

LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February 2018



Important Dates

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
- 28th: End of Trimester 2

March

- 6th: Family breakfast 7:45-
8:30am
- 6th: 4th to GBPAC
- 7th: Spring Pictures
- 7th: PTO 4-5
- 8th: Spring fling dance 6-
7:30pm
- 12th-16th: **NO SCHOOL-**
Spring Break
- 19th: Candy bar fundraiser
begins
- 23rd: 1st to GBPAC
- 29th: 4th & 5th to WCFSO
- 30th: **NO SCHOOL**



Carrie Heinzerling

heinzerlingc@waterlooschools.org

319-433-1900

From the Principal's Desk:

Happy February to everyone!

We have been working hard on learning about the 7 habits of Leader in Me. Ask your student about the 7 habits and how we are using these at school. Maybe you have heard them talking about synergizing or having a win-win situation. These are just two of the seven habits that help us all be great leaders!

Does your child ever tell you they don't have any homework? Please remind them that part of their homework every night is to read. We still have almost half of our students at Lowell not able to pass the FAST assessment. You can do your part in helping your child be a great reader by practicing with them for a little bit each night. It takes us all working together to make our students great!!

Just a couple of reminders:

We will go outside anytime the "feels like" temperature is above 0. It is still cold and our students still need to have their winter gear. Students are not able to leave the blacktop unless they have boots and snow pants to wear. There have also been a few instances where parents have asked that their students stay inside for recess. We cannot keep students in for more than 2 days without a note from your doctor. Please keep this in mind when asking for your student to stay in for recess.

If you pick up your student at the end of the day, please remember to be patient in both the rainbow drive and the horseshoe drive. We try to keep traffic moving as smoothly as possible, but there are times when it gets backed up. Please know that we are working to keep things running smoothly at all times. Please **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle in either drive. If a staff member asks you to move forward, please do so.

From the Principal's Desk continued:

Conferences will be held on February 13th and 15th. We will use the same schedule we did in the fall. Very soon you will get a note with that time on it and if you need a different time, please let your child's teacher know so we can see you! We can also help with a ride if you need. We are shooting for 95% conference attendance this spring! Help us reach our goal!

During conferences you will have the opportunity to take a survey about Lowell. Please take the time to take the survey and give us feedback on how we are doing. There will be an incentive for taking the survey!!

Pre-Registration will be held during Spring conferences on Tuesday, February 13th and Thursday, February 15th at your student's school. Please bring the following documents with you:

Proof of Address: acceptable proof of current address can be one of the following in the parent or guardian's name:

- Current Utility Bill, Water Bill or Cable Bill
- Lease/Rental agreement (signed by landlord with their telephone#)
- Purchase Agreement, if buying new house
- Recent DHS statement
- Paycheck Stub with address on it or Statement from Employer on Company letterhead and signed by employer.

Kindergarten:

Happy January! In Kindergarten, we are learning about informative writing- teaching people how to do things, and later, writing about a topic. In reading, students are learning to read, using letter sounds, stretching out words, reading sight words and using pictures for help. In math, we are learning different strategies for counting groups of objects, playing many games with dice, numbers and counting, and will soon be learning about shapes, teen numbers, and story problems! During the fall, we learned about the sun and how it changes temperature of objects in science. This week, we will begin to learn about force and motion! What a busy and exciting year so far! Conferences are coming up next month and we look forward to sharing your child's progress!

MUSIC NOTES FROM MS. MENNENGA

Hello Lowell Families,

The 3rd grade classes will be presenting the next concert on Thursday, February 22nd. It will be at 6:30 PM in the gym. All families are invited to attend this free performance that will feature singing, instrument playing, and movement from West Africa. Look for more information about the concert for the 3rd grade families in the blue folders on February 14th.

We are very busy in the music room! The K-1 students are working on high/low pitch. The 2nd grade students have been singing, identifying, composing, and playing instruments with Sol/Mi/La. Our 3rd grade students are concentrating on preparing for their concert! The 4th grade students are finishing up learning about sixteenth notes and will begin recorder playing very soon. The 5th grade students are finishing up a unit on syncopation and will be starting a unit on composing and performing raps with the hip-hop literacy program.

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

Ms. Mennenga

Fantastic **First Grade** Families,

Since the weather has been very chilly lately, please make sure to send your student to school with a warm coat, gloves, a hat, snow pants, and snow boots. Even though the weather is unpleasant outside, the 1st graders will be busy learning inside!

Reading: We have been learning about asking questions before, during, and after we read. We also have been learning how to use the title and cover photo to ask questions using information we already know. When reading with your child at home, practice asking questions before, during, and after you read.

Writing: The first graders have begun our new writing unit – opinion writing. We have learned how to write our opinions about a topic of our choice and how to share many reasons. We also have learned how to politely disagree with someone else’s opinion.

Math: The first graders have been learning how to measure objects using different tools, such as cubes, craft sticks, and even their own feet! Have your student show you how to correctly measure the distance between one part of your home to another by using their feet or other objects.

1st grade team

2nd Grade Families,

We hope you all had a great winter break! It is great to have the kids back at school.

Currently, in math, we are wrapping up our data unit. We will begin unit 5 soon. In unit 5 students will be determining ratios and patterns. Please continue to work with your student on the math facts that get sent home.

In reading, we are working on finding the main idea of an entire non-fiction passage and the main idea of specific paragraphs within a non-fiction passage. While reading at home, ask your child to tell you the main idea of the passage and specific paragraphs within the passage. They should be able to tell you some clues they can use to find the main idea!

In writing, we are learning how to write opinion writing pieces. We have been writing our opinions about our favorite books and trying to convince people they should read it too. We have talked about how to write about our favorite characters, favorite part of the book, and favorite pictures.

In Social Studies, we had been learning about civil rights and important people that changed history for all of us. Ask your student about Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks or Wilma Rudolph! Soon we will be starting our States of Matter unit in Science!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Richardson, Ms. Urbain and Mrs. Leonard

Hello **3rd grade** Families!

We are excited for the month of February!

On February 14th, we will have our Valentine's Day Party! If your child wants to bring treats, please make sure you bring enough for all students. There are 26 in Mrs. Kohls' class and 24 in Ms. Earle's class. Also, if you would like to bring Valentine's cards, please bring enough for everyone.

That same week is conferences as well on the 13th and 15th! If your time for your conference does not work, please contact your child's teacher to reschedule for a better time.

At the end of the month, 3rd grade will be taking their big field trip to the Grout Museum District! This will be February 27th-March 2nd. We will be going over in the morning and leaving after lunch to return to school. If you would like to come on this four day trip with your child, please let the office know as soon as you can, because there are a few papers that need to be filled out for you to attend.

This month we are learning about:

Writing- persuasive/opinion writing

Math- multiplication

Reading- using details to support the main idea in a text

Science- magnets

From the Third grade team! Mrs. Kohls, Ms. Earle, Mrs. Leonard



Physical Education

K-2

We are just about finished with a striking unit in which students have been working on their hand-eye coordination using a paddle and balloon. Students have also had the opportunity to practice striking the balloon and ball as hopefully it will translate into better control over using things such as racquets, paddles, bats, etc...During the month of February, students will get the opportunity to use our rock wall. Students will learn how to traverse the wall and be presented with a variety of challenges that will help condition their arms and legs.

3-5

We are just finishing a striking unit in which students have received numerous opportunities to work on their hand-eye coordination with the use of a paddle. Students also learned about the forehand stroke that is used in sports like Tennis and Pickle ball. During the month of February, students will use the rock wall and learn about different ways to traverse the wall. Students will also be presented with challenges and different activities that will hopefully keep their engagement and help to strengthen their enjoyment of traversing as well as condition their arms and legs.

Thanks,

Brian Guetzlaff-Physical Education

FAMILY SUPPORT

As we continue through the season of cold weather and increased illnesses, I just want to remind all of our Lowell families of district attendance policies. If a student is gone due to illness, we ask that a parent or guardian notify the school of the absence, and that documentation is provided when possible, so that the absence will be considered excused. We understand some circumstances, like illness, are unavoidable at times, but we look forward to seeing your student each and every day, Bell to Bell at Lowell. Coming to school on time and staying through the end of the day as each day is crucial to a successful education. Classmates and peers are counting on your student to help win monthly attendance related competitions between grade levels! Secondly, I want to encourage any family in need of additional support or community resource information to contact me at the school, so that I can assist with these challenges as best I can.

4th Grade News

Please see below for our upcoming focus in each subject.

Reading: We will begin focusing on combining information from multiple sources to create one summary or essay about a topic. We have shifted a large portion of our instruction from learning to read, to reading to learn. This means a higher focus on comprehension for this term. As a reminder our spring benchmark is reading 150 words per minute.

Writing: In writing, students will continue to work on opinion and persuasive essays. Students have already learned to make a claim and find reasons to support their claims in reading and science. This will help as students work on their essays for writing. As we move forward we will be digging into using evidence and facts to support claims.

Math: Students are finishing a unit on addition and subtraction using the Standard Algorithm to solve both types of problems. This is similar to the way many parents learned to do math when they were children. (Carrying and Borrowing)

Social Studies/Science: Students will discover different forms of energy and how each form of energy can be converted into other forms of energy. Students will also discover what forms of energy are needed to power everyday objects. Finally students will learn how to conserve energy.

Hello 5th Grade Families!

This month, in addition to our Lead Time (Leader in Me) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we are participating in "An Article A Day" on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We hope to build up our students' background knowledge as well as introduce them to new vocabulary. To go along with this, students have a "Book of Knowledge" where they write down two things they learned from the article. Ask them about it!

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**, we will be working on figurative language and literal language, specifically helping students to know the difference between the two. We will dig into the different types of figurative language using poetry.

In **writing**, we will be finishing up our memoir unit. Students have worked really hard on this challenging unit and we cannot wait to see how they turn out!

In **math**, students will be classifying polygons by looking at attributes including number of sides, length of sides, and size of angles. They will be finding the measure of angles using Power Polygons. We will also be building sequences of related polygons in order to learn about the area, perimeter, and the relationship between them.

In **science**, we have begun our unit on Chemical Detectives. Students will be reminded of what matter is through discussion questions, demonstrations and a card sort about what is and is not matter. Students will be experimenting with materials in order to determine what dissolves in water and what doesn't. If a solid dissolves in water, the solid particles will *seem* to disappear and leave the water clear. Students will also closely observe different solids and then try to identify unknown solids based on their physical appearance alone. **If your child is allergic to iodine, please contact us immediately!**

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

Happy
Valentine's
Day