



News from the Principal's Desk

As I sit down to write this I can hardly believe Thanksgiving is in just a couple of days and December starts next week! Wow! Time is flying by!

I want to start by saying thank you so much to our families for your support, flexibility and kindness during this time that we are moved to virtual learning! You have been very patient when things have not gone exactly as planned and we appreciate this more than you know! The whole virtual teaching thing is new to all of us and we are working super hard to make sure students are engaged and want to be at school from 8:30-12 with us each day! Thank you, once again, for all of your support!

If you have not been by the new building in a while, please drive by and take a look! It is going up faster than I anticipated and they are scheduled to be done by next December which is our current move in date! I know we all look forward to be closer to home and back in a school with all the wonderful things that schools have!

I wish your family the happiest of holidays and a wonderful start to the 2021 new year.

Mrs. Heinzerling

Dates to Remember

- December 11 No School- Staff PD
- December 21 Make and Take
- December 22 Winter Parties- last hour of the day
- December 23-January 1 No School- Winter Break
- January 15 No School- Staff PD
- January 18 No School- MLK Day
- February 5 No School- Staff PD
- February 16 Conferences 4-7:30
- February 18 No School- Conferences 8-8
- February 19 No School

News from Kindergarten

Oh my! Look at the amazing things our kindergarteners have been learning!

Reading: We have been reading books to identify characters and setting, along with learning and sharing ideas about the big idea: What makes a community? We have talked about the jobs of people/places in our community. We are working hard to learn and read sight words in text and isolation, along with decoding simple words using the letter sound relationships we know! You can support your child by helping them practice reading and writing sight words and finding them in books!

Writing: We have been learning how to write narrative books about something that has happened to us. In this, we have learned how to begin our writing with words like, "One __ day," to get our readers attention. Overall, using pictures and words to tell about a topic is our goal! You can help them at home by asking them to draw a picture and add labels, then write a sentence about what they drew!

Math: We are currently in our measuring and counting unit, where students are learning how to measure and compare lengths of objects. They also are developing strategies for finding the total after a small amount is added to a set! Our next investigation in this unit includes playing games that involve counting, comparing, and finding the total when a small amount is added or taken away. Our next units is one of my favorites- 2-D and 3-D Geometry! You can help your child at home by playing games that use a dice, counting, and writing numbers!

Thank you for all the hard work you have been doing with your kiddos! They are rocking it!

1st Grade News

We continue to see amazing things happening in first grade. We are really working on addition and subtraction story problems. We are also finding out different ways we can make a number. For example, how many addition and subtraction problems can we make to equal 10. We are working on counting and counting on from any number between 0-120 both forward and backward. These are all great things to work on at home.

In reading, we continue to add more strategies to our toolbox. We are learning about what information we can find right in the story, but we are also learning how to infer, summarize, and determine what the story is trying to teach us. It has been hard work but we are all working very hard.

In writing, we are working on our information books. We are teaching others through our writing and illustrations. We have been learning a lot from one another. We are amazed at the experts we have in our first-grade classrooms.

We continue to put health and safety at the forefront of each day. They have done an amazing job with wearing a mask and keeping their hands clean. We work hard at keeping our friends safe.

Please continue to work every night on sight words and reading out loud. We will be taking our next test in January...we can't wait to see the growth all of our kids have made. As always, thanks for your support in your child's education. Contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Your First Grade Team

News from Second Grade

Oh my! Look at the amazing things the second graders have been learning!

Reading: We have been reading books about how to find beauty in the world around us and the joy of giving to others. The second graders have also been learning about how to identify the beginning, middle, and end of a story and how to make recommendations to others about books. Over the next few months, we will be diving into books written by Jan Brett and exploring different cultures through folktales. We will also learn how to ask questions to better understand the story.

Writing: We have been learning how to design a science experiment and how to write a lab report. The second graders have found out how to write their own hypothesis, observations, and conclusions based on the tests they conducted. We will continue our information writing unit by discovering how to write an animal research paper. The second graders will learn how to gather information on an animal and share that information in their papers.

Math: We have been making sense of and developing efficient strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with totals up to 45. The second graders will be working on counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s and how to make numbers with tens

and ones. When at home, have your second grader practice counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s either saying the numbers out loud or writing them down.

Thank you for all the hard work you have been doing with your kiddos! They are rocking it!

Gym News from Mr. G

3rd-5th

We just finished up a unit on overhand throwing. We used the acronym SSET (Side-on, Step, Ear, Throw.) This cue served as an effective reference for our students and we have really seen some great progress. After virtual we will start up a striking unit focusing on hand-eye coordination using an implement.

Kdg-2nd

We are close to the conclusion of our underhand tossing and catching unit. We have worked on identifying our dominant hand, tracking an object in the air and into our hands (Catching), and stepping with our opposite foot. The 3 components will continue to be stressed as the year goes on.

Thanks,

Mr. Guetzlaff-PE

Art News

December 2020-January 2021

I can not believe 2020 is almost over!! We have been doing some great artwork in our classes and hopefully most of it will be coming home soon. These next two months we will be exploring some holiday crafts, working with new materials and looking at some contemporary artists. While at home over break check out Google Arts and

Culture <https://artsandculture.google.com/>

There are stories about artists and virtual tours of some of the greatest museums from all over the world.

Musical Updates

Hello Lowell families!!

The music-mobile tour continues, now including virtual venues! Our virtual learning has been successful – even without all the instrument goodies on the cart! Once again our students have demonstrated their exceptional abilities to adjust to their ever-changing learning environments, and music class is no exception!

Please feel free to continue to ask your students to perform some of the songs we do in music class at home for you!

Mrs. Beckwith

Library News

Greetings from the Lowell Library!

Some students finally got a peek back into the Lowell library through their computer screens as I read to them in our virtual classrooms. There have been so many new experiences this school year...

As we close up 2020 and move into 2021, I am thankful for some great things that have happened in the library. We have had some generous donations from friends to help replace some of the lost books; Ms. Joan Nicholson, Mrs. Tina Ristau, and Mr. Nick Thies have put over 120 extra books into students' hands. We have also added some awesome book titles through the Iowa Children's Choice Award.

Students in grades 2-5 have been doing pretty well with reserving books through Destiny and returning them on time.

Students in K and 1 are offered a choice of a book to check out. Each student is currently only able to check out one book at a time due to the fact that the library comes to them on a cart. (Moving the books from one building to another is building my muscles!)

As you enjoy your time together during the holiday break, don't forget to take some time to read! Share a favorite story with your child. Take turns reading together. Talk about what happened in the story. Any time that you can show them reading is important will be time well spent!

Ms. Runyan

News from 3rd Grade

December and January are going to fly by in 3rd-grade classrooms. We are hard at work in all of the subject areas focusing on our Leader in Me Habits and making sure we are becoming great leaders. We are working on Habit 1, Be Proactive, and making sure we are always ready for our day. We are also working at Habit 7, Sharpening Our Saw to take care of ourselves and our interests and hobbies too.

In math, we are working on area and perimeter. We know that perimeter is the measurement all the way around an object and the area is the measurement of the space inside of a shape. This is going to help us get ready for our multiplication unit.

In reading, we are working on understanding all types of nonfiction texts. We have been pulling information from the text and using it to support our answers to questions. Be sure to continue to have your child read for at least 20 minutes every night at home! This will really help them with their reading lesson at school each day.

In writing, we are working on writing informational stories. We are using what we know about a topic and turning it into a story readers can learn from.

We hope everyone continues to stay safe. Reach out if you have questions or need some support!
Mrs. Peters and Mr. Lehmann

4th Grade News

The school year sure is going fast! Thank you parents for your support and your grace during our virtual days. It wouldn't have been as smooth as it was without all of your support. Your children are resilient and handle everything thrown their way!

In reading, we are continuing to build fluency and working on comprehension skills. Please continue having your child read at home. In writing, we are continuing in our opinion writing. We are learning to write our opinions in the form of an essay. Students sure do love sharing their opinions! In math, we continue to work on multiplication facts and move into adding and subtracting numbers into the 10,000s.

Thank you again for all you do for your children! WE could not be having such a successful school year without all of you! Please reach out anytime if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Ms. Earle
Ms. Kremer
Mrs. Martin

5th Grade News

We are so proud of our 5th graders and how much they have learned this month! Not only have we been trying to push lessons to get ready for virtual, but they have also learned to push through all of the hard 5th grade work!

Reading: In Reading, we are working on determining themes and working on books about families during war. Students are making huge progress during small groups and are diving into really fun book clubs! Please continue having the students read at home.

Writing: In Writing, we have been working on our Informational Unit and writing about topics from the Westward Expansion. We are excited to share our writing by starting a project soon! Students will then be able to write a new informational writing piece on anything that they would like to teach.

Math: In Math, we have started our unit Fractions. This unit is a little bit hard, so we are trying to get as many visuals as possible. We strongly encourage students to use fractions, decimals, and percentages at home if possible.

Content: In Social Studies we have been working on the Westward Expansion unit to help with our writing. In Science, we just finished our Whirligig Unit! The students learned about fair tests including, independent/dependent variables, and also constants. Ask your child to show you how to build a whirligig at home!