

# LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

May 2018



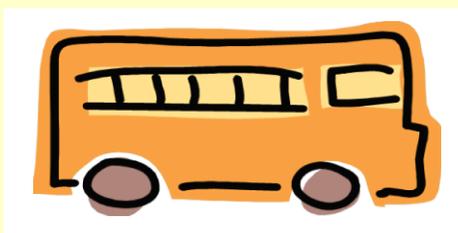
## Important Dates

### May

1<sup>st</sup>: PBIS Assembly 9:30am  
2<sup>nd</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> grade orientation @  
Bunger 9am  
2<sup>nd</sup>: PTO 4pm  
10<sup>th</sup>: Summer Fun Family  
Night 5:30-7pm  
15<sup>th</sup>: Move up to Bunger 6pm  
for future Bunger 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
17<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class winners  
to Sportsplex  
18<sup>th</sup>: Patrol kids bowling  
21<sup>st</sup>: snow make-up day  
23<sup>rd</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> grade orientation @  
Hoover 1pm  
28<sup>th</sup>: **NO SCHOOL**-Memorial  
Day  
30<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade bike rodeo  
30<sup>th</sup>: PBIS Assembly 2:30pm

### June

1<sup>st</sup>: Talent Show 9:15am &  
1:15pm  
4<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion 1:30pm  
7<sup>th</sup>: **LAST DAY OF**  
**SCHOOL**-field day & lunch on  
the lawn (more information to  
come)



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## From the Principal's Desk:

It is hard to believe that we only have a month of school left. Time flies by when we are having so much fun!! Please note all of the dates on the left of this newsletter! We would love to have parents join us for the activities we have available in the months of May and June.

Please join us on May 10th from 5:30-7 for a fun evening!! We will have games, books to take home, and a meal in the commons!! We are also going to have a costume contest based on book characters. Please put this on your calendar and plan on joining us!!

If you are interested in having a specific teacher for your student during the 17-18 school year, you can do this by writing a note and letting me know which teacher you would like your student to have. I do need it in writing with a signature and date. Please note that sometimes over the Summer there are changes made with teachers, but I will do my best to accommodate all requests.

We will be having field day and lunch on the lawn on June 7th. We will have more information coming about this in the Thursday folders as the date gets closer. Watch for additional information.

As the school year comes to a close, please check around for books that may belong to Lowell. They could be from the library or from the classroom or even from one of our title one teachers. If you find a book that is marked with Lowell, please send these back to school with your student.

Originally, May 21st was marked as no school for students. We are using this as a snow make up day, so students do have school on May 21st.

## MEDIA

Students have been hard at work in the media center this year. Every grade is working on coding on multiple devices. 4th and 5th graders are using robots to practice programming skills, 2nd and 3rd are using [code.org](https://code.org) to code multiple styles of coding language, while kindergarten and 1st graders are using an app to move characters from one part of a maze to another. Collaboration and persistence have been seen often in the media center and it is so exciting!

Don't forget to continue to encourage your child to bring their library books back to school. As we are winding down the school year, any overdue books can still be brought in right up until the last day. A fine will be assessed for any lost book but can be paid off at the end of the year or the beginning of the next year. Any fines your child has will be sent home with them before the school year is over, so you know what books to keep your eyes open for.

Thanks for all the reading you have encouraged your children to do this year - keep going to public libraries this Summer! They are a great place to find adventure and whole new worlds waiting inside some amazing books!

**Kindergarten** parents/guardians,

Can you believe it is already the beginning of May?! Students begin taking the FAST assessment for the Spring and will be doing letter sounds, reading nonsense words, segmenting words (stretching the word and saying the sounds they hear), and reading sight words. Please continue to read with your child, as this helps them become confident and successful readers!

In reading, students are learning about what we can learn from nonfiction books and are identifying the main idea and giving facts about what they learned. They are also continuing work with reading common sight words, using strategies to figure out unknown words, and matching their finger to the words on a page.

In writing, students are learning how to state their opinion and persuade a reader about their topic. We are working on writing sentences, stretching out words and recording the sounds we hear, making sure there are "finger spaces," and ending our sentences with punctuation.

In math, students are doing many activities that have them writing their numbers to 20, counting objects to tell how many, and are doing addition and subtraction story problems.

Please continue to have your child here at school, on time, every day! Kindergarten beat first grade with attendance percentages for the first time this year, and reaped the benefits of an extra recess and sunshine and hope to do it again by the end of the year :).

Fantastic **First Grade** Families,

**Reading:** We have been learning how to find the main idea and details of fiction and nonfiction stories. While reading with your first grader, ask your student what they think the whole story is mostly about to find the main idea. Then ask your student to think of details that support and relate to the main idea.

**Writing:** The first graders have been working on fiction writing. They have been learning how to create a fictional character and write about their character having a problem, going on an adventure, or simply doing something. Before the end of the school year, the first graders will be reviewing how to write narrative stories about themselves and things they have done.

**Math:** We have been learning about different strategies we can use for efficient counting. The students are moving from counting by 1s to counting by other equal groups, like 2s, 5s, and 10s. When at home, have your student practice counting objects or simply counting numbers aloud by 2s, 5s, or 10s.

-1<sup>st</sup> grade team

## 2nd Grade Families,

The 2017-2018 school year is quickly coming to an end, but we are still working hard in 2nd grade.

We are currently in Unit 8 in math. Students will be able to reason about even and odd numbers discussing partners and teams & add and subtract 3-digit numbers. Please continue to work with your child on their math facts at home!

In reading, we are working on comparing and contrasting two non-fiction texts. End of year FAST testing began April 23rd and ends on May 18th. Students will be expected to read 107 words per minute to be considered proficient. End of year reading assessments (DRA) will begin as soon as teachers are done with FAST testing. In order to be proficient, students need to be reading at a level 28. Please continue to read with your child at home each night!

In writing, we have just finished up writing poetry and will begin some more informational writing. Students will get to choose an animal, and we will be doing research and writing an informational book on that animal.

We recently started an Ecosystems unit in Science. Students will be conducting experiments to determine if plants need both sunlight and water to grow. They will also develop a model that mimics the function of an animal dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.

We have a talent show coming up at Lowell. Motivate your child to participate in this event! We look forward to seeing our 2nd graders' talents!

-Ms. Urbain, Mrs. Richardson, and Mrs. Leonard



Happy Spring! **Third grade** is so happy that it is FINALLY feeling like spring outside!

Last month we were collecting Hy-Vee receipts as a contest to see which class could collect the most. Our third graders were on top of it, but Mrs. Kohls' class was the winner with collecting \$13,466.28 worth! Great job to both classes!!

This month in math we are going back to addition and subtraction. This will be a little more of a challenge since we are using numbers that go to 1000.

In writing we are discussing animals and their habitats. We have just finished making an animal brochure and are going to be doing more research on animals in their life cycles, fossils and their habitats.

In reading we are focused on cause and effect with fiction and nonfiction text. We are also focusing on nonfiction text features.

In science we are moving in to our last unit called "Interdependent Relationships". This is a unit about butterfly life cycles, animal habitats and fossils. We will be getting the chance to witness firsthand a butterfly's life cycle by having our own butterfly larva in our classrooms and taking observations on them!

There isn't much time left in our year! Summer is soon approaching!

Mrs. Kohls, Ms. Earle, and Mrs. Leonard

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News

**Math:** Students are currently in the final unit for multiplication and division. Following this unit, students will be learning about data as the final math unit of the year. Students will be creating and analyzing motion graphs and representing constant change in a table.

**Reading:** Students will be working on summarizing and paraphrasing stories they read. Students have been working on note taking and turning notes into summaries. Encourage students to summarize what they read at home. One challenge students are having with summarizing is combining information from multiple sources. You can help by encouraging your child to research and write a report on different topics using multiple sources.

**Writing:** Students are currently finishing a literary essay unit and will be returning to informational writing for a final writing project. This informational writing project will be cross curricular, encompassing information and research from science and reading!

## **Fifth Grade Newsletter**

In math we will begin Unit 8. Students will be measuring length with meters and centimeters. They will also be plotting points on a coordinate grid to represent a situation in which one quantity is changing in relation to another, and will use tables to represent the relationship between quantities.

In reading we will be preparing to take the DRA2 and FAST.

In writing we will be finishing our argument unit.

In science we are presently working on Earth Systems. When we finish this unit, we will begin our unit on Matter and Energy.

### **MUSIC NOTES FROM MS. MENNENGA**

Hello Lowell Families,

Spring is here!! The Kindergarten students are working on pitch matching and steady beat. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are learning to dictate and compose rhythms using quarter note, quarter rest, and eighth notes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are learning about half note. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students have started part singing with canons and partner songs. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are continuing to work on their recorder skills. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about major and minor tonalities.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders had an exciting opportunity this February and March to work with Professor Meacham from UNI on writing a rap to accompany their Youth Art Team project. This rap will be combined with their artwork in a stop motion video that will be constructed by the UNI Art students. Students auditioned for Professor Meacham on the rap lines and nine of them were chosen to take a trip to the TMG recording studio in downtown Waterloo and make a professional recording. Our single will drop on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the 9:30 AM assembly!! After that, I will be able to make the track available via email or on our school Facebook page.

Thank you to all of the families who came to our concerts this year and supported our hard work!

Ms. Mennenga