade	Lunch: 11:35	Recess: 11:55
5th Grade	Lunch: 11:55	Recess: 12:15
3rd Grade	Lunch: 12:10	Recess: 12:30
4th Grade	Lunch: 12:30	Recess: 12:50



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## FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

### Medication At School

To insure compliance with the Board Policy for administering medication at school, the following procedure must be followed:

- ⊕ **ALL MEDICATION MUST BE DELIVERED TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN IN THE ORIGINAL AND PROPERLY LABELED CONTAINER.** The container must include the following information: student name, medication, dosage, time, route and physician. Written authorization and instructions must be provided by parent/legal guardian for all medication. The school nurse shall have the right to contact the prescribing physician to confirm or clarify medication instructions. The time of medication administration may need to be altered slightly to fit your student's schedule.
- ⊕ **A physician/dentist signature is required before any non-prescription over-the-counter medication will be given.** This includes Tylenol, Advil, cough medicines, etc.  
**Physician signature/permission may be faxed to the school**  
**Wilkin's fax number: 319-373-9195, Attn: Health Office**
- ⊕ If any medication remains after the last day of school, it will be discarded within 24 hours.

Please call the Health Office at 319-447-3385 with any questions

**\*\*If you have any elastic waist pants, sizes 4-12 that you would like to donate, please drop off in health office. Thank you.**

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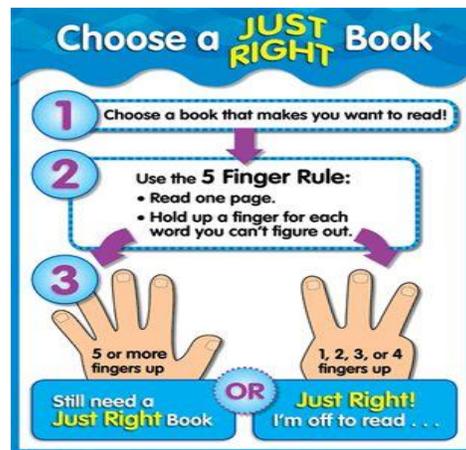


### Greetings from the Reading Team:



Welcome back to what is sure to be a fantastic school year for your child at Wilkins! The reading team (Katie Brown, Michelle Dalton, Sarah Gostonczik, and Debi Wells) has recently completed our beginning of the year reading assessments. If your child qualifies for an extra boost with their reading skills, you will be receiving a letter from one of us. Reading groups will start this week and are in addition to your child's classroom reading instruction. We meet daily for 25 minutes. We are so excited to work with your children and meet you at conferences! Please don't hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions!

Parents often wonder how to choose books for their child to read at home. Using the following guideline to select a "Just Right Book" is a great place to start.



### A Note from the Conductor... Mrs. Vieth

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra has officially started for this school year! Orchestra members will be practicing together on Monday mornings at Linn Grove from 7:15 - 7:45 am and Friday mornings at Wilkins from 7:15 - 7:45 am. We will be reviewing skills that students learned over the summer and will also be practicing new songs in preparation for our first performance this fall, which will take place on October 24th at 6:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. In addition to orchestra class, students will receive a weekly lesson where bowing technique and other challenging pieces are learned. I am excited to be teaching the 2017 - 2018 *Wilkins Orchestra* and invite everyone to attend our upcoming events!

Wishing you and your family a fantastic school year! Go Lions!



~ Mrs. Vieth ~

The Wilkins staff would like to send a huge Thank you out to PTO and all the parents who made donations to the Staff Appreciation Breakfast. There was such a great variety of food choices and the staff appreciates your generosity.



# Grade Level News



## Kindergarten:

We cannot believe that it is already September. We have been busy learning the Wilkins Way rules and expectations and are doing a great job earning those paw prints. Reading- We have started our Jolly Phonics program and are on track to learning those 43 different sounds. They are picking them up quickly and are on the track to becoming great readers by the end of the year. We are also in full force with using the Haggarty program for phonological awareness. They are working on isolating the first and last sounds in a word, blending and segmenting words, changing part of a word to make a new word, rhyming, and adding and deleting sounds on a word. We will begin our Journeys curriculum this coming week beginning with a unit on families. Math- We have started learning about comparing lengths of strips of paper, learning the names of our pattern blocks and the attributes that go along with each one and how to sort those blocks. Something new that they are learning is math rotations and how to move from one station to the next. We are focusing on number sense in these stations, such as five dots needs to be placed with the number 5.

## First Grade:

Our first graders have been very busy learning our school and classroom rules and routines. We have begun our first unit of Journeys reading, and we enjoy learning about friendship and the weather. We got our first two spelling lists and also began our high frequency words for first grade. In math, we have done a calendar review and are currently studying comparing numbers and learning some new games like "Penny-Dice Game", "Bunny Hop", and "Top It". We got to draw shapes using our Everyday Mathematics templates. We have also learned about likely outcomes, and we got our first math homework! We have finished our first unit of social studies and we learned about rules and laws. It helped us to understand the importance of following the rules and being good citizens. We also did many reviews of the Wilkins Way schoolwide expectations during our first few days of school. Our second unit of social studies is a geography unit, and we are excited to learn about different land formations as well as maps and globes. The students are doing a wonderful job of adjusting to all of the new and exciting changes that first grade brings, and we all look forward to a wonderful year of growth and learning!

## Second Grade:

Welcome to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade! We are starting the year strong with review of rules and expectations. The students have done a nice job transitioning into a new routine and a new schedule this year. We are starting our curriculum, so expect spelling and vocabulary practice and tests each Friday. Students will also bring home their first math homework toward the end of the first math unit. We will begin our social studies lessons, which discuss government and the differences between laws and rules. Science will start in a few weeks; our first unit is air and weather related. This ties in perfectly with the changing of the seasons. Please continue to have students read each night, at least 20 minutes. It is important for them to feel the connection between home and school. Thank you so much for all of the support at home!

### Third Grade:

Third graders are off to a great start to an exciting year of learning. In September, we will continue to learn lower-case cursive letters. Remind your child to only practice the letters that have been taught in class! In math, we have been busy learning about number sequences, number grids, place value, and telling time. In Science, Water and Climate is our ten-week unit of study. We will be conducting many investigations to explore water. Beginning this month, students will need to record the number of minutes they read each night. Our goal is for each child to read a minimum of 350 minutes by the end of the month. Part of being a third grader is taking more responsibility. That includes keeping track of their take home folder and its contents. The parent log is a communication tool between teachers and parents. Please empty the pockets nightly, return any needed homework or forms, and check the parent log. Thank you for your support in helping your child become more responsible. We are looking forward to a very successful year of high levels of learning!

### Fourth Grade:

Welcome back to school! We are so excited to have your child in fourth grade! In math, we took the Beginning of the Year math assessment and finished unit one which included reviewing and learning new concepts in Geometry. Remember to practice your basic addition and subtraction facts at home. Expect to see math homework Tuesday through Thursday. In our reading curriculum, Journeys, there is a focus skill and strategy each week that we will practice with our anchor text. Students will also meet in a small guided reading group every day. In Social Studies, students will have begun the Iowa Unit, learning many great facts about our great state! Students are looking forward to our first field trip to Iowa City to see the Old Capitol and visit the Natural Museum of History. In Science, students will do many experiments and participate in hands on activities. Our first unit is Soils, Rocks, and Landforms. Please make sure to check your child's agenda on Seesaw every night to see daily assignments and upcoming tests and events in fourth grade. Thank you very much for attending Open House! We will be taking the NWEA tests within the next two weeks and your child's score in reading and math will be shared with you at conferences.

### Fifth Grade:

Fifth grade is off to a great start! Students are doing well following the Wilkins Way by being safe, respectful, responsible, and ready. In math, we finished the first unit, which included arrays, square numbers, prime factorization, etc. In unit 2, we are working on addition and subtraction of whole numbers and decimals, multiplication of whole numbers and decimals, and chance and probability. In reading, fifth graders are receiving instruction in whole group and small groups to improve their fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. Skills and strategies taught this month include: sequencing, theme, cause and effect, and characterization. In writing, students are completing narrative stories. The focus of instruction in social studies this trimester is Native Americans. Students learn about ancient civilizations and Native American groups that lived in North America. In science this trimester, students are completing the kit, Earth and Sun. So far, students have learned about shadows and what causes day and night.

## News from the Art Room

We have had a great start in Art so far this school year. I am excited to welcome back all of our former students, and see some new faces as well. Many grade levels have begun working on their Art To Remember project for the year. You should be receiving information regarding their personal artwork in early November.

**HELP NEEDED:** I am looking for volunteers to help photograph artwork for our Artsonia website. Please email me if you are interested in helping or need more information.

Thank you!

Sara Hovden, Wilkins Art Teacher - [shovden@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:shovden@linnmar.k12.ia.us)

## Notes from the Music Room



Your children have all had a couple of Music Classes by the time you read this newsletter and we are off to a great start this year!

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 PM:

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - October 19

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 - Friday, 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 - April 17

Kindergarten - April 19

Chorus is a co-curricular activity open to 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade and will begin on **Thursday, September 7**. Chorus will meet in the Music Room two times per week. **Everyone** will meet together on **Thursday's** after school from **2:45 - 3:30**. In addition to this, the **5<sup>th</sup> Grade** will have Chorus on **Tuesday's** before school from **7:30 - 7:50** and **4<sup>th</sup> Grade** will meet **Wednesday** mornings from **7:30 - 7:50**. Chorus will begin with everyone on **Thursday, September 7 from 2:45 - 3:30**. Parents need to fill out a consent form to allow students to participate in Chorus. Registration is online at:

[www.tinyurl.com/wilkinschorus](http://www.tinyurl.com/wilkinschorus)

Hard copies are available upon request. If you need more information, please contact Mrs. Peterson at [Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will have the first Wilkins Music concert of the year on Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 in the gym. They will be presenting a musical called, "The Phantom of the Music Room". Please mark your calendar to attend our first concert of the year.

If you have any questions or concerns about what is going on in Music, please don't hesitate to contact me, Kris Peterson. The best way is through school e-mail at [Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:Kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us).

I'm looking forward to having a great school year making music with your child!



If you haven't paid school fees yet, please send it with your child to school. Place it into an envelope and mark "registration fees" on the outside of the envelope. Fees are \$50.00 per child. If your child qualified for reduced meals, the cost is \$25.00. In September if you have not paid your school fees, you will be sent a notice from the district.

*Thank you for your help in this matter!*

## **Don't Forget!**

*Meet and Greet for New Volunteers  
Thursday, September 21 at 9:00 am in  
the Wilkin's cafeteria. We hope to see  
many new faces.*



**America Reads is a national challenge to improve literacy in elementary school age children. America Reads day at Linn-Mar will be hosted on Thursday, October 19, 2017. This special day invites our community into our schools to read, and to be involved in our schools.**

A big "Thank You!" to the Wilkins parents who helped with the Staff breakfast, by donating a food item(s). Our Welcome Back to School Staff Breakfast was a huge success! I heard many, "thank you's" and "everything was delicious" from the Staff members. Watch for posts on the Wilkins Elementary Facebook Page for upcoming Staff Appreciation events. If you're not following the Facebook page, please do so! It's a simple way for me to communicate with all of the Wilkins Parents. Thank you! Tammy E./PTO Staff Appreciation



## September Calendar - Wilkins Elementary

- Sept. 21.....New Volunteer Meet & Greet @ 9:00  
Sept. 25.....Conference Sign up window starts (open until Sunday October, 8th)  
Sept. 29.....PTO Wilkins Tech Trek during special times  
Looking ahead into October  
Oct. 2.....PTO Science Night 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Oct. 3.....PTO Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
Oct. 5.....Homecoming Parade  
Oct. 6.....Homecoming Football Game  
(NWEA testing will occur within the Sept. 15 - Oct. 2 time frame)



Conference Window:

September 25 - October 8

Late night conferences October 12 and October 17

*Parents : Please look for information to come home with your child regarding online conference sign up. It is important to sign up as soon as possible (dates will be included in information you receive). You will be able to get the best choice of times that fit with your schedule and if you have two students at Wilkins, you will be able to schedule them back to back!*



**SAVE THE DATE - Thursday, September 21st**  
**Dine Out For Our Schools**

Step out of the kitchen on September 21st and join us for a brand new Foundation event - Dine Out for Our Schools! Participating restaurants (approx. 15) will donate 10% or more of sales back to the Foundation for classroom and curriculum projects.

Grab your morning coffee, lunch and dinner on September 21st and help fund great projects for Linn-Mar schools this year. Tag the Foundation & restaurants on social media for a chance at fun prizes!

All participating restaurants will be announced by September 10th! Everyone needs to eat #DineOut4LM!



