

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LINCOLN LINK
JANUARY, 2010
Volume 10, Issue 4



New Year's Resolution

Lincoln Elementary- A Wisconsin Promise Recognized School for 2009-2010. *Let's do it again!!!* Please help your child read with you or someone at your home 20 minutes each night! Research indicates this is one of the keys to successful readers. Let's make it happen for all our kids!!! Thank you for your help in helping us accomplish this resolution!

GOODSEARCH WEBSITE

Do you do search or shop online? If so, remember that your GoodSearch website can help Lincoln at the same time you search or shop. Be sure to enter 'Lincoln Elementary School—Janesville, WI under the Charity selection and start searching!

What's Inside . . .

-  Principally Speaking
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Did You Know? Winter Safety

1. Pulling into the parking lots is not allowed and is always dangerous. It is even more so in the winter with slippery roads and sidewalks.
2. Salt can only work to melt ice when the temperatures are high enough for it to work. Although it may vary it needs to be at least 15 degrees for it to work. Please keep telling us of icy areas. We appreciate knowing so we can get rid of it as quickly as possible. Also remind your children not to slide on the snow so icy areas are less likely to form and also to walk around the areas that are icy.
3. The area on King Street is very congested and the field gets very deep. It is not plowed in the winter. There may be other areas just down the block that are just as quick for the students to get to and may be safer for everyone.
4. We do not have our Safety Patrol students outside if the temperature is too cold for us to go out for recess. Please plan accordingly. We try to keep all our students safe including those helping us provide this service.
5. Just a reminder that everyone needs to allow extra time in the morning and go much, much slower around the school. The city and the district each try to do what they can but it is difficult to stay ahead of all the hazards.

Thanks for helping us keep our students safe!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PTA Meeting (6:15 p.m.).....	January 19
Student Council Dress Up Day: Career Day.....	January 15
No School: Teacher Work Day.....	January 22
Student Council Blue and Gold Day	January 29

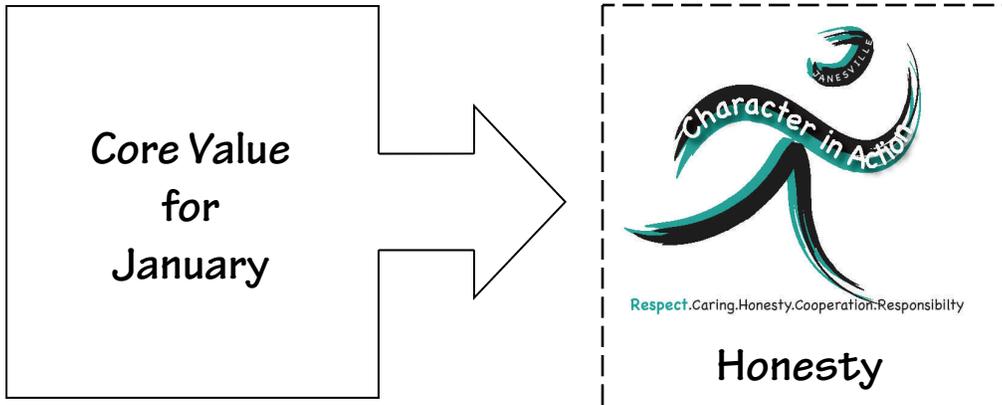
Principally Speaking

December was a very busy month with the regular school activities of learning in the academic areas as well as highlighting the fine arts area of music with our Winter Sings in grades K-3, Stories with Santa, and Santa's Secret Shop. The students had a wonderful time and we appreciate all the support they received from you and other members of their family. The students also participated in our character program this month by giving each other "drops" of positive feedback to fill their buckets. (If this doesn't sound familiar, please ask your child to explain.) We joined the district food campaign by suggesting our school donate \$1 for each of us and use our bucket campaign to help those

outside our building as well. I will share the final total next month. Thank you so much for your support and for helping us teach all our students about the importance of caring and giving to others. Emphasis on academic achievement is always at the front of our agenda. During December we completed the second set of our John's assessment, a running record, on all our 1st - 5th grade students. We were impressed with the growth the students are making. Please watch for more information in this Link and on-line as we begin to provide you with more information about activities related to our goals and your child's growth. We have new ways to provide

you information as well as seek your feedback. We are excited about the new communication tools we have been given and hope they are helpful as we continue to work together to help your child grow. Although you will be formally asked to give us feedback through the Studer Survey in February during our parent teacher conferences we are beginning to put things in place that will help us do this year round. Keep watching for details of these exciting new tools. We continue to believe Lincoln is an awesome and super school but are working daily to make it a great one.

Have a great January and remember to keep in touch!

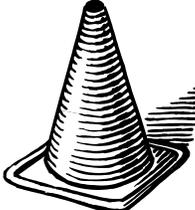


PARKING LOT

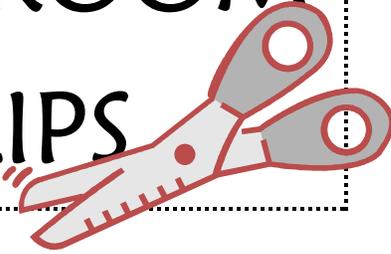
This is the actual sign posted by the entrance to the parking lot on Oakhill Avenue. Please remember that this lot is only to be used if you have business **INSIDE** the school during the day. **It is not to be used for dropping off or picking up your students.** We are working with the Janesville Police Department regarding our parking issues, and they will issue citations to those using our parking lot incorrectly. Thank you for helping us keep all students safe!

OBHEY THE CONES

We have bright orange traffic cones on Oakhill Avenue. These are to remind you that there is **NO PARKING**. There are several places on Oakhill Ave. and Conde St. which are safe areas to drop your students off. However, please remember to respect the driveways of our neighbors. The Janesville Police Department has the authority to issue citations if you block any driveway.




CLASSROOM CLIPS



KINDERGARTEN

December was filled with Snow, Christmas Music, and Holiday Cheer! We hope you enjoyed our Polar Express Party and sing-a-long! Thanks to all of you who could attend.

Be sure and review all of the letters and sounds we've learned so far this year over break. (Aa-Pp), Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu, and Zz. When we return from break, we will be finishing up the alphabet and working with consonant blends and the diagraphs (ai), (oa), (ie), (ee), and (or). We appreciate all your hard work helping your child move one step closer to reading!

January brings a new year and animal fun! In our Animal Families unit, we will explore how young animals differ from their parents and what the animals can and cannot do as babies. We will be venturing out on the town to visit Petland, the Hedberg Library, and Chinatown Restaurant as we study the country of China.

Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!
Mrs. Neumann, Mrs. Redieske and Mrs. Pajerski

FIRST GRADE

It's the best time of the year!!! At least in First Grade. The students put on a fantastic holiday program! What talent! Thank you all for coming! I'm sure after a restful holiday break; the students will be ready to get back into the routines of school. The expectations are high for our students and we know they will try their best to remember their manners, quiet voices, and respect for others. (Santa will be watching, too!) Enjoy this time with your child! Season's Greetings!

SECOND GRADE

Second Grade had a busy and exciting December with our Winter Sing and other holiday fun, as well as our first snow-day of the year! Thanks to all who donated to our food drive in December. With your help, many Janesville families were able to have a better holiday season. We have been working on our character trait of using good judgment and making good choices in everything we do. Second graders have also been enjoying the author of the month (Mercer Mayer) and doing book reports to display in the hallways. Keep those Captain's Club slips coming in to earn a free pizza from the Book-It program.

THIRD GRADE

It has been a busy month. Thank you for making all our Christmas Program a huge success. A lot of time and energy was spent into the performance. The students did an outstanding job!

Along with the program, the students have taken an in depth look at the book, *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. We have had a lot of fun taking a closer look at all of the elements of the story. The students had a fun time visualizing, inferring and making personal connections to the story. Of course to end it all, we got to watch the movie and wear our pajamas to school. Thank you again for all of your support to make learning fun.

FOURTH GRADE

Wow! What a busy month December has been in 4th grade! We are having a wonderful time getting ready for the holiday season by doing projects with our kindergarten buddies and reading fun books! The 4th graders are doing awesome at "rocket math" which is great to see! Please remember to practice math facts each night with your child so they can continue to rocket towards greatness in math! The teachers would also like to remind you to make sure your child reads each night! Be sure to sign their assignment notebook every day to help them stay organized! Have a fantastic and wonderful winter break and we will see you next year!!

Miss Moritz, Mrs. Maine, and Mrs. Carter

FIFTH GRADE

We hope everyone enjoys their break! It will be good to see all the smiling faces in the New Year.

Fifth graders need to be working on their character traits and on making good choices. We would like to see them practicing their math facts every night. We are still working on our new Rocket Math program. We are continuing our Guided Reading, and it is going very well. Our students have made nice gains in their reading and comprehension. We would like to see students reading for at least 10 minutes each night. Reading out loud to a parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, pet, etc. really helps with fluency. Reading stories that rhyme are a good tool to build fluency.

Once again, a reminder to students to wear appropriate clothing. We have seen some shirts that are sleeveless, or have skinny straps, and ones with big arm openings, also some with inappropriate sayings. These are not appropriate for school. Please remind students it is winter in Wisconsin and they need to wear winter gear for playing outside and in the snow.

The Fifth Grade Team



MOVING?

If you will be moving from your current home address, please contact the Lincoln school office at 743-6700 as soon as possible to determine what paperwork you will need to fill out for your child to continue attending his/her current school. Please note: if you are moving to an address outside the School District of Janesville in most cases your child is eligible to continue attending the School District of Janesville as long as you complete the appropriate paperwork within the required timeline.

If you have any questions about school placement for a particular address, please contact Administrative Services Secretary, Tami Carlson, at 746-5006. The Administrative Services Office is open year round.



Fourth Grade Computer Keyboarding News

By Mrs. Heth

The fourth graders continue to learn to type more keys on their QWERTY keyboards. Words are getting longer so extra keyboarding practice can be really beneficial as their touch typing skill develops and improves! If you have a computer at home, we encourage students to practice *ten* minutes per night. If you don't have a computer at home, a trip to the public library would provide this opportunity. They can practice from internet websites (keyboarding links are on school home pages), or they can use any word processing program on the computer and practice from drill sheets they bring home from class instruction. Whenever they do practice, please encourage them to *sit up straight, use the correct finger reaches, and keep their eyes on the copy!!!* Proper practice is the key to successful keyboarding!

Mrs. Heth, Keyboarding Instructor

LMC NEWS

Make sure you see our news later in this Link about our reading program! Students have an opportunity to earn a ticket to Six Flags with the Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club!

Miss Forst



A SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS OF FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

If you are considering having your student attend a Middle School other than the one your student would normally attend based on the school boundaries for the area in which you reside, please note you will need to complete a "Request for School Transfer/Placement Within the School District" (goldenrod) form. Forms may be obtained from the school office or from the School District of Janesville's Administrative Services office located at the Educational Services Center – 527 South Franklin Street. The timeline for submitting transfer requests is December 1 – December 15, 2009. **Please turn the form in to the Middle School office of the school your student would normally attend based on the school boundaries for the area in which you reside.**

STUDENT COUNCIL

Spirit Days for January are:

January 15 Career Dress-Up Day

January 29 Blue and Gold Day

Coming in February – Start saving your pennies for Pennies for Patients!

Come shop at the Lion's Den on Mondays from 3:00 – 3:15. We have lots of supplies and fun items to buy!

MUSIC NOTES

A huge thank you to the Lincoln students, staff and families who helped to make our winter programs fun and a success!

We are going to have a 4th and 5th Grade musical in March. The details are being worked out. You will be notified of the date in the Lincoln Link as soon as we know.

One Tired Elf, Mrs. Neitzel

All K-3 performances will be broadcast on December 29th on the Cable Access Channel 96/993 at 12 a.m., 3 a.m., 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m.

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED's)

Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been purchased by the School District of Janesville and have been installed in all Janesville Schools. We hope the need to use this device never takes place; however, it is reassuring to know that in the event of a medical emergency the AED is available. The AED at Lincoln elementary School is located next to the Activity Room in the hallway.

REQUEST FOR SCHOOL TRANSFER/PLACEMENT (INTRA DISTRICT TRANSFERS) WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JANESVILLE ATTENDANCE AREAS

Due to Move: If you move within the School District of Janesville during the school year and wish to remain at your current school please ask the school office for a Request to Remain in Current School Following Move to New Attendance Area Form (Blue). Complete the form and return it to the school office.

Due to Parent Choice: If you wish to apply to have your student transferred/placed in another school within the district next school year (2010-2011), please ask the school office for a School Transfer/Placement Within the School District Form (Goldenrod). Completed forms will be accepted from **December 1 through December 15, 2009** only. Submit your Request for School Transfer/Placement Within the School District Form (Goldenrod) to your home school attendance area office. Parents applying for Requests for School Transfer/Placement Within the School District will be notified of approval or disapproval by January 15, 2010. Parents applying for Requests for School Transfer/Placement Within the School District for incoming Kindergarten students will be notified of approval or disapproval after they have enrolled their child during the Kindergarten Enrollment period with the New Student Enrollment Office. If you have questions, please contact the school office of your home school attendance area.

PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT TIMELINES

The State of Wisconsin has announced the application period for open enrollment (also known as public school choice) begins in February for the following school year. Open Enrollment laws permit children to attend a public school in a school district other than the one in which they live.

The open enrollment application period for the 2010-11 school year is from February 1-19, 2010. Parents are encouraged to apply on-line at <https://www2.dpi.state.wi.us/OpenEnrollApp>. Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction or any school district after January 4, 2010 and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district during the application period. Applications must be submitted to the Administrative Services Department no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 19th (a postmark does not constitute timely submission). Applications turned in prior to February 1st will be returned as not valid and must be resubmitted after February 1st but before February 19th.

Enrollment in a requested school or program is subject to space and other limitations and is not guaranteed. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent.

Under School District of Janesville board policy, students who attended the district under open enrollment the previous year are not required to reapply for the following school year, unless they will be entering middle school.

An application is required for each sibling in the family. For example, if a family has one child in elementary school that has been approved for open enrollment and a new student entering kindergarten next year, the student entering kindergarten must apply for open enrollment in order to attend the School District of Janesville.

Parents will be informed in April whether their open enrollment applications have been approved or denied. The student's school or program placement will be provided in May.

If you have questions, please contact the Administrative Services Office at 743-5006.



Information Page

FAMILY "TO DO" LIST

- Read the Parent-Student Handbook
- Please complete the necessary paperwork regarding Free or Reduced Lunch if you are interested. This must be done every year and is not automatically renewed.
- Check your child's Take Home Folder (also the Assignment Notebook for upper grades) daily and return any requests.
- Try to make medical and dental appointments for before and after school hours if at all possible. We will keep you informed as to the days when there is no school so you can make appointments on those days.
- Review the safe route information, found in the Parent-Student Handbook, with your children as soon as possible. Please call if you have questions.
- Review with your child each day where they are to go after school.
- Review the school rules and basic rules of safety with your child. The school district continues to take violence and threats of violence very seriously. Please explain to your child the seriousness of threats and the consequences of those actions. Please call us anytime if you have questions or concerns.
- Always be sure your child has the needed school supplies.
- Call the attendance line at 743-6730 to report your child's absence or need to leave early due to an appointment.
- Join the Lincoln PTA.
- **If you would like your name on the Non-Custodial Parent List, please contact the office. A new list is developed each year, and information is not automatically carried over.**

NO PETS PLEASE

Janesville City ordinance forbids dogs, horses, cats, or other animals from being on playgrounds at any time. Please keep your pet home or in the car when you drop off or pick up your child. Thank you!



ARRIVING AND LEAVING SCHOOL

Adult supervision is provided on school grounds from 8:05 until the first bell rings at 8:15 a.m. Students should not be arriving at school earlier than 8:05 a.m. unless they are participating in a special activity (i.e. Fast ForWord, Safety Patrol, Breakfast Club, et.) Students will not be allowed into the building during inclement weather until 8:05 a.m.

Students should leave school and the playground when dismissed at 3:00 p.m. or go immediately to after school activities.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY MISSION STATEMENT

Lincoln School is dedicated to creating a community of learners that realizes the potential of each child in a safe and caring environment.

WEATHER PROCEDURES

A reminder to our families about weather related closings and delays notification. The **AlertNow®** system will serve as our primary means of notification. We urge you to supply your student's school with your contact information and updates as changes occur. WCLO and additional radio and TV stations will be contacted regarding school closings or delays. Closing and delay information will be posted no later than 6:00 a.m.

Decisions on cancellation of school are made in coordination with both the Janesville Transit System, and Van Galder Bus Company. They are also based on the passage of city streets, safety of rural students and information from the county highway and city street departments. The final decision to delay or close rests with Superintendent, Karen Schulte. **Parents always have the option of keeping their child home due to inclement weather. Your child will receive a principal excused absence. You must call your school to report your decision to keep your child home.**

The Superintendent also continues to have the **option of delaying the start of school by one hour. Elementary School classes will begin at 9:20 a.m. and middle and high school classes will begin at 9:00. Special education and early childhood classes will also report at 9:20. Elementary breakfast clubs will not serve meals when school has been delayed.**

Schools do not close early to avoid incoming snow or ice storms. This policy is to protect children who may get home before their parents and have no access or supervision at home. There will be no athletic contests and practices on days school is called off for weather reasons. The gyms will be closed.

On days when school is in session, but weather has progressively gotten worse, **cancellations for after school or evening athletics or extracurricular activities will be announced by 2:00.**

Important Coming Attractions

Please watch for the following communication tools as we try to give you the most up to date information possible about your child's school and activities. Most are in progress and you should see them soon. Please call with questions or feedback. Thank you.

Rodonna Amiel (Principal)

Web Site

*School page -General

In progress is the addition of our school goals to our website.

*Dashboard

This is a tool to record some of the results of our building as we work toward our goals. It will give you more detailed information regarding our activities. Our goals are increasing achievement in the areas of reading and math, decreasing truancy and increasing parent and staff satisfaction.

In the Building

*Customer satisfaction survey

This short survey will give you an immediate opportunity to tell us how we did helping you while you were in our building or when you needed some assistance.

*More positive phone calls from the principal and staff members

Monthly Newsletter

We will continue to solicit feedback from you as in the past but will add some new questions that may help us serve you better. Please feel free to call me (743-6705) drop me a line or call and make an appointment to come in and chat. We want our newsletter to give you the information you need to help your child become the best they can be.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Studer Survey

The next parent teacher survey will be provided for your convenience during parent teacher conferences. We will have the labs set up to make this as quick and easy as possible. Your feedback is important to us as we look for ways to make Lincoln a great school for you and your children.

DISTRICT ALERTNOW

The School District of Janesville is continually exploring ways to promote student safety and security. That is why beginning with the 2009-2010 school year the district has contracted with AlertNow Rapid Communication System to send telephone or e-mail messages to you providing important information about school events and emergencies. We anticipate using AlertNow to notify you of school closings or delays due to inclement weather, as well as remind you about various school events, follow up on attendance and school emergencies.

Following is information you need to know about receiving calls through AlertNow:

- Caller I.D. will display the school district's main number (743-5000) when a general announcement is delivered
- Caller I.D. will display 411 if the message is an emergency
- AlertNow will leave a message on any answering machine or voicemail.
- If the AlertNow message stops playing, press any key 1-9 on your phone and the message will replay from the beginning.

The successful delivery of a message is dependent on accurate contact information for each student. Families should make certain the district has the current working phone numbers. You may also provide an e-mail address if you wish to receive messages by e-mail. You can add information to the student's record by completing the bottom portion of this form or contacting your child's school office.

We are excited to incorporate AlertNow as a tool to enhance communication with parents and guardians about activities at school. Thank you.

Decisions at Lincoln

The question has come up about how decisions are made in a school and specifically our school. We have several committees addressing important areas within the school such as IIC, the leadership team, Staff Development team, RTI Steering committee etc. The members on the committees solicit information from other staff in the building and bring the information back for discussion. The common link in all the committees is the first question that is asked - Is it good for our students? We thought you would like to know that this is always on our minds. If you ever have a question about something please give us a call. We love hearing from you and want to insure we are all working together to help our Lincoln Students become the very best they can be.

Children Come First!

January

					1 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	2
3	4 Back to School	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Student Council Career Dress Up Day	16
17	18	19 PTA Meeting 6:15 p.m.	20	21 End of Semester 3rd Quarter Milk Payment Due (\$12.90)	22 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	23
24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29 Student Council Blue & Gold Day	30

Coming Up: Progress reports go home February 5th.
 Parent-Teacher Conferences February 24th-25th
 No School February 25th-26th

2010