

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



Winter Concert: Olin Elementary has been quite an exciting place to be in December. The beginning of December was spent preparing for the Winter Concert by singing winter and Christmas songs and decorating for the holidays. The students and staff were pleased by the number of parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends who attended the performance. We have heard many comments that those attending appreciated having the risers on the stage. It was also extra special because all of the classrooms participated in decorating the stage in some way.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner: The other annual December event is the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner. We were happy to see the large number of people who attended. This is a special event for the 6th graders as well, since they get practice serving the meal to the attendees. They received many wonderful compliments regarding the job they did. A big THANKS also goes to the local businesses that donated money to pay for the food and/or sent employees to help serve and clean up. Those businesses that donated money are Sue's Beauty Nook, American Legion Auxiliary, A & A Construction, Ancient Landmark Lodge, Knuth Law Office, Olin Telephone Company, Citizens' State Bank, Blayney, Miner, Ahrendsen American Legion and Paulsen's Repair. We are also very appreciative of those employees who helped. We could not do it without them.

Whole Grade Sharing with Anamosa: On December 1, 2014 the Olin School Board approved a new three year whole grade sharing agreement with Anamosa CSD. The agreement runs from July 2015 through June 2018. Minimal changes were made to the current agreement.

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHARON DICKMAN - CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHARON DICKMAN - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department of Education Accreditation Visit: Last month I reported that on November 12 and 13 a team from the DE visited Olin Elementary as part of its 5 year accreditation rotation. At that time I also reported that we received a glowing report. I am happy to announce that the formal report is now available on the district's web page (www.olin.k12.ia.us). Here a few of the "noted strengths" included in the report:

1. It appeared to the site visit team facilities are clean and well maintained. Janitorial staff are commended for their efforts in maintaining the facility. The School Board has been pro-active in their efforts to allocate funds necessary to maintain the facility. Recent allocations are:
 - authorized purchase of new windows throughout the facility
 - air-conditioning in classrooms
 - a new preschool playground
 - an energy audit resulting in physical plant changes to conserve energy
 - necessary painting, carpeting, and concrete work repairs
2. Student safety procedures are in place at Olin CSD. Visitors use a sign-in/sign-out process and security cameras and doors have been purchased. Pre-K playground areas are fenced-in. Emergency procedures are posted by every door and procedures are also practiced so that students know the safety expectations and procedures.
3. Students, staff, and school board recognized access to technology throughout the elementary as a positive factor. Students in upper elementary have one-to-one laptops available to them. Every classroom has access to computers. There are two mobile computer labs available for classroom/student use. The library has a PC computer lab. Teachers were able to share the following ways they use technology for student achievement:
 - research
 - graphing capabilities in science
 - Elmo overhead projectors
 - Read Naturally apps

We all know that Olin Elementary is a great little school. I am pleased that the DE Site Visit Team recognized all of the wonderful things about our school. I have a favor to ask: Please brag and then brag some more about Olin Elementary.



KINDERGARTEN -

Mrs. Tjaden - The Kindergarten students sent four care packages to different soldiers all over the world. We would like to thank everyone that donated items for this wonderful cause. We hope all soldiers have a wonderful holiday season, and they enjoy our care packages.

In other news, almost all the students have learned their letter sounds and we will be ready to start small reading groups after the holiday break. In Math, we will be starting time and money, which are two of the hardest units to learn in Math. The Kindergarteners will continue with their community helpers unit when we return and will also have a new Science kit to start.



Happy Holidays from Mrs. Tjaden & the Kindergarteners!

SECOND GRADE -

Ms. Embry: This week in reading we began Lesson 12. We are learning about different musical instruments and discussing different ways to enjoy music.

We are continuing working on money concepts in math. We are learning how to compare prices at the grocery store and using the fewest amounts of coins to purchase items.

2nd grade earned another class reward in December for filling our BUG catcher! We chose to have an extra recess. It was nice to be able to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather we've been having.

Our Holiday Dinner was in December. We enjoyed visiting with the senior citizens in the Olin community and having a delicious lunch prepared by the kitchen staff!

Thank you to all who participated in the Winter Concert. It was a wonderful performance and all of the students sang beautifully.

Our Holiday Party was Friday, December 19th following the B.U.G.S. Assembly.



FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE -

Mrs. Armstrong: The 5th graders are working on the beginning comprehension ideas for working with fractions in Math. They will continue working with fractions and start working with mixed numbers adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing them. In Science, they are halfway through their unit dealing with Microworlds, looking at specimens in great detail. Soon they will be looking at microorganisms, tiny creatures, under the microscopes. In Social Studies, they are working on how the United States came to be. They are studying the first 13 colonies right now.

In 6th grade Math the students are working on figuring ratios and rates. They are applying this to the world outside of school for price per ounces and seeing what are better buys in stores. In Science, they are continuing their experiments with plants. They are slowly figuring out if what they added or took off helped the plant grow or hurt it. They are also learning about how careful they have to be with living things to keep them growing well.

OLIN SCHOOL NURSE -

Linda Thomsen, RN, BS: Cold Weather Brings Carbon Monoxide Risks - The home heating season has begun and as furnaces are turned on, the risk for carbon monoxide (CO) exposure increases. This odorless, tasteless and colorless gas can be emitted from poorly functioning or unvented furnaces or other gas-powered home appliances.

Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States, with nearly half of all accidental carbon monoxide deaths occurring during the winter. Unintentional CO exposure also accounts for an estimated 15,000 emergency department visits in the United States each year. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and altered mental status. Symptoms of severe CO poisoning include malaise, shortness of breath, headache, nausea, chest pain, irritability, lack of coordination, altered mental status, other neurologic symptoms, loss of consciousness, coma, and death. Signs include elevated heart rate, rapid breathing, low blood pressure, various neurologic findings including impaired memory, cognitive and sensory disturbances.

The Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) offers 24/7 consultation to the public and physicians on CO treatment and forwards reports of CO exposures and poisonings to IDPH. For more information, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/carbon_monoxide.asp.



Lion Tales clip art from <http://schools.iclipart.com/iowa/>

Olin Elem and Anamosa BOTH have an early dismissal on Thursday, Jan 8.

Olin will dismiss at 12:30 on Jan 8.

Olin Elem HAS school on Friday, Jan 9.

Anamosa does NOT have school on Friday, Jan 9.



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, Michael Marsden, (Employment and Education Programs Coordinator), PO Box 320, Olin, IA 52320, 319-484-2170, mmarsden@olin.k12.ia.us. Code No. 102

Olin Consolidated School

January 2015

212 Trilby Street
PO Box 320
Olin, IA 52320

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

ECRWSS
BOX HOLDER
OLIN, IA 52320