

News From Mrs. Heinzerling

Lowell has had an amazing start to 2021 and I hope you have too!

We are starting to have some colder days!! Remember we will go outside anytime the "feels like" temperature is above 0. It is cold and our students need to have their winter gear. Students that want to play in the snow must have both 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 3 days without a note from your doctor. Please keep this in mind when asking for your student to stay in for recess.

Conferences will be held on February 16th and 18th. We will be trying a new way to schedule conferences online through Canyon Scheduler. The link you need to click on is:

<https://www.canyoncreeksoftware.com/scheduler/ia/waterloo/index.cfm>

and the password is Lowell

The link will close on February 9th. If you have not already done so, please get on the link and schedule your child's conferences. If you are having any difficulty with getting a conference scheduled, please call us at Lowell and we will help! We are shooting for 100% conference attendance this spring! Help us reach our goal!

Our average daily attendance is 91.60% for the first half of the year. We are far behind where we want to be this year. I know what you are thinking- this is due to COVID. However, the students that miss days due to COVID are not included in this number. This includes all absences that are not COVID related. Students have missed 1492 days of school. Please make sure that your students are at school on time and all day. When students arrive late or get picked up early, these minutes are added up and eventually become hours and days that they have missed. If a student has missed more than 10% of the school year, he/she is considered chronically absent (again if they are out due to COVID, these are not counted). Students that have missed 24 days of school by the end of the year can automatically be retained by board policy. We don't want to retain students but we need to ensure they are ready for the next grade level. Teachers at Lowell work hard to make sure they have learning planned from 8:45 until 3:45. Let's work to keep students coming to school! Thanks for your help!

Dates to Remember

February 11 1st Grade- Virtual African American Read In
February 12 Valentine's Day Parties- Last Hour of the Day
February 16 Conferences 4-7:30
February 18 No School Conferences 12:00-8:00
February 19 No School

Valentine's Day Parties

We will have Valentine's Day Parties the last hour of the day on Friday, February 12th. Your student can bring Valentines and treats for the class if they would like. Please remember that all treats need to be pre-packaged and individually wrapped. We appreciate your help with this.

Kindergarten News

Hello families! It has been a busy year! Here is what we are currently learning:

Math: I can identify 2D and 3D shapes. I can count to 50 (with the goal of getting to 100 by the end of the year).

How you can help at home: practice counting toys/objects/cereal, writing numbers 0-20 (or beyond!), talking about the shapes you see around the house/on drives!

Writing: Informational writing: I can use pictures and words to tell/teach others about a topic.

How you can help at home: practice writing letters and having your child stretching out words and recording the letters for the sounds they hear- remember, in kindergarten, we spell words phonetically, which means that the words written will look like they sound and not be spelled correctly (except sight words)

Literacy: I can read sight words. I can identify characters and settings in books I listen to and read. I can read books with sight words and stretch out words I do not know.

How you can help at home: read, read, read!!! Read to your child and allow them to enjoy being read to! Have them read/write sight words, read books that are more of their level (easier words, pattern of words that repeats, etc...), and encourage them to try to read words they do not know by stretching them out.

Content: I can tell/show that nonliving things move with a push or a pull.

****Important things to remember:**

-Weather: we continue to go outside to play, so please send boots, hats and gloves/mittens. Wet shoes and socks are no fun in the classroom! If your child has snowpants, they can bring them to school as well.

-Conferences: please be watching for announcements on how to sign up for conferences. We are excited to share how your child has grown this year!

-Our 100th day of school is coming up- watch for a note about this and look out for the fun activities we will be sending home!

-Attendance is so important right now- we are learning so much each day, and build on that new learning each day! If your child is not going to be in school, please call or e-mail your child's teacher to let us know!

News from 1st Grade

Amazing things are happening in first grade. We are all doing very well using our Chromebooks and getting used to all the things we can do on them.

In reading, we have been focusing on nonfiction and the different styles that authors use. We have also learned a lot about many interesting things related to Science. We are now starting to look into fiction stories and starting with books about all of the wonderful diversity we have in our world.

In math, we are working on our measurement skills. We are using all sorts of things to measure with and understand why the same thing can have different lengths depending on what unit of measurement we are using. They are really using some deep thinking with this unit.

We are just finishing up on writing nonfiction teaching books. We have some great writers that have taught us about all sorts of interesting topics. Next, we will begin writing opinion pieces. It is always great to see how they think about the things around them.

Thanks for all your continued support and remember to contact us with any questions or concerns. Thanks for letting us be part of your child's education.

The First Grade Team

Musical Updates

Hello Lowell families!!

The music-mobile tour continues to make the rounds to all the classrooms each week to bring your students all kinds of fun socially-distanced musical experiences. The students have been doing a great job adjusting in order to make music class work outside of the music room! We've been able to incorporate lots of movement, singing, and instrument activities so far this year, and we have so much more to come!

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

2nd Grade News

The second graders have been busy working up a story on new learning. Check out what we have been focusing on!

Reading: The second graders have been learning the different ways illustrators show information in their stories. They also have been discussing how to use various phonetic strategies to solve unknown words. We have just begun to learn about trickster tales. Make sure to ask your second grade what a trickster tale is and how they are alike.

Writing: We have just finished up our informational writing. Our next writing unit is opinion writing. The second graders will discover how to write stories about things they like or dislike and share their opinions. At home, discuss with your second grader some things they like or dislike and how they would convince another person to agree with them.

Math: We have finished our unit on gathering and interpreting data. The next unit will be about learning how to expand a repeating pattern. The second graders will also learn about constant ratio situations and how to count by and add equal groups.

3rd Grade News

3rd Graders have been hard at work learning and putting into action all their understanding.

In Math we have been practicing our multiplication facts. We are working on using repeated addition, skip counting, and building arrays to find the best strategies to solve our multiplication problems.

In Reading we have been working on the genre realistic fiction. This genre is made up stories but has characters, settings, and problems that are similar to those we experience in real life. We have made some connections to realistic fiction books and have learned some lessons from these books as well.

In Writing, we have been working on informational text. We are working on organizing information in a way that our readers can find what they need while learning all about our topic. We are all experts on something and have really liked sharing our expertise with each other.

Please continue to send winter coats, hats, gloves, and snowpants and boots to school each day for your child. If there is anything you need, don't hesitate to contact your teacher.

We look forward to seeing you all at conferences!

Mrs. Peters and Mr. Lehmann

Physical Education

K-5

Over the last 4 weeks we have been working on striking unit. More specifically, students have gotten the opportunity to work with paddles. The majority of the time has been spent on controlling an object using the paddle and focusing in on the forehand stroke. Students have and will continue to receive a lot of practice time with the emphasis on staying side on to target, keeping face of the paddle open through contact, and hitting the ball off of their front leg.

Thanks, Mr. Guetzlaff-PE

4th Grade News

This year is flying by! I can't believe we are already heading into February. 4th graders have been busy working on opinions in writing, and we will be moving to informational writing. In reading we are focusing on seeing how characters feel by the things they say and do. In math we have focused on adding numbers beyond 1,000 and understanding place value past 10,000. We will be moving to fractions in our next unit. We just want to thank you for all you do! This year really wouldn't be going as well as it is, if it wasn't for your support. We look forward to talking with you all at conferences.

5th Grade News

So many great things are happening in 5th grade! We have been working on testing and the students are scoring SO WELL! We have also been working hard during SEL on how to deal with conflicts and how to use our calming down strategies.

Reading: In Reading we have been diving into amazing nonfiction books! Ask your student about all of the fun facts we have been learning (Did you know, your perfume could have been made from whale blubber?! We have been working on the main idea and determining those harder vocab words. We have also been working on determining character traits and digging deep into why the author gave those character traits.

Writing: In Writing we just finished our Informational Unit. The students worked hard on writing papers on the Westward Expansion and also a topic of their choice. We are now starting our Opinion unit and are very excited to hear about the students' opinions.

Math: In Math we have been learning all about fractions. Students learned how to add and subtract, and then also how to multiply and divide fractions. We are now starting our unit in Geometry and 2-D shapes.

Content: In Social Studies we learned about the 13 Colonies and their industries. The students created fun projects to show how the industries contributed to the economy. We are just diving in to our Chemical Detectives unit and the students are PUMPED! We will be learning about particles and matter as well as understanding acids vs bases.

From the Lowell Library

This month all students had the opportunity to participate in a service project with the Girl Scouts to make cards for residents in the nursing homes who have not been able to have visitors for a while. We listened to some stories about acts of kindness and talked about doing things for others without expecting anything in return. We hope to cheer them up with handmade cards filled with heartfelt messages, beautiful drawings, and happiness. This project was a true example of #LoveLeadsLowell

Please continue to search for missing library books at home. We still have quite a list of unreturned materials.

News in Art

We have been busy learning and practicing skills in Kindergarten. They have been doing cutting and gluing projects. They are doing an excellent job learning to use their scissors and using small amounts of glue.

1st grade is working on paper weaving. This project uses a lot of the skills that we have been working on all year. Taking our time and doing our best work, looking for patterns, cutting and gluing.

2nd grade is learning about warm and cool colors and how we can use them in our projects.

3rd and 4th grade has begun work on a collaborative project. We are creating 4 panels that tell a story about Our Community.

Each class has a different focus. We have 4 types of communities we are learning about: Lowell, Waterloo/Cedar Valley, Iowa, and the world. They are finding connections between all types of communities and themselves and making a mixed media panel telling their story of community.

5th grade is just beginning a sculpture project using model magic.