

LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2017

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January 2018



Important Dates

December

5th Family breakfast 7:45am
7th: 2nd to GBPAC
11th: **NO SCHOOL-Staff PD**
14th: 4th/5th Music Concert
6:30pm
20th: Make & Take
22nd-Jan. 2nd: **NO SCHOOL**
-winter break-

Happy Holidays

January

3rd: Students return to school
3rd: PTO/PIE 4pm
11th: Winter Formal Dance
6:30-8pm
12th: **NO SCHOOL-Staff PD**
15th: **NO SCHOOL-Martin**
Luther King, Jr. Birthday
30th: 5th to GBPAC

February

12th: PTO 6pm
13th: Conferences 4-7:30pm
14th: Valentine's Day Parties
15th: **NO SCHOOL-**
Conferences 8:30-8pm
16th: **NO SCHOOL**
22nd: 3rd Music Concert
6:30pm
26th: **NO SCHOOL-Staff PD**
27th- Mar. 2nd: 3rd to
Museum School

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From the Principal's Desk:

Winter is upon us!! Just a few things to think about:

Mark your Calendars

The Winter Concert for our 4/5 grades will be on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30. Students need to arrive 15 minutes before their concert time. We look forward to seeing you at Lowell on the 14th!

Lowell will also be having a family breakfast on the 5th of December at 7:45. Please join us for breakfast and to hear more about what is happening at Lowell.

Attendance

Teachers are working hard every day to get our students reading, writing, and using math strategies at their grade level. We need students here every minute of the day to accomplish this goal. Our student attendance goal for the year is to have an average daily attendance of 96%. Here are the percentages broken down by grade level from the first day of school through November 17th:

Kindergarten: 93.2%	First- 95.28%
Second- 94.01%	Third- 95.48%
Fourth- 95.91%	Fifth- 96.33%

Our average daily attendance of the building is 95.11%. Our Lowell students have missed 837.08 days of school this year already. Anytime your student is brought to school late or leaves early these minutes add up to hours which add up to days. So although your student may have been here every day for at least part of the day, it could show up as a day absent once the student reaches the number of hours in a day. If your student misses 24 days of school through the year, board policy states that your student can be retained on this fact alone. This is not something we want to do,

From the Principal's Desk continued:

but when students miss twenty days, it is like missing an entire month of school. This has a detrimental effect on students learning. If your student is ill or has an appointment, please get a doctor's excuse so that your students' absences are excused.

Please work to get your students to school on time and all day!

Parking/Pick-Up/Drop Off

I also want to remind you about our drop off zone and parking areas. The rainbow drive on Williston is for drop off only in the mornings. Please do not park your car in the rainbow drive in the AM. If you need to park and come into the building, please use the horseshoe drive/parking lot. At the end of the day, please do not block either drive if your students are not outside yet. If you cannot pull into a parking spot or into a space along the side in the horseshoe drive, then you may have to do a loop and come back into the drive. I know we do not have the best parking situation, but if we work together everyone will be safe and students will get picked up on time! Thank you for your help with this.

Winter Weather

If your student wants to leave the blacktop when we have snow, then he or she will need both snow pants and boots. We cannot let students leave the blacktop if they do not have boots and snow pants.

Students will be outside unless the feels like temperature is below 0. Please make sure your students are dressed appropriately for the weather. In the mornings we do not have supervision until 8:20 if students are having breakfast and not until 8:30 if they are not having breakfast. **NO STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING UNTIL 8:20 REGARDLESS OF THE TEMPERATURE.** Please do not drop off your students any earlier than this and make sure if they walk they are not arriving any earlier than this.

Physical Education

3rd-5th

Over the past 4 weeks students have been working on overhand throwing motions. We used the acronym (SSET) which stands for Side, Step, Ear, Throw. These cues have helped students remember the different phases attributing to the proper throwing motion. This will be a skill that we will continue practicing as the school year goes on.

Kdg-2nd

Over the past 4 weeks students have been working on hand-eye coordination. The students have been given an opportunity to toss and catch to self and to a partner. We have taken it a step further and focused on underhand tossing using opposition. We want students to be able to identify their dominant hand and then step with their opposite foot similar to walking in opposition. In preparation for underhand tossing, I tell the students to start with feet together, step, toss, and catch.

Please review these skills with your kids as we would like them to be proficient in these respective skills by the time they finish 2nd and 5th grade.

Thanks,

Mr. Guetzlaff-Physical Education

November was a busy month for **third grade** as we went to the GBPAC to see Dr. KABOOM and also won the attendance award for the month of October! We enjoyed ice cream sandwiches at lunch for our prize!

Just a reminder that if you bring treats to the Winter Party, that you have enough for everyone. Mrs. Kohls has 26 students and Ms. Earle has 25 students.

This month we are digging deep into the following:

MATH:

I can use strategies to fluently add and subtract numbers within 1,000.

READING:

I can retell the story with the moral or lesson.

I can use context clues to understand the meaning of an unknown word.

WRITING:

I can write an informative text on a topic and present my ideas and information clearly.

SCIENCE:

I can ask questions to determine cause and effect and relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other.

4th Grade News

4th graders have been exploring the United States Regions through research, reading, and nutrition!



Please see below for our upcoming focus in each subject.

Reading: We are currently in the midst of our nonfiction unit. Students are currently learning how to write nonfiction summaries based on text read from books, as well as combining information from research. We will be moving into nonfiction text structures shortly!

Writing: Students are finishing their unit on informational writing but will continue to use informational writing throughout the remainder of the school year. They will be starting a short unit on paragraph framework before entering opinion writing. We recommend you start talking to your child about things they are passionate about and would want to write an opinion paper on.

Math: We have begun work in Unit 4, addition and subtraction. In this unit students will discover more efficient ways to solve addition and subtraction problems. Students will be introduced to the U.S. Standard Algorithm in this unit. Also, fact fluency for multiplication is still a concern for many of our 4th graders. We will begin working on double digit multiplication this winter. We encourage students to practice their basic multiplication facts at home over the winter break to prepare for the coming units.

MUSIC NOTES FROM MS. MENNENGA

Hello Lowell Families,

The 4th and 5th grade classes will be presenting their music concert on Thursday, December 14th. It will be at 6:30 PM in the gym. All families are invited to attend this free performance that will feature singing and dancing. Look for more information about the concert for the 4th-5th grade families in the blue folders on December 7th.

We are very busy in the music room! The K-1 students are learning about high sounds and low sounds as well as fast and slow tempo. The 2nd grade students just learned their first square dance! The 3rd grade students are learning about music and culture from Western Africa. The 4th and 5th grade students are busy preparing for the concert! All grade levels are singing, dancing, and playing instruments as they synergize to create music together!

UPCOMING CONCERTS:

- The 3rd grade will be featured in a concert on Thursday, February 22nd – 6:30 PM
- The K and 1st grade will be featured in a music concert on Thursday, April 12th – 6:30 PM

I look forward to seeing all of you at the performances this year!

Ms. Mennenga

Hello **5th Grade** Families!

This month, in addition to our Lead Time (Leader in Me) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we will have an opportunity for students to sharpen their saws by meeting in groups the other three days of the week that incorporate something they are passionate about. We've never done anything like this before and are excited to see how it goes!

We appreciate all of your support at home with the math and reading homework. Please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher for ideas of ways you can support your student at home. Remember, the read-to-rides are due every Friday.

In **reading**, students will be working on explaining how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fit together to provide the overall structure of a text. They will also work on explaining how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text. As they are doing this, we will also guide them through asking and answering implicit and explicit questions.

In **writing**, we will be finishing up our informative pieces about an aspect of our country's westward expansion. The students have worked really hard on these pieces and we cannot wait to see how they turn out!

In **math**, fifth grade students are working on fractions. Students will be using percents and fractions as they solve real-world problems about finding fractional parts of a whole or a group. Students will also be comparing and ordering fractions. They will use fraction equivalents, fraction-percent equivalents, and relationships of fractions to landmarks such as $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 to compare fractions. Also included in this unit are adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. It would be much appreciated if you would help your child to learn their basic facts.

In **social studies** students just finished the first part of a unit on Westward Expansion. They are now using this information for their informational writing piece.

In **science** we are just beginning our unit on sun's light and shadows. Students will learn about how light intensity changes with distance by using a model to experiment with the apparent brightness of an object from various distances. Students will also explore the sun by studying how shadows change throughout the day and how this information can be used to infer information about time of day and even directions. Finally, students will use science and engineering practices and the engineering design process to design a gnomon (the part of a sundial that casts the shadow) that accurately tells time. New terms introduced through this unit include transparent, translucent, opaque, intensity, shadow, gnomon, dial plate and sundial.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call your child's teacher. We are all on the same team.

The Fifth-Grade Team