



lion Tales

OCTOBER, 2013



From the desk of Mrs. Sharon Dickman Olin School Superintendent/Principal

I am very happy to announce that the beginning of the school year has been GREAT! It was wonderful seeing all of the parents and students who attended the Meet and Greet before school started. At least 94% of the PrK-6th grade students attended this event. All of us at Olin Elementary are excited because the students are applying the principles of Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible that were taught last year. Since the students have learned what it means to Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible at school, parents may want to discuss with their children what it means to Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible at home.

Have you heard about BUGS? BUGS stands for Being Unusually Good Students. Last year, we had monthly BUG assemblies in which students who had shown consistent behaviors in the areas of safety, responsibility and respectfulness received a BUG to be placed on the hallway bulletin board. This year, students receive small paper BUGS whenever they display behaviors in the areas of safety, responsibility and respectfulness. Each classroom collects the paper BUGS and places them in a BUG Catcher. Once the BUG Cather is full the class votes on a class activity. These very exciting, but inexpensive activities, range from the Kindergarten students bringing their favorite stuffed animal to school to the 5th graders eating lunch in their classroom. Once the classroom BUG Catcher is full, the small paper BUGS are placed in a BUG net in the office. Once the office BUG net is full each grade level votes on a “fun” building activity. The BUG net was filled as of Wednesday, September 25. Students were excited that the “fun” building activity celebrating BUGS behaviors was a PAJAMA DAY on Friday, September 27.

In the area of school finances I am so thrilled to announce that we ended the year in the Unspent Authorized Budget with a POSITIVE \$71,156. In addition, we spent \$262,393 LESS than the year before. We are definitely headed in the right direction.

Kindergarten News!

Welcome back to the 2013-2014 school year! We are a little over a month into the new school year and the Kindergarteners are in full swing. They have reviewed a few concepts from last year and are ready to learn new things this year. In Math we have been focusing on sorting objects and making patterns. We have reviewed AB, ABB, AAB, and ABC patterns. The students put their patterning skills to work and made individual pattern chains out of colored construction paper and later combined all of them to make one long

chain. The long chain is hanging up in our classroom for display. It will eventually be our countdown to the 100th day of school.

We have started a new phonics program called Imagine It! The research has found that if students are to become fluent, confident, and enthusiastic readers, they need extensive experiences with language and literature plus instruction in phonics and the skills necessary for accessing meaning in print. The students seem to enjoy all the activities that go along with the instruction. We have reviewed all the letters in the alphabet, so we will be preparing to learn letter sounds next.

Thank you to Joleen Zeltner for the donation of a glider rocker to the Kindergarten room in memory of Travis Zeltner.

From the 4th Grade

It is great to be back at school. There are 12 students in the fourth grade this year.

They shared their summer break by creating posters about, "A Purr-fect Snapshot of My Summer." The students enjoyed sharing the posters with their classmates.

In Reading, It's Cool, It's School Theme is being taught. They even learned some Spanish words while reading, I'm New Here

Addition and subtraction facts have been reviewed in Math. Also, place value, estimating, and rounding up to the 100 million place value have been learned in Math.

In Social Studies, the students know where they fit in. Do you know the region that Iowa is in?

Earth materials, rocks, and minerals are being learned in Science.

The students are participating in buddy reading. We read to the second graders and the second graders read to the fourth graders.

We are looking forward to Halloween.

Happy "September" Birthday to Lane.

Mrs. Achenbach and the Fourth Grade

Thank you to the School Foundation for the gift of money to the Olin Elementary Library. It will help greatly in the purchasing of new library books for our students.

Mrs. Armstrong

It has been a great start to the year! The 5th graders are working hard on learning our expectations, rules, how to use their time wisely, and what homework is and looks like. The 6th graders are remembering these things also. They are both earning a huge amount of BUGS by showing very respectful, responsible, and safe behaviors all over the school!

The 5th graders are reviewing whole number and decimal place value, comparing, and ordering in Math. They will soon be working on adding and subtracting decimals. In English they are figuring out what different parts of a sentence are and what kinds of sentences there are. Soon they will be working on their first paper, a Personal Narrative. In Science they are distinguishing the difference between what makes a model verse a map. They made a model and map of Olin School to help learn this. Next we will be working on stream tables to help us figure out how the Grand Canyon formed.

The 6th graders are reviewing all the operations in math right now. Soon they will be working on order of operations and exponents. In Science they are working on figuring out how to tell things apart when they look and seem like each other. They are working with powders and using their senses to help them identify properties of each powder.

Both the 5th and 6th graders are working on Scraminals in Literature Group. They have to write a poem combining an animal and something else and draw a picture of it. We are looking forward to seeing their finals projects. In Word Wall Words they are working on adding new words to their vocabulary, understanding what the word means and being able to apply it in the sentence. In Words Their Way we will be learning new sorts to help learn how to spell words.

Mrs. Onken

We are having a great beginning to our 6th grade year in Mrs. Onken's class! Many of the students had fun trying to figure out where to find out if Mrs. Onken is having a boy or girl this November. Most of them did find it, so if you want to know too, ask a 6th grader!

In English, the students have been working on their grammar skills by reviewing sentences. We have been looking at kinds of sentences, subjects and predicates, and fragments and run-on sentences. They will soon be writing a personal narrative about an event that happened in their life.

We began 5th and 6th grade Social Studies this year by reviewing our map skills. We then made up a country and had to draw a map of it that included all of those map parts that we studied. We really enjoyed being creative with our countries!

After reviewing our comprehension skills and practicing them by reading a few short stories, we have just started a novel unit in 6th grade Reading class. We are starting to read Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli. We are reading the book together and individually in class and after each chapter, the students respond to what they read through journals and other activities. There will be other activities we do throughout the book and we look forward to the story!

The 5th graders have also just started a novel unit in reading class. We are reading The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare. This novel is about the friendship between a young settler and a Native American. We are

also responding to what we read through journals and other various discussion and activities. We are excited to find out about the characters and the adventures they go on throughout this novel!