

Heinzerling's Headlines

Hello Lowell families! The year has started out super well despite all of the changes we have endured! Students are doing a great job of having their masks on and leaving them on when they need to. Students and staff are practicing social distancing in the classroom, hallways, lunchroom and even outside when playing. Students are very resilient when it comes to change!

Please make sure your students have their mask on and ready to board the buses at their stops in the morning. Bus drivers do have some extra masks for emergencies but not enough to supply everyone a mask everyday. We are asking students to wear their mask home, put it in their backpack when they get home and then it is there for the bus ride the next morning. Thank you for your help with this!

We continue to teach the Leader in Me habits and also use our STARS expectations to teach students what our behavior expectations are. The habit we focused on in September was Synergize- ask your student what synergize means! For October we are going to focus on Habit 3 Put First Things First. Another way to say this is work first then play. How could you help your children to put first things first?

Weather Changes

As the weather starts getting a little colder we know that temperatures in the classroom can be a little hotter or a little colder. Students can wear Lowell sweatshirts every day over their collared dress code shirt. Students can also wear light jackets or fleeces but it has to be a solid color or two toned in color. Students can also wear a solid colored, hoodless sweatshirt. It might be a good idea for students to have one at school to leave on their chair when they do not need it and then it is available to them at all times.

Fall Festival

Although we can't have a normal Fall Festival celebration with families in October, we have a plan to get you all involved with some fall festival activities. Be watching for more information on this!

Conferences

October Conferences are on October 15th from 4-7:30 and on October 17th from 8:30-8:00. We will be working on scheduling conferences very soon. If you have not already signed up for conferences, please call to set up an appointment. We will use the same schedule for October and February conferences.

Practice Makes Perfect

Heads up!! In the next couple of weeks, you might hear your students talking about practicing virtual learning. Our teachers are going to practice what it would like IF we had to go virtual- we hope we never have to use it, but it gives us a good chance to work out the kinks in our system if it does happen. This will all be done in the classroom and again it is just practice, just in case! Call with any questions 433-1900

Calendar of Events

October 13- Conferences 4-7:30

October 15- Conferences 8-8:30

October 15- No School due to conferences

October 16- No School due to conferences

October 23- No School due to teacher professional development

October 26-30 Red Ribbon Week (see activities below)

October 30- Fall Parties- last hour of the day

November 13- No School due to teacher professional development

November 25-27- No School due to Thanksgiving Break

Lowell Gear

We have new Lowell gear for sale! Just a reminder that students can wear Lowell t-shirts on Spirit Days which are typically the last day of the week. They can wear Lowell sweatshirts over their collared shirts any day of the week. Click on the link below to order and pay for shirts!

<https://lowellelementary.itemorder.com/sale>

The shop closes on October 15th!

Kindergarten News

What have we been working on?!

What a great start to the year we have had! There have been some exciting things happening in Lowell's Kindergarten! In literacy...

• We are learning that characters are WHO is in the story. The character could be a person, an animal, or a creature.

• We have been working on learning our letter names and letter sounds.

In math...

• We have been exploring with our math tools. Some of our favorites are connecting cubes, pattern blocks, and geo blocks. Did you know that buttons can be used as math tools?

• Counting to 30. Our goal is to count to 100 by the end of the year!

• Pointing to each object as we count.

• Sorting objects into groups.

• Practicing number writing.

In writing...

• Learning we can all be authors like Kevin Henkes and Patty Lovell.

• Labeling our pictures with the beginning sound.

In social science...

• We have just begun our unit on Weather and Climate.

What Can We Work on at Home?

• Reading together—talk about the characters in the books. Don't forget to ask your child questions about what you've read to help with comprehension skills!

• Play a game where you ask your child to find something in the room that begins with a certain sound. (Example: /s/ sound (silverware, star, stove, sink...))

• Counting in everyday situations. If your child is having some crackers for a snack count them! If there are five in your family ask "How many plates are at the table? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

1st Grade News

Wow! What an amazing start to our first-grade year! The kids have done a super job synergizing together to adapt to our new normal and doing what it takes to keep one another safe and healthy. We have a new reading program this year and we have already read some great fiction and nonfiction books. We are working hard to learn and build on all the new skills we have learned and apply them to our independent reading. In math we are working on counting, adding, and story problems. The kids are learning how to write equations, show their work, and find the correct answers. We all have our own math supplies and we have been using dice, dot cards, and primary cards to play games to practice our addition skills. In writing, we are creating books about small moments in our lives. It is challenging, but they are stepping up each and every day. At home, you can help your child by practicing the sight words that were sent home and letting them read a book or two each night. Together we will make this an outstanding year! As always, reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns!

Your First Grade Team

2nd Grade News

Writing: We have begun our narrative writing unit. The second graders are learning how to write stories about something they have done. They are working on adding details and using action, talk, and feelings to enhance their stories.

Reading: The second graders have been learning how to select good books, how to record their thinking on books they have read, and how to build up their reading stamina. Encourage your student to work on their reading stamina by seeing how many minutes they can read in one sitting.

Math: We have been developing strategies to count accurately, learning how to count a quantity in more than one way, identifying coins and their values, and how to tell time to the hour on an analog clock.

3rd Grade News

We are so excited to be back in school and have your children in our classrooms with us! We have been hard at work getting into the routine of being a 3rd grader.

In math, we are working on adding and subtracting numbers within 1,000. Practicing math facts at home each night would be a great idea.

In reading, we are working on thinking about books as we read them. As we find something we have a question about or something that we want others to notice, we are adding a note to the page. This will encourage someone else to read the story and share their thoughts with us too. Be sure to have your child read at least 20 minutes every night at home too.

This month's Leader in Me focus has been on Synergizing, Habit 6, Even though it has been challenging to work in groups, we have been finding ways to work together to complete some great projects and activities. Synergizing at Lowell continues to happen in the safest ways, while our classrooms build community and find ways to connect with each other to learn and grow.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns,
Mrs. Peters and Mr. Lehmann

4th Grade News

What a great start to our 4th grade school year! Students have really settled into new routines and changes we are implementing this year. Teachers are very proud of how the year has started. Students are showing excitement for learning and for being back in a routine. In math, we started the year with multiplication and focusing on factors and multiples. We are just finishing this unit up and will be moving on to collecting, recording, and describing data. In reading, we have been focusing a lot on the genre and setting up our workshop routines. In writing, we are finishing our first realistic fiction story. It has been a lot of fun to see the changes students have made to make something from their life fiction. Some things we have seen are trips to Adventureland with our pet fox and going to football practice to find out the coach is a player from the NFL. This is going to be a great 4th-grade year! Thank you for all you do to support learning! We couldn't do this without you!

Ms. Earle
Miss Kremer
Mrs. Martin

5th Grade News

This year is off to a great start! The 5th graders have shown amazing LEADERSHIP skills and many ways to be RESPECTFUL!

Reading: In Reading we have covered the topics of Empathy and Conflict Resolution. We are also working on identifying the genre of a book. During our WIN time, we will be working on identifying the Theme of a story.

Writing: In Writing we are working on our POWERFUL narrative pieces. They have been working on adding emotion, dialogue, past & present, and tension. We are so proud of how much effort the students are putting into their stories!

Math: In Math we have been learning how to multiply 2 digit by 2 digit numbers using arrays. PLEASE work on multiplication facts at home to help us meet our December goal of everyone knowing their multiplication facts!

Content: In Social Studies we have been learning about Native Americans and their environment. Ask your student about our class totem pole! In Science, we will be learning about the Earth's Systems.

News from the Library

Greetings from the Lowell Library to go!

Things definitely look different this year during media class. I come to each classroom and carry crates of books for students to check out. Students in grades 2-5 can request books by placing them on hold through Destiny Discover. Right now due to the limitations of transporting books for each student between the two buildings I am only able to check out one book per student.

If your child had a library book checked out last spring before school shut down and did not return it, I am happy to take it back now! Please check your home libraries for any books with a Lowell barcode. I have a special treat for students who return a book from last year.

Happy Reading!
Ms. Runyan

News from Music

Hello Lowell families!!

This year our music room is going on tour! The music-mobile (aka the cart) and I have been traveling around to all the classrooms each week to bring your students all kinds of fun socially-distanced musical experiences. This year we are also fortunate to have a student teacher, Mr. Stow, in the classroom to help teach music class and he has been doing an amazing job with the students!

Even though music class looks a lot different this year, we have already hit the ground running with singing, moving, and playing instruments!

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we will not be doing any concert performances this year for any grade level. But please feel free to ask your students to perform some of the songs we do in music class at home for you!

Mrs. Beckwith

Red Ribbon Week

We will be celebrating Red Ribbon week from October 26-30th.

Monday, Oct. 26th: Wear red to kick off Red Ribbon Week

Tuesday, Oct. 27th: Hat day. "Put a cap on drugs."

Wednesday, Oct. 28th: Jersey day. "Be a STAR! Don't do drugs!"

Thursday, Oct. 29th: Wild hair day. "Use your head and Don't do drugs."

Friday, Oct. 30th: Wear or draw a mustache on your upper lip. "We mustache you not to do drugs."

News from Mr. G

3rd-5th

Looking ahead to the month of October students will be introduced to the use of heart rate monitors. We will setup obstacle courses and fitness lessons that complement the heart rate monitors and all students to track their intensity level in real time. The emphasis will be on correlating how the students feel during exercise with their actual heart rate and recognizing increase in heart rate, breath rate, and sweating as clear signs of physical activity. We will also focus on fitness testing for the fall. The students will be tested on the Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run or (PACER), Push-ups, and Curl-ups. The class within each grade level who makes the most overall improvement from the fall to the spring will earn a substantial prize for their room.

Kdg-2nd

Students have been exploring non-locomotor skills such as bending, stretching, swinging, twisting, turning, and spinning. These are fundamental skills that show up in all sports skills from throwing, to swinging a bat, or kicking a ball. We have also been working on locomotor skills such as jumping, hopping, skipping, sliding, and galloping as a way for students to develop a foundation for movement. Please encourage these skills at home as they do provide the foundation for future skill development. We will use the month of October to administer assessments and help make students feel more comfortable moving.

Regards,

Mr. Guetzlaff
Physical Education
Lowell Elementary School

Fundraising Opportunities

Our Fall fundraiser started this week. Please go online and send the link to family and friends to earn some money for our school! Check your email or Facebook for more information!

Here is another way to support your Lowell Family:

Here we go, another fun app to download on your phones. Check out Caseys.com.

Once you find your app on our phone, please follow the directions. You will make a username and password. You will fill out the fields for your pertinent information. Once this is done, you will be able to login into your account.

Once you have logged in, go to your rewards. You can click onto the school of choice for your donation. I hope you will help out and type in Waterloo Lowell Elementary. Currently, I have 600 points by doing all of this. The program will configure the amount the school will receive. If I do decide to cash in right now, I have \$2.40. I have been in contact with Casey's in Ankeny, IA. This is the headquarters of the gas station. They said the schools get paid out two times a year.

Hy-Vee Receipts

Yes, it is a go. This year we can continue with the Hy-Vee Receipts. Please start collecting your receipts from June 1, 2020 - Aug. 28, 2021. The only Hy-Vee stores that can be accepted through our program is through the Cedar Valley. Saying that, please no receipts from Cedar Rapids and Waverly.

Art News

Lowell students are awesome as always as we adjust to art in the classroom. They have been working hard and making the best of working on their projects behind their desk shields. We have had to make a few changes to some projects to make them work in our new reality but they are rising to the occasion and making me proud of them all.