

# Lion Tales

Olin Consolidated School District - 212 Trilby Street - Olin, IA 52320 - Phone 319-484-2170  
www.olin.k12.ia.us



**FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHARON DICKMAN**  
**OLIN SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL**

As I write this, we have missed six days of school due to snow and/or cold. I am sure that you have the same concerns that I do: Are we going to get in a full week of school without a late-start or missing entirely? Will we be going to school until the middle of June? So far, one snow-make up day was held on January 13. The second will be made up February 17 on Presidents' Day. According to the current school calendar the remaining days will be made up June 2<sup>nd</sup>

– June 5<sup>th</sup>. As you will recall, last year we went to school until June 7 and this was not conducive to learning. I will be talking to the staff and the school board to determine options we may consider to make up these days during the rest of the school year. HOWEVER, I make no promises! Please stay tuned...

Did you know that Olin Elementary is collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City? The Ronald McDonald House is a 31 room “home away from home” for families with children receiving medical care in Iowa City. We hope to encourage students to learn about recycling and to contribute back to their community. The two schools that collect the most tabs (figured as the highest average pounds collected per student) will be awarded a prize and presentation ceremony. This is a perfect opportunity to teach the students about being responsible not just in school, but their community as well. The 2013-2014 Pop Tab Collection Contest is for schools in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Last week Linda Thomsen, the school nurse, took a 50 quart tub of collected aluminum can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. As she stated, “I was amazed our first delivery amounted to 30 pounds.” Thanks Mrs. Thomsen! So keep encouraging the students to collect the can tables and bring them to school. Please contact Mrs. Ruess for more information. The contest ends on April 4, 2014.



In December 2013 the school board voted to purchase several heating and cooling units for classrooms. This was the perfect time since Alliant Energy was offering a \$600 rebate per unit. In addition, we will be less reliant on the boilers. The main advantage is that on extremely hot days we should be able to stay in school all day with no early-outs due to heat.

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN** - We are finishing our unit on “My Bodies.” Throughout this unit we learned about our skin and why it is important to us. We also talked about our feet and hands, what we use them for and how to take care of them. Since we have entered into the “sickness” season we have also learned how to keep our bodies healthy.



In math, we continued to work on patterning. We learned how to make four different patterns: AB, AAB, ABB and ABC. During small groups, the students made patterns and told what kind of pattern it was.

We focused on the letter Ii. We learned what it sounds like, looks like, and how to write it. We discovered that only two people in our class DO NOT have the letter Ii somewhere in their name.

Soon we will begin our “My Five Senses” unit. We will learn about each of the five senses. Not only will we learn about how we use the senses, but we will have time to practice using them during a variety of activities.

In math, we will start using pattern blocks. The students will be exploring different ways to make various shapes using different pattern blocks. We will learn that there are many ways to make a shape such as a triangle using as little as two pattern blocks.

**FOURTH GRADE** - The fourth graders are reading stories from Theme 4 which is called American Snapshots. Nicole, Lane, Shannon, and I shared some of our pictures of the past.

State posters were made by each student. The students did an excellent job on their posters. Some of the fifth and sixth graders remembered their state posters.

In Math, we are doing long multiplication, division, fractions, area, perimeters, and symmetry. Also, flashcards are being reviewed.

Wisconsin Fast Plants are being grown and observed in Science.

I hope your child is reading at home and keeping track of his or her minutes.

Emily and Jenna will celebrate their birthdays in February. Happy Birthday!!!!

Happy Valentine’s Day!



**FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE:** The 5th graders are working on fractions in Math. We just finished adding and subtracting fractions and will be working on mixed numbers next. After that, we will be getting into multiplying and dividing fractions. In English they just finished writing and presenting their How-to papers. We were able to sample some of the delicious food they taught us how to make, also. We are starting our next unit on adjectives and figuring out how to write a research paper. In Science, they just finished their unit on Micro-worlds. They learned there are a lot of microorganisms out there that they do not think about and what they do to us or for us. We are starting our next unit on Floating and Sinking. They are going to figure out what makes something either float or sink when it is in water.



The 6th graders are working on finishing their Math unit on Probability using Statistics to work out chance of things happening or not. Next we will be working with measurement using length, weight, and volume. In Science, we just finished our unit on Experimenting with Plants. Now we are working on our unit on Measuring Time.

Both classes are working on the genre of Fantasy in Literature Groups. They are figuring out what makes something Fantasy and what they have read, watched, or games they have played that are in the Fantasy genre. They will be reading stories and eventually making either a Fantasy or Science Fiction story in class. They are also working on learning new Word Wall Words and being able to apply the definition to a sentence to be able to tell me if that sentence is a true or false sentence.

**CULTURE GRAMS:** Iowa Area Education Agencies provide twelve dynamic online resources for grades preK-6 to all Iowa accredited schools.

**Iowa AEA Online**  
Educational Resources Funded and Provided by Iowa's Area Education Agencies

Iowa students have access at school and at home (Internet access required), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These online resources give your child access to a wealth of information for assignments, classroom projects, and personal interest. One of these online resources is Culture Grams. Culture Grams is an insider's perspective on daily life and culture, including the history, customs, and lifestyles of the world's people. Students can access these online resources at [www.iowaaeaonline.org](http://www.iowaaeaonline.org) using the username and password they are given at school. The password can also be obtained by contacting the elementary school.

**IOWA ASSESSMENTS:** The *Iowa Assessments* (formerly known as Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) will be given during the week of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> will take these important tests to provide information about your child in a variety of content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Parents, you play an important role in helping students give their best performance on this test. As you know, we have been busy preparing and reinforcing the skills necessary. Even though the *Iowa Assessments* are just one snapshot-one source of data- it is important that students do their very best. We want students to be as prepared as possible. Here are some ways you can help your child do their very best:

Throughout the year:

- Read to/with your child and discuss what you've read.
- Encourage reading for pleasure regularly.
- Know what kind of homework teachers expect and make sure your child completes it.
- Provide a regular, quiet place for your child to read or complete homework.
- Set high expectations for grades and attendance.
- Take an active interest in what your child is doing in school. What is he or she learning?
- During the weeks leading up to the test, begin to talk with your child about doing his or her best.



The night before the test:

- Make sure your child goes to bed on time so he or she is well-rested.
- Keep your routine as normal as possible.
- Be positive and confident in the fact you know your child will do his/her best.
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning test.

The morning before the test:

- Get up a few minutes early to avoid rushing.
- Make sure your child arrives to school on time.
- Have your child eat a nutritious breakfast. There is a strong correlation between eating breakfast and memory and cognitive functioning.
- Have your child dress comfortably.
- Be positive and communicate this is your child's chance to show what he/she knows. The most important thing you can do right before the test is to build confidence about doing his/her best.

After the test:

- Talk to your child about his/her feelings about the test.
- Discuss what was easy and what was hard.
- Explain that performance on a test does not define him or her as a person. It is just one opportunity to demonstrate learning.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Any questions on about the test can be directed to your classroom teacher or Mrs. Ruess, school counselor.

DECEMBER 2013

# B.U.G.S



Kindergarten  
Pre-Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade

Students are taught and reminded to make choices based on:

- The SAFETY of all students and adults
- Treating all students and adults with RESPECT
- RESPONSIBLE behaviors



5th Grade

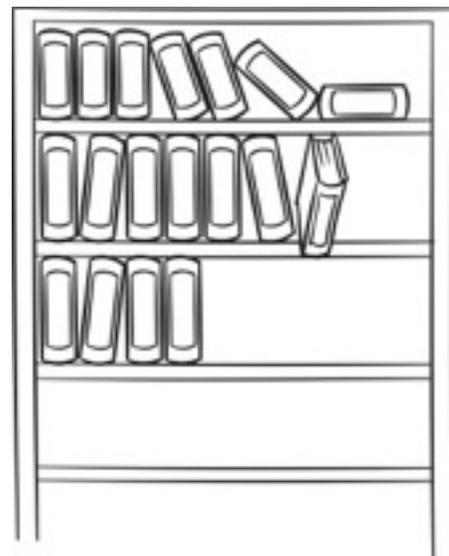


6th Grade



**Olin Public Library Dinner:** The Olin Public Library would like to invite the residents of Olin to a free dinner to thank you for your support of the library. The dinner

will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014 from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at the Olin Public Library.



**Olin Consolidated School**

212 Trilby Street  
PO Box 320  
Olin, IA 52320

**FEBRUARY 2014**

CAR-RT-SORT  
Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No 2  
Olin, Iowa 52320

ECRWSS  
BOX HOLDER  
OLIN, IA 52320