

# Lincoln Link

February 2018

Lincoln Elementary School, Janesville WI

## Choice Boards to Empower & Engage Students



Mari Ruosch,  
Innovation Specialist

**By Mari Ruosch**

Lincoln Elementary has been proactive in empowering students. Teachers attended a workshop that discussed how to incorporate student choices through a choice board. A choice board provides students a visual representation of the different avenues they can take to express their learning. All of the choices that are provided allow the student to be the creator. Some choices are creating a poster, 3D object,

creating a video, a virtual reality, or come up with their own idea. By allowing stu-

dents to choose how they show what they know they are given a voice in their learning. We are excited to watch our students grow as empowered learners throughout the school year!



*Read more about Choice Boards in this issue.*

## Parent / Teacher Conferences

Parent / teacher conferences are scheduled at Lincoln

**Wednesday, February 21**

**Thursday, February 22.**

We're excited to see you again and eager to talk with you about your child's progress. Notes regarding your preferences will be sent home soon.

**Know what to expect from a parent-teacher conference and the best questions to ask the teacher.**

Get ready for a parent-teacher conference by making a list of the questions you want to ask. A prepared parent

with a positive attitude and an open mind is on the right track for creating a successful, year-long partnership with his child's teacher.

- ◆ May I tell you about my child?
- ◆ What do you think my child is particularly good at?
- ◆ In what areas does my child need improvement?
- ◆ What can I do to support you in the classroom?
- ◆ How can I contact you?

Read more at: [20 Questions to Ask During a Parent-Teacher Conference](#) by Care.com

# Choice Boards Empower Students in Physical Education

**By Brenda Wenzel**

Students in grades 3-5 chose a health related topic to study during their participation in the Heart Obstacle Course. They became “experts” on their topic by researching their own facts. Studying about the heart, lungs, blood, brain, cholesterol, etc were just some of topics being studied within a class. Once their research was completed the students had another choice on

how they were going to share their “expert knowledge” with others. The use of a Choice Board helped students to think creatively, find a learning style that fit them best & motivated students about the next step in this project. During this health topic project students were in charge and leading their own learning. The gym was filled with enthusiastic learners because they had CHOICE and felt EMPOWERED!



Brenda Wenzel, PE Teacher



*Below, an image of the Choice Board used by PE Teacher Brenda Wenzel related to studying the healthy heart*

<p>Be a news reporter. Create a newscast video about what you have learned.</p>	<p>Be a journalist. Write a journal or news article.</p>	<p>Create a song/dance</p>	<p>Create rap, or poem that shares your knowledge.</p>
<p>Team project or presentation. Limit 3 people.</p>	<p><b>Student Project Ideas</b></p>		<p>Create a Discovery Ed board to advertise your learning.</p>
<p>Create a puzzle sharing your information.</p>			<p>Come up with your own project. Get it approved by your teacher.</p>
<p>Create an alphabet code using symbols or emojis.</p>	<p>Create an exercise video.</p>	<p>Create a model that explains your learning.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast two topics.</p>

## Students Talk of Choice Boards

Here is what Empowered Learners had to say about their P.E. project.

“We like this project because it was a fun thing to do and we got to choose what we wanted to do. It wasn’t just a paper test! It was a very interesting and awesome choice. And a test you can’t partner up but in this project you could. It was very interesting but super fun. There were a lot of facts to find. I like this a lot and would like to do this again, 100%!”

# BrightBytes Student Survey

We are partnering with BrightBytes, an educational research organization, in order to learn more about our students' school and home technology use for learning. For that reason, we are reaching out to let you know that we're asking your child(ren) to take part in the CASE questionnaire. Their participation is essential in helping us form a more complete picture of technology use for learning in your child(ren)'s lives. Please know that all of their responses will remain anonymous to protect their privacy. Students are taking the survey during

the weeks of February 5th and 12th. If you'd like to see the list of questions that are being asked, you can find it here <http://goo.gl/767qBm>. Please contact Shelley Gard at [sgard@janesville.k12.wi.us](mailto:sgard@janesville.k12.wi.us) with questions or concerns.



## PE choice Board Final Projects...



## ...On FlipGrid

A Team of Heart Experts! PE Students are so proud of their learned accomplishments! **Introducing Flipgrid!** Learners in our Phy Ed class have been working on a project of their choice after learning about the heart, lungs, blood, and brain. They used the Choice Board to brainstorm ideas. They compiled their finished projects on Flipgrid. You can check out all the projects on [Flipgrid](#).

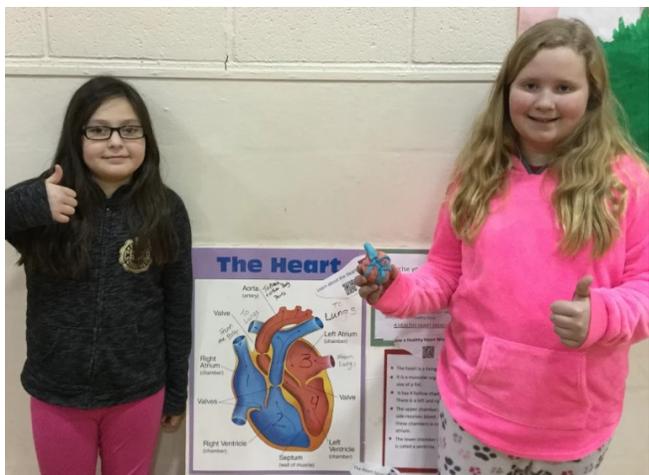
**FLIPGRID.**



Kimaya, Jaelah & Trinity chose to create a rap song to share their learned info, Check out this rap about the lungs! [Watch video.](#)



Isabel and Payten excited about using a choice board, chose to be News Reporter as a way to share their learned info. [Watch video.](#)



Esme and Whitney, 5th grade studied the heart and created their own play-do model. [Watch video.](#)

# Students Explain Personalized Learning

We asked select students to identify and explain some of the key components of Personalized Learning (PL). Here Emma speaks of setting goals in the student driven environment. In a PL classroom, the learner sets the goals, determines how and also how much to practice, then decides his own way to show mastery of the goal.

“The structure of Personalized learning can be summed up by asking:

- What standard are you going to learn?
- How are you going to learn it?
- How are you going to show me your learning?

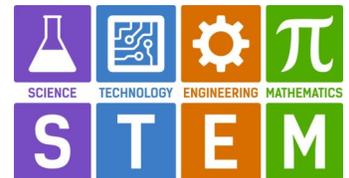
Check out these and more resources! our [Personalized Learning Weebly site](#)



[Click HERE to watch video](#) of Emma explaining how to set and reach your own goals in a Personalized Learning setting



## New Lincoln STEM Lab Now Open!



By David Smith

Lincoln Elementary is excited to announce the opening of our new STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) lab. Our first unit will help students learn all about inventing with the help of Professor Cosmo. Earlier this year students performed a play -- and produced a video - - featuring Professor Cosmo and his inventions. (Read more about the video in the last paragraph).

Mari Ruosch, Innovation Specialist and STEM Lab Coordinator, will help students explore inventors and inventing, and encourage them to create their own inventions at home. We've also developed an invention "game" site on Lincoln's LMC page where students can earn badges as they complete the five steps of creating an invention.

To help your student inventor, go to the [LMC link](#) at the top right-hand side of Lincoln Elementary's website. Click on "[Professor Cosmo's Inventions](#)" and start with:

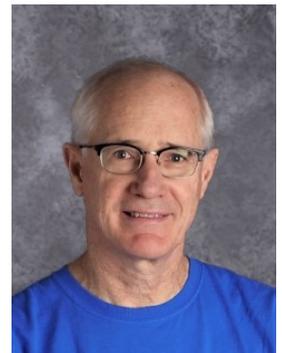
- Step one, "Learning about Inventors"** by reading and watching videos.
- Step two is "Finding an Idea"** and recording it

on the site.

- Step three is "Researching and Planning"** your own invention.
- Step four involves "Developing, Testing, and Displaying"** invention ideas.

Student's must sign in with Lincoln ID and password to get into the invention site. Within each step, students can advance levels and earn badges as they go. They can go as far as they want within each step: not all levels need to be completed to proceed to the next step.

The backdrop to the inventing unit is the "Professor Cosmo Video." The formerly good Professor Cosmo turns evil when his nemesis, Professor Oak, tricks him. Only with the help of Lincoln students can Professor Cosmo once again become a good professor and helper of all mankind.



David Smith,  
Title I Reading Teacher



# Learner Backpacks Empower

While presenting at the SLATE conference last month, I was able to attend a game-changing session! I learned about "Learner Backpacks" and how kids use resources



Amy Eckels,  
Grade 2 Teacher

to access (learn), engage (practice) and express (show their learning). Our class did an activity in which we looked at all of the apps and activities we do throughout the day and sorted them into those three categories. Now during goal setting, the students are able to choose one or more apps or activities from each category as



a way for them to understand the connection between their goals and the work they are doing. When they understand the "why" behind what they do, they continue empower their own learning!



## What's Coming Up?

Culver's Scoopie Night—Tuesday, 2/13 (4-8pm)

Birthday Lunch—February Birthdays, Monday 2/19

Birthday Lunch—August Half Birthdays, Tuesday 2/20

No School for students—Wed 2/21 through Friday 2/23

Parent Teacher Conference & PTA Book Fair—Wed 2/21-Thurs 2/22

FRC's Dads & Kids Event —Tuesday, 2/27 (6:00 pm)

## 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 2018-2019 school year is from **February 5, 2018 – April 30, 2018**. Parents are encouraged to apply on-line at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction or any school district after January 15, 2018 and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district during the application period. Paper applications to attend Janesville must be submitted to the Administrative Services Department no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 30th (a postmark does not constitute timely submission). Applications turned in prior to February 5th will be returned as not valid and must be resubmitted after February 5th but before April 30th.

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.

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 June whether their open enrollment applications have been approved or denied. The student's school or program placement will be provided in June. If you have questions, please contact the Administrative Services Office at 743-5006.

