



Lincoln Log



October 2015

Principal's Message

Dear Lincoln Families:

Parents and teachers working together guarantee a student's success in school. Working closely with your child's teachers ensures your child will do better academically, socially and emotionally. Demonstrate your interest by attending school meetings, volunteering and visiting the classroom. Update the teacher on any major changes in your child's life that may affect his or her schoolwork. Parents are critical to the overall academic success of our students. Your support in the following areas will make a difference:

- Have the student at school on time each day, ready to learn, with appropriate materials.
- Talk with teachers on a regular basis about performance, homework assignments (ask for help, if necessary)
- Support teachers in their efforts by encouraging students to maintain strong study habits, read for pleasure, and exhibit positive behavior.
- Support school and school system rules for student behavior and ensure that the student is following the rules.
- Read to and with the student daily and provide a variety of reading materials in the home.
- Ask the student each day about school, learning and homework.
- Supervise the student during homework.
- Limit the amount of time spent watching television or playing video games.
- Provide and update the school with current information. Include telephone numbers, address, immunization records, previous school reports and any information that may affect the student's ability to learn or to behave.

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners of Lincoln School have been very busy this month! The three classes enjoyed learning all about apples this month. The children learned how to label parts of an apple and use their five senses to describe apples. The children's favorite part was being able to taste three different types of apples and then choosing their favorite! Each class made a graph to show who liked what kind. We also had a very special visit from the Bergenfield Fire Department this month and learned a lot about fire safety. We even got to see a ladder truck! Fun was had by all at the annual Fall Festival hosted by the LSPA. The children all enjoyed a special snack and picking their very own pumpkin.

We are continuing to work on our letters/sounds and numbers/counting in the classroom. Please continue to practice sight words with your child and continue to read each night. We look forward to a fun-filled Halloween parade at the end of the month!

First Grade

First grade is off to a great start! Throughout September, the children worked on developing routines to assist them throughout the day. They are using these routines to ensure they are maximizing their learning time.

During the month of October, the children have been working hard to become independent readers and writers. The students have been learning strategies that they can use to increase their decoding and comprehension skills. They have been learning about the steps of the Writing Process and have been using this process to produce original pieces of writing. In the next few weeks, they will be publishing their writing, which you will be able to view hanging in the hallway. Please continue to have your children practice their reading and writing skills at home each day.

Second Grade

This month the second grades have been working hard building their independent reading stamina and utilizing strategies good readers use every day. In writing workshop the students are choosing their personal narrative piece for publishing. In Math, students are practicing fact power by memorizing their basic addition facts using various addition strategies such as doubles, and fact families. October is Fire Prevention Month, and the students have learned important safety lessons thanks to a visit from the Bergenfield Fire Department. This month we are also celebrating Columbus Day with various stories and activities. We look forward to our Fall Festival on October 16, and of course Halloween on October 30. We hope to see everyone at the Halloween parade!

Ms. O'Flaherty

October is an exciting month to learn about the changing season. We will complete many seasonal projects this month and will read many wonderful stories about the autumn season. We just took a field trip to Secor Farms. We have been learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin and our trip was a perfect reinforcer showing how pumpkins grow and how different they all are. Please continue to practice letter sound correspondence at home. The more automatic this skill is, the easier it will be to blend sounds and read words. Please also continue to take all papers out of the homework folder each night. It is easier for the students to pack up when they have an empty folder. Thank you for your continued support!

Third Grade

October 9th is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Now each year in October students are given another opportunity to revisit fire safety for themselves and their families during Fire Prevention Week (October 4-10). The theme this year is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm. As this autumn season holds promises of safer homes and cooler classrooms, our students will begin this month's special celebrations with "Respect Week." Through school and classroom activities students experience respecting our neighborhood and school communities. October 8th is School Picture Day, and a wonderful opportunity to experience respect for ourselves as we hold our heads up proudly and smile for the camera. During this week students observe their fellow classmates performing random acts of kindness and post them for all to see. Preparation for the first of three third grade Word Master meets will begin with students exploring the definitions, word usages, and analogies for the first twenty-five vocabulary words. In Writers' Workshop students are honing in on a Small Moment in Time sandwiched between strong, descriptive beginnings, and strong, expressive endings while using awesome vocabulary and expanding simple sentence to complex ones. In Science students will soon take flight to discover our solar system. Social Studies provides students with in depth close reads of Non-Fiction passages utilizing text features such as diagrams, charts, tables, captions, illustrations, headings, and more. Students are encouraged to read independently Fiction and Non-Fiction leveled readers for both the Accelerated Reading Program as well as Razkids. Reading is the key to learning. Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Isidoridy wish you a safe and happy autumn season.

Mrs. Thomas

The students' of Ms. Thomas' class have been excited to be back in school. They have been learning to work their hardest to be successful.

In Literacy we have been working on our reading strategies to become better readers. We practice every night by reading books that are just right for us. In Math, we have been working on division, multiplication and double digit subtraction. We have really been enjoying the hands on activities that we have been doing in our science explorations class.

We are also excited for the beautiful fall weather and our fall festival this month!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 8th- Picture Day

October 15th- Progress Reports

October 16th- Fall Festival

October 21-22- Book Fair

October 22nd- 23rd- Parent Conferences

October 23rd- Half day- Parent Conferences

October 30th- Halloween Parade

Fourth Grade

We would like to welcome back all of the fourth graders to Lincoln School! They have already taken off and are soaring through another fascinating and fun-filled school year. Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Quiambao are looking forward to another wonderful and memorable year with their students. As each teacher has set forth their expectations, the fourth graders have been introduced to everything that being in fourth grade has to offer like instrumental lessons and chorus.

To kick off Writer's Workshop, each student will be writing about a significant, small moment in their life. We've been working on deepening our understanding of personal narratives by zooming into a small moment - sometime in our life that means so much to us and will always be remembered. While focusing on a small moment in time, we're also reading our initial novel study, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume. The students have responded very positively to this novel as they are able to make many connections while visualizing what scenes our main characters, who are siblings, go through on a daily basis.

In math, they'll be reviewing their knowledge of the basic multiplication and division facts and how they are related to one another. We're encouraging our families to continue reviewing the basic facts in all four operations since we'll be using them as we work on mastering the content needed in fourth grade. If needed, please consider using Math Facts in a Flash at home, through the Renaissance Learning Home Connect link found on the Bergenfield homepage.

In science, we've moved full-speed ahead on learning about a topic that is very current this time of year - the weather. Our fourth graders will be learning about how air pressure affects weather, what kind of weather to expect with certain clouds, & how meteorologists keep us safe from impending, dangerous forecasts.

Hopefully, one of our students becomes the next Al Roker or Sam Champion and doesn't forget his/her fourth grade teacher!

Fifth Grade

Our fifth graders have been working hard getting used to the new routines and responsibilities for their last year at Lincoln School. We are well into our novel study, "Loser" by Jerry Spinelli. The students are learning comprehension skills during reading that will carry over to any book they read in the future. They have also all received their independent reading levels. Please make sure that when selecting an independent book, your child picks one on their level to maximize reading comprehension. Writer's Workshop is in full swing, with the publication of Personal Narratives from the fifth graders last month. Look for all work on display outside of the fifth grade classrooms.

We are also kicking off the Youth Power Club. This is a district wide alliance for fifth grade students to focus on becoming better citizens through volunteering, donating and working together. We will be doing many types of volunteer work throughout the school year. Examples of volunteer work that have been done in the past were having a coat drive, creating care packages for soldiers, and collecting money for the victims of Japan's earthquake and tsunami. As soon as the students decide on our first project, you will receive notification with details.