

GRANT



DRAGONS

MARCH 2016

UPDATES FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Spring Conference Attendance

We had 98% of our families attend spring conferences. Thank you and congratulations to parents and teachers on the extra efforts to schedule and complete conferences. As always, we encourage you to visit your child's classroom and or contact your child's teacher each day about school experiences. We have a lot of school left, please continue to reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions or want an update on how they are doing.

Winter Clothing

We have accumulated several sweatshirts, coats, hats, and mittens in our lost and found. Please have your student stop by and look for their missing items. We will be donating the remaining items to a local organization in the spring.

Grant/Wilson Night at the Kernel's Ball Park

Mark your calendar for May 9 @ 6:30 p.m. Grant school will have a school night at the ball-park. More information to come in later April about tickets and the possibility of children being part of the program.



Grant Dragon Cards

We will have our PTA fundraiser starting in May. An Assembly is planned where students will receive more information on the popular dragon cards they will be selling to raise money to support our school. The cards provide discounted prices for local restaurants and businesses. PTA is considering new projects for Grant. You are welcome to join our meetings to find out more and how you can get involved.



CALENDAR of Events

March 14 – March 18	Spring Break
March 25.....	Staff Progress Reporting Day- No School
March 31.....	Taft concert @ 10:30 a.m.
April 11.....	PTA Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
April 13	Staff Learning Day-Early Dismissal
April 19	PTA Family Swim Night @ Jefferson 6-8
April 20	Kindergarten to Playtime Poppy
April 20	5th grade Transition to Wilson
April 21	Spring Music Concert @ 6:30 (concert 3rd – 5th grade)
April 22	Kernel's Assembly @ 10:00 a.m.
April 25	Wilson Band Tour @ 2:45 p.m.
April 28	3rd Grade Fire Department @ 12:15, 1:00, 1:45
May 9.....	PTA Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
May 9.....	Grant Night at the Kernels Game @ 6:35 p.m.
May 10.....	3rd Grade Bruce more @ 9:45-11:15 (Mrs. Wandler)
May 11	3rd Grade Bruce more @ 9:45-11:15 (Mrs. L & Mrs. Buckley)
May 13.....	Staff Learning Day- No School for Students
May 19.....	Spring Fling @ 5:00-7:30
May 30.....	Memorial Day
June 2.....	Last Day of School-Early Dismissal

Follow the District on ,  @crschools,
and  YouTube



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

KINDERGARTEN

Student led conferences were well attended and students were excited to share what they know! They have been learning to add and subtract numbers through five with fluency (automatic response). Kindergarten students are learning to put sounds together to make words and beginning to use those words and sight words to write sentences. We appreciate all of the at home practice with SMART Folders. We can sure tell it's making a difference.

Mrs. Schares, Mrs. Thorson, and Mrs. Knapp

2ND GRADE

The second grade went to the Czech Museum to wrap up our immigration unit. We learned about Mana Zlatonlavek's family, who came here in 1922. Her dad was a gymnast and PE teacher who came here to work at Sokol Gymnastics. We learned a lot about their trip across the Atlantic on the SS St. Paul. We also visited an immigrant house and studied artifacts in the library. Finally, we did an art project! We made beautiful paper flowers! At the end of our trip, we all got passes so we can bring our families back to tour the whole museum another time!



3RD GRADE

We are zipping and zooming along in 3rd grade. Currently the kids are working their way towards earning popcorn and movie parties as a reward for learning how to quickly solve their basic multiplication facts. Their next challenge will be mastering the basic division facts. Do they have what it takes to earn the sweet reward for mastering their division facts?! We think they do and I bet their parents do as well. Alongside learning those basic multiplication and division facts we are taking the world of geometry by storm learning about polygons, area, and perimeter.

In Social Studies we are truly "Bringing History Home" by studying the sad, yet interesting world of slavery and segregation in the United States. Soon we'll take a break and begin our short science unit on water.

SWITCH things up at home. Recently we had a visit from our friends with the SWITCH program. Several kids and families have signed up for the opportunity to SWITCH up what they VIEW, DO, and CHEW for the next 3 months. The program offers 3rd grade families the opportunity to develop healthy habits alongside their children and the chance to earn some prizes along the way courtesy of the YMCA

Sincerely,

Mrs. Buckley, Ms. Lichtenstein, and Mrs. Wandler



1ST GRADE

First Graders have been busy working on improving their Math Facts with Rocket Math. Rocket Math is a timed test on Math Facts grouped by level of difficulty. Some students are working on Level 1 & Level 2. Some of the students have passed through to the third level. We are very motivated to move to the next level. Many of the students are so close and they are practicing diligently at home in hopes to move to the next level. "MATH FACT POWER" Keep up the good work First Grade!!!

4TH GRADE



Grant 4th graders have been studying landforms, rocks and soils in science. They've learned how rocks change and how to identify minerals. Students are excited about fractions! Many love adding and

subtracting fractions. We are continuing to learn division too. Soon students will learn about the Progressive Era and how it relates to society today. As always, 4th graders work to do their P.A.R.R.T. at Grant! Go Dragons!

SPANISH NEWS

1st grade: We learned about Mexico and the different landforms. We have been practicing our 8 body parts. Have your child sing you our version of "head, shoulders, knees, and toes!" We have also been practicing our 7 family members. We can now count up to 49.

2nd grade: We have been enjoying learning about Puerto Rico and the different landforms and important places. We have been practicing time to the hour, and our 6 weather terms. We can also answer the questions, "where do we live?"

3rd grade: We have been learning about Spain and important cities, places, and people from Spain. Art and architecture is very important to their culture. We just finished our shield presentations! Now we're working on city places.

4th/5th grade: We have been learning about the Dominican Republic and our vocabulary on food. We just finished up our "about me" presentations. We will be starting a new unit on Panama, Costa Rica and professions very soon. I'm sure your child has mentioned this to you, but I will be on maternity leave starting around mid-April. Your child's Spanish teacher for the remainder of the school year will be Ms. Burke

Gracias,
Senora Casey-Toll



FROM THE LIBRARY:

The Grant Library has had some exciting activities occurring this winter. The very best of children's literature is being shared with your children and activities are designed to help students enjoy the stories even more.

We are doing our very best to get (or keep) your child "hooked on reading."

We added 23 new titles this year of quality multicultural books for students to check-out. These books were purchased by a Student Enrichment Grant provided by the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation.

At each grade level, students are learning computer skills specifically suited to their developmental needs.

In January the Caldecott Medal is awarded by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. The Caldecott medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. The Newbery Medal is also awarded at the same time for the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. This year's winners are Caldecott medal to Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear, illustrated by Sophie Blackall, written by Lindsay Mattick and published by Little, Brown and Company a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Newbery Medal: Last Stop On Market Street, written by Matt de la Pena, illustrated by Christian Robinson and published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) LLC.

Our library is very busy with daily classes meeting for lessons and checking out books. Small groups of students also meet in the library for reading and math learning. Additionally, Kids on Course as well as other groups enjoy our facility. We welcome visitors as well as volunteers!



FROM THE GYM:

We have started the Jump Rope for Heart Program this month this February. We will be fund raising until March 4th and that is the last date to turn in all collections packets. This is my fifth year doing this event. I really appreciate all of your time, effort, and donations in participating in this important event. All funds will directly go towards fighting against our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers in cardiovascular diseases and strokes. Students who wished to participate in this event should have received a parent letter and collections form. If you still need a parent letter and collection form, please ask me for one.

Also, a reminder to please keep having your sons and daughters bring tennis shoes to gym.



FROM THE MUSIC LOFT OF GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Greetings Grant families.

This school year is trucking right along at a quick steady pace and the music students of Grant are putting their best foot forward in the area of talent. Grant students have been auditioning and performing their talent for our Grant Wall of Flame assemblies at the end of every month and each performance has been a great testament of the love and nurturing you as parents have been pouring into your talented superstars. The next Dragon Assembly will be on March 4th. The next talent show audition date will be announced before Spring Break.

The 3rd through 5th Grade Spring Concert will be on April 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Wilson Middle School auditorium

Musically Dedric Roundtree
Music Specialist
Grant/Harrison Elementary Schools

FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Keep collecting Box Tops, Labels for Education and Hy-Vee receipts. This is helpful to Grant School and raises money for playground equipment such as balls and jump ropes. We also have monthly contests to see which classroom can collect the most Box Tops and which classroom can collect the most Hy-Vee receipts. Also, if you want to volunteer or have any volunteer questions please feel free to email or call me.

Deidra Usher
319-558-2768



The District offers an online Virtual Backpack site to support the efforts of community organizations wanting to share information about educationally-based programming.

Individuals or organizations wishing to post material on the Virtual Backpack submit items electronically and approved materials will appear online for families to access.

Organizations will find a link to submit flyers for consideration on the District homepage at www.cr.k12.ia.us. Families can access the Virtual Backpack from their school Web site.

NOTES FORM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

We continue to have cases of head lice at school. Our district policy does not allow us to perform classroom screening for head lice and we do not exclude students with head lice from school. Individual parents are informed if their child is found to have head lice and an informational letter is sent home to that student's classroom. What you can do to help:

Check your child's hair for lice on a weekly basis.

If you find your child has head lice, check ALL family members and treat with an over the counter medicated shampoo if live head lice are present, not just the presence of nits. Once nits are more than ¼ inch away from the scalp, they are no longer viable and live lice will not hatch. Retreat with medicated shampoo 8 days after the initial treatment.

It is not enough to just treat your child's hair with lice shampoo and stop there. Go through your child's hair every night for at least two weeks and either use a lice comb or pick out any live lice you see.

We understand head lice is a nuisance and can be a very frustrating and time consuming process to treat, but it can be overcome by carefully following treatment guidelines.

District illness policy:

If a student has a temperature of 100 degree F. or higher and/or has active vomiting or diarrhea, the parent/guardian will be called and the student will be sent home.

Temperature is not the only symptom that influences the decision to send the student home; general appearance and functioning are important factors. After a period of observation a decision will be made to do one of the following:

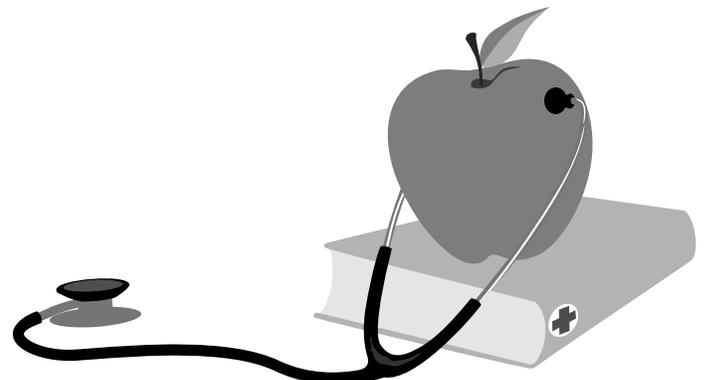
Call the parent/guardian and the student will be sent home.

Allow the student to rest in the health office for a brief period and go back to class.

The student is to be fever-free without fever reducing medication before returning to school

Thanks for your help keeping our students healthy!
Please contact us if you have any questions:

Sandy Byard RN,BSN,NCSN





Our third, fourth, and fifth graders have had an amazing week completing the Iowa Assessments! They have worked hard every day to show what they have learned since taking the standardized tests last spring. Fourth and fifth graders have set goals for themselves and are anxious to see how well they did! Test results ought to be back by the end of May at which time you will receive a copy of your child's scores.

We have spent time talking about growth mindsets vs. fixed mindsets during guidance classes. It is our intention to instill in all of our students that our learning

is never finished, there is always more to learn, always ways to better ourselves even when roadblocks are put in our way. Positive self-talk and practice are two ways to be as successful as we can.

The kindergarten, first and second graders have been learning and reviewing the four Zones of Regulation. When students can identify their own feelings, they can then learn how to empathize and understand other perspectives. While we are learning more about feelings, we will talk about the behaviors that accompany the behaviors and if these are the types of responses that fit the feeling and/or problem.

Middle School Transitions

Our fifth grade students will be visiting Wilson Middle School on April 20 as they prepare for the next step in their education.

Lost and Found

Many winter items are looking for their owners. If your child is missing coats, boots, hats, mittens, sweaters, sweatshirts, please be sure to come and look for them.

PBIS

You all know the students receive PBIS tickets for demonstrating the school wide behavior expectations. Our display case in the front hall is rapidly filling up. As the IMC tub fills up every month, the students celebrate meeting that goal with some special activity. We also provide celebrations for classrooms who earn a certain number of positive compliments for following common area procedures (hall, bathroom, classroom, recess line, etc.). We have recently celebrated with a cocoa break and a dance party.

Our referrals for inappropriate behaviors are down significantly from last year! As our PBIS team reviews this data monthly, we see an increase in fighting. Fighting is not allowed at school. There are other ways to solve problems rather than physically retaliating. Please remind your child to walk away and get help **form** an adult if confronted by a student who is hitting. Your help is much appreciated.

Student FLAMES (Friendly Leaders Achieving Marvelous Expectations)

The new fourth and fifth grade members serving on the student leadership team until June are: Chacidee Yates, Eliza Snow, Marisa Sloan, Faith Crosbie, Caiden Lacina, Zoie Points, Aurora Bridge, Teagan Hackman, and Rio Tamayo. We discussed this team's goals at our pizza party and are learning how to run the school store each Friday morning. Congratulations!

SAFETY CONCERNS

Cedar Rapids Community School District takes your safety seriously and welcomes your input. Please contact your building principal/administrator and report any safety concerns that you may have. Thank you for helping us keep staff and students safe.

Special Diets

If your student has a special diet form on file from a previous year and something has changed, please contact the Food and Nutrition Office at 558-2305.



Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (employment only), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (students/program only) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. District employees with questions or a grievance related to this policy should contact Jill Cirivello, Director of Human Resources, 319-558-2421; jcirivello@cr.k12.ia.us. Students and others should contact Rhoda Shepherd, Director of Student Services, 319-558-2964; rshepherd@cr.k12.ia.us. The District mailing address is 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405-1015.

A Minimum of One Fruit or Vegetable is required for a reimbursable meal

March 2016 Elementary School Lunch Menu

All meals include milk, fruit, vegetable, grain, meat/meat alternative

Daily Milk offered includes 1%, skim, or skim chocolate

	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4
	Fish Sticks & Hot Roll Sides: Mandarin Oranges Green Beans Baby Carrots	Ham & Cheese Toastie Sides: Peaches Corn Mixed Vegetables	Macaroni & Cheese Sides: Pears Side Salad Roasted Chickpeas	Italian Dunkers w/ Meat Sauce Sides: School Planned Fruits and Vegetables
March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11
Walking Taco w/ Lettuce, Cheese & Salsa Sides: Fruit Cocktail Taco Fiesta Beans Corn	Spaghetti & Meat Sauce w/ Breadstick Sides: Peaches Mixed Vegetables Green Beans	Sloppy Joe on a Bun Sides: Fresh Fruit Sweet Potato Fries Mixed Vegetables	Turkey Gravy w/ Hot Roll Sides: Applesauce Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Side Salad	School Planned Menu Sides: School Planned Fruits and Vegetables
March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18
No School Holiday Break	No School Holiday Break	No School Holiday Break	No School Holiday Break	No School Holiday Break
March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25
Chicken Nuggets & Rice Pilaf Sides: Applesauce Baked Beans Steamed Broccoli	Pizza Quesadilla Sides: Mandarin Oranges Corn Winter Blend Vegetables	Scrambled Eggs & French Toast Sticks Sides: Cinnamon Apples Steamed Carrots Tater Tots	Pig in a Blanket Sides: Pineapple Side Salad Mixed Vegetables	No School Staff Progress Day
March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31	
Cheesy Potato Soup w/ Hot Roll Sides: Apples Peas Baby Carrots	Soft Shell Tacos w/ Lettuce, Cheese & Salsa Sides: Pears Taco Fiesta Beans Mixed Vegetables	Stuffed Cheese Sticks w/ Marinara Sides: Pears Sweet Potato Fries Green Beans	Beef Teriyaki Dippers w/ Buttered Noodles Sides: Mandarin Oranges Side Salad Peas & Carrots	
Monday Alternate	Tuesday Alternate	Wednesday Alternate	Thursday Alternate	Friday Alternate
Hamburger/Cheeseburger Sun Butter & Jelly + Cheese Stick Cheese Pizza	Chicken Patty Sun Butter & Jelly + Cheese Stick Pepperoni Pizza	Beef Honey BBQ Rib Sun Butter & Jelly + Cheese Stick Cheese Pizza	Yogurt with Muffin Sun Butter & Jelly + Cheese Stick Sausage Pizza	Fish Wedge Sun Butter & Jelly + Cheese Stick Cheese Pizza

P May Contain Pork This institution is an equal opportunity provider. [Link to Nondiscrimination Statement on Dept. Website.](#)