

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

LION TALES

OLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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



From the Desk of Mrs. Dickman: Superintendent/Principal

End of 1st Semester: It seems impossible that the school year is half over. Where has the time gone? Report cards have been sent home. Please remember to call or email your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.

FAST Assessments: A new statewide reading test FAST is being used at our school. FAST is the test which stands for Formative Assessment System for Teachers. FAST is given to every student (PrK-6th grade) three times a year to identify students who are reading on grade level and those students who need additional help in reading. Results of the fall assessment were shared at Parent-Teacher Conferences. Students are currently retaking the FAST assessments. Individual student results will be shared with parents. For more information about FAST, please visit the Iowa Reading Research Center's website at www.iowareadingresearch.org under the "Parents" tab.

Iowa Tests: The annual Iowa Tests will be given from February 1 – February 10. All students in 1st – 6th grades will be taking the tests. Once again this year, students who improve their scores in reading and/or math will be eligible for a school reward. This year the students will be going bowling in Anamosa. Pizza and pop will also be served at the bowling alley. Like last year, we will need to go 2 different days due to the size of the bowling alley. The students in grades 1-3 will go one day, after school, and students in grades 4-6 will go another day, right after school. Students are eligible to go bowling by meeting 1 of 3 different criteria. The criteria are:

1. Being proficient in EITHER Reading Comprehension OR Mathematics.
2. Increase his/her score by 5 points from the year before in EITHER Reading Comprehension OR Mathematics.
3. Being within 5 points of this year's proficiency score in EITHER Reading Comprehension OR Mathematics.

First graders are eligible by meeting the criteria for #1 or #3.

Kindergarten Scientists

The Kindergarteners love the new science kit, Animals 2x2, this year. The kit allows us to study live animals in our classroom. So far, we have had goldfish, guppies, land snails and pond snails. Now we have earthworms and red worms. The students had a chance to hold and observe the two different worms the other day in class. We have a few students who are not so sure about holding these slimy, wiggly creatures! For the most part, the students are excited be able to have hands-on experiences with their science kits.



Fifth and Sixth Grade News

In 5th grade math, the students are working with fractions. They just finished learning how to add and subtract them and are now starting to understand how to multiply and divide them. In science, they are working on a Living Systems unit. They are studying a compost jar to figure out how red worms do their job. They are planting wheat seeds to see what effect not having light on them is going to do, and they are receiving butterfly larvae tomorrow to study the different stages of life with them. In Social Studies they are comparing the English to the Colonists to see what impact each had during the Revolutionary War and how the Americans won. Next we will be learning about how the government came to be after the war.

The 6th graders are currently working on Statistics and Probability in Math. After this unit they will start to work with Measurement, accurately measuring and converting units of measurement. They are also working on their Living Systems unit in Science. They also have a compost jar they are studying to figure out how red worms do their job, they are planting wheat seeds to see what effect not having light on them is going to do, and they are receiving butterfly larvae tomorrow to study the different stages of life with them.

Iowa Assessments Week of February 1st

The *Iowa Assessments* (formally known as Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) will be given during the week of February 1st, 2016. Students in grades 1st-6th will take these important tests. The tests will 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 for these tests. 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.
- Regularly encourage reading for pleasure.
- 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 of 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 or about the tests can be directed to your classroom teacher or Mrs. Ruess, school counselor.

OLIN ELEMENTARY LUNCH MENU

February 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BKF: Cereal Sloppy Joe Broccoli w/Chesse Mixed Fruit	2 BKF: Pancakes Mandarin Orange Chicken Seasoned Rice Tossed Salad Tropical Fruit	3 BKF: Egg Sandwich Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Salad Green Beans Bread Stick Pears	4 BKF: Fr. Toast Stick Taco In A Bag Refried Beans Pineapple Tidbits	5 BKF: BKF Pizza Chicken Noodles Steamed Carrots Salad Orange Wedges	6
7	8 BKF: Cereal Meatball Sub Potato Wedges Tossed Salad Sliced Peaches	9 BKF: Pancakes Mr. Rib Baked Beans Salad Mixed Fruit	10 BKF: Egg Sandwich Biscuits & Gravy Cherry Tomatoes Cucumber Slices Fruit Salad	11 BKF: Fr. Toast Stick Cheese Pizza Fresh Baby Carrots Salad Bread Stick Fruit Cup	12 BKF: BKF Pizza Deli Sandwich Baked Chips Baby Carrots	13
14	15 BKF: Cereal Breaded Chicken Oven Baked Fries Tropical Fruit	16 BKF: Pancakes Popcorn Chicken Tossed Salad Oranges	17 BKF: Egg Sandwich Chili w/Crackers Cheese Sandwich Salad Fruit	18 BKF: Fr. Toast Stick Ham Glazed Sweet Potatoes Salad Mixed Fruit	19 BKF: BKF Pizza Mac & Cheese Peas Baby Carrots Apple	20
21	22 BKF: Cereal Hamburger Tater Tots Corn Pineapple Tidbits	23 BKF: Pancakes Corndog Green Beans Fresh Apple	24 BKF: Egg Sandwich Quesadilla or Burrito Refried Beans Salad Fruit	25 BKF: Fr. Toast Stick Lasagna Seasoned Peas Garden Salad Fruit Cocktail	26 BKF: BKF Pizza Fish Nuggets Steamed Vegetables Salad	27
28	29 BKF: Cereal Pizza Green Beans Tossed Salad Fruit Cup	<p>Notes: Daily breakfast includes listed menu item & 100% juice/fruit and milk. Half pint of 1% or skim milk served with meals. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</p>				

February 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Republican Caucus Meeting Room - 5:00 Democratic Caucus Gym - 6:00 Iowa Assessments Week of Feb. 1-5 Grades 1 st - 8 th	2 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	3 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	4 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	5	6 Kuhm Sauer Gym 8:45-9:30 a.m.
7	8 Tom Nelson Gym 6:00 - 7:30	9 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	10 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	11 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	12 Professional Development 12:30 Early Dismissal	13 Kuhm Sauer Gym 8:45-9:30 a.m. FOES Chill Cook-Off Lunchroom 10:00 - 5:00
14	15	16 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	17 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	18 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	19 BUGS	20 Kuhm Sauer Gym 8:45-9:30 a.m.
21	22 School Board Meeting Meeting Room - 8:00	23 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	24 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	25 Kuhm Sauer Gym 4:45-5:30	26 Professional Development 12:30 Early Dismissal	27 Kuhm Sauer Gym 8:45-9:30 a.m.
28	29 Dental Hygienist Grades 1-4 Meeting Room	Notes:				

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Success in the classroom is often impacted by oral health. Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease. Poor oral health influences a child's ability to eat, thrive and grow: to concentrate and learn new skills; to speak properly; and to have self-confidence.

The I-Smile @ School program will be at Olin School again this year to provide FREE preventive dental services to all students in grades 1-6. An Iowa licensed dental hygienist will be at school near the end of February to provide dental screening, dental sealants, fluoride varnish, and oral health education during the school day. Your child should have brought home information about the services that will be provided and a consent form for you to complete and return to your student's teacher. Please review these materials and return the completed consent form prior to February 19, 2016. If you have any questions, you can call Olin School at 484-2170, leave a message for the School Nurse, Linda Thomsen, RN, BS, and she will return your call.

It is the policy of the Olin Consolidated School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (Employment only) marital status, sexual orientation, gender identify, and socioeconomic status (students/programs only) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Stephen Estes, (Employment and Education Programs Coordinator), PO Box 320, Olin, IA 52320, 319-484-2170, sestes@olin.k12.ia.us. Code No. 102