

Lynnville-Sully Elementary/Middle School

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Principal - Teri Bowlin



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 9/14 - JH VB @ H
CC @ Ballard-Huxley
- ◆ 9/15 - JH FB @ N.
Mahaska
CC @ English Valleys
- ◆ 9/16 - 2:00 Out
- ◆ 9/17 - JH VB @ PCM
- ◆ 9/22 - JH VB @ H
- ◆ 9/23 - JH FB @
English Valleys
- ◆ 9/24 - CC @ PCM
- ◆ 9/28 - No school
JH VB @ H
- ◆ 9/29 - JH FB @ H
JH VB @ Montezuma
CC @ Knoxville
- ◆ 10/1 - 6th Grade
Field Trip - Mariposa

Principal's News

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We are excited to begin a new year together and to serve our students every day! We have spent the last two weeks acquainting and sometimes reacquainting ourselves with your children. This helps us build meaningful relationships with the kids and create classrooms where the students feel comfortable, encouraged, challenged and ready to learn.

We have also been doing some learning ourselves. As part of the Iowa Core Curriculum, we have been studying the 21st Century Skills including ways to integrate new technologies into our classrooms. All of our classrooms are now equipped with SMARTBoards. We are also investigating wikis, podcasting, Google docs, and blogs. Some of

us are getting a little more out of our comfort zones than others, but we all recognize the need to keep current with technologies so that our students are prepared for what the future may hold.

H1N1 has been making headlines in the news. It is unrealistic to think that L-S will not be affected, but we do want to be proactive to try to minimize the impact of the flu. All students and staff members are encouraged to frequently wash their hands. We also encourage anyone who gets sick to stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours. Please let us know if your child becomes diagnosed with the flu so we can monitor the health of our students.

Thank you for sharing your children with us each day!

- Teri Bowlin

After School Procedures

We request that you make your arrangements for after school plans with your child either the night before or in the morning before leaving for school/work. If your child is to go home a different way or home with a friend, we must have a note, phone call, or e-mail from parents prior to 3:00 p.m. If your child does not have a note or we do not receive a call or e-mail, we

will send them home as usual. Also, we cannot guarantee that messages will be passed on to your child for calls received after 3:00. We understand that unavoidable situations arise during the day, but we ask that school staff be requested to relay messages to students for emergencies only. Thanks!

- L-S Office Staff

Library Corner by Bonita Jansen and Monica Lanser

We are excited about changes in our Accelerated Reader program this year. The school has graciously agreed to purchase Accelerated Reader Enterprise, which is reading management software. We now have available ALL the tests that Renaissance Learning has available, which is approximately 110,000 tests. We will also have new quizzes as they're released. This will keep our students up with the latest and greatest books. Parents can search for books that have Accelerated Reader Quizzes by going to www.arbookfind.com. With AR BookFinder, you can:

- Search for books that have corresponding Accelerated Reader Quiz. Search by ATOS book level, interest level, title, **author**, and subject, from any Web-enabled computer.

- Search for collections featuring award-winning titles including ALA Notables and Best Books, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, and Newbery; State Lists; and more.

- Refine your search based on interest level, fiction/nonfiction, English/Spanish, or by topic.

- Extend reading practice across your curriculum and find books to support content-area subject matter.

- See book details including book summary information, ATOS book level, word count, page count, and more.

Create your own book lists in AR BookGuide and provide students with a keycode they can use to access the lists through AR BookFinder.

Select the titles that interest you, place them in your AR BookBag, and print lists of titles you can take to the bookstore or library.

Also, you can check your student's progress on how they are doing on the tests that they have taken. You can go to our school website and click on the parent link. Go to Accelerated Reader tab on the left side & put in your child's user name and password for AR. You are going to have to ask your child for this and if they don't know it you will need to email or call your homeroom teacher or Language Arts teacher. If you have more than one student they will each have a separate user name and password. You can see what tests your child has taken, and how well they are doing on their tests. It will show you what progress your child is making on AR. Also, if you are in the AR and you go to the view bookshelf tab it will show you all the tests your child has taken. This is a great link from school to home. We encourage you to use the links that we have provided and it will give you another window into your child's education!

Counselor's Corner by Nicholas De Penning

Hello, I'm Nicholas De Penning. I teach kindergarten-third grade reading and kindergarten-fifth grade social skills at Lynnville- Sully. I will be using this column to share what is happening in social skills and Character Counts in the elementary.

We are just getting rolling with social skills classes. There is a focus on teamwork in the elementary this year, and I used the first class to have the students learn more

about their classmates by playing some ice breaker games. Being able to relate to classmates and use things they have in common help build a stronger classroom and team. It was fun for them to find out things about their friends that they didn't have a clue about.

The beginning of the school year is also a good time to review study habits at home. We are only two weeks into the school year and now is the time to review how the first weeks have gone in completing

homework. Is the time and place that your student works on homework a good fit? Are they letting you know what they are working on? The third, fourth, and fifth graders have planners to use to remember assignments and show parents- have you seen it yet? Help set your student up for success by getting a strong homework routine down now.

Middle School News by Norene Paulson, 6th & 7th Language Arts

“No Excuses” is an expression middle school students are probably getting a bit tired of hearing. Since the first day of classes, the middle school teachers have been reminding students that this year there are certain written standards to which they will be held accountable. In elementary school they learned the basics of spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. They’ve proven they can write legibly and in complete sentences, indent, and remember to put their name on their papers. Middle school is now the time to continue to apply those skills on a consistent, daily basis. Our No Excuses policy means students are expected to write well not just in language arts class but in all their classes including social studies,

science, and math.

Obviously, this is not something we as teachers can simply mandate without reviewing or practicing. That is why during these first weeks of school my language arts students are “refreshing” their skills. We just finished our “refresher” unit on capital letters. Using engaging activities and interactive computer tools, students were quick to demonstrate their understanding of the basics of capitalization. In the weeks ahead, we will tackle spelling particularly those dreaded homophones like their, there, and they’re. End marks and comma usage will be refreshed as will the basics of sentence writing and paragraph construction. Reteaching and positive

reinforcement will be available to those students who need extra support.

In the near future it will be particularly important for our students to be able to demonstrate strong writing skills. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills will soon be adding a writing component to their standardized tests. This means our students’ writing skills will now be assessed the same way as their reading comprehension skills.

The bar has been raised. The expectations are high, but we know the students can meet, if not exceed, these high standards.

Health Watch by Joan Fopma, School Nurse

Adapted from IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH:

ADVICE FOR TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT INFLUENZA

Stressful situations often cause children to worry and have many questions about why it is happening and how it can be fixed. If you cope with a stressful situation well, your children will also cope better. Your confidence and calm attitude will help your children ease their worries and feel safe and secure.

Helpful Tips Regarding Children and Influenza:

- Keep activities as consistent and normal as possible even

if your normal routine changes because of influenza.

- Allow your children to express their feelings and concerns about getting influenza.
- Children always need to feel safe and protected. When they are uncertain about getting sick and afraid they may need even more affection and attention.
- Limit exposure to media and adult conversations about influenza.
- Encourage healthy behaviors: eating well, sleeping well, and playing outside.
- Focus on what your child

CAN DO to avoid getting influenza such as: wash hands, cover mouth and nose with a tissue when we sneeze or cough, not share food or drinks, and stay home when we don’t feel well

School officials are being especially careful this year to make sure as few of students and staff as possible are exposed to influenza. It is also important that all students treat each other with respect and do not gossip about who may or may not have the influenza.

Staff Spotlight by Angelo Lemons



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Ms. Hobus teaches K-8 Talented and Gifted and fourth and fifth grade reading interventions. She is a Seinfeld fanatic. Seinfeld was a TV series that was on in the nineties; everyone loves the oldies. Speaking of the oldies her favorite historical era is the mid to late 1800s. Her favorite season is fall. She loves the crisp cool air, the pumpkins, and dry crunchy leaves; basically, she loves the great stuff. However in her favorite state, Alaska, never gets fall, but she would be able to watch her absolute favorite movie *The Pursuit of Happiness*.

She grew up on a farm in western Iowa. Her

hometown is Shelby, Iowa. Her parents still live there. She is the second youngest in a family of five boys and two girls. She really enjoys teaching at L-S because of all the eager students and the great staff.



Student Council Update by Shelby Foster, Levi Cordes, and Naomi Shinkle

During the first two weeks of middle school we experienced new teachers, different lockers, switching classes, outside time, 3 minute breaks, middle school homework, and new responsibilities.

The first Monday of middle school we voted for student council. Then finally on Wednesday we figured out that for sixth grade Naomi Shinkle, Levi Cordes, Caleb Jansen, and Shelby Foster were the sixth graders on student council. The seventh graders are Madison Rasmusson, Cori Rice, Caleb James, and Baker Zegers. The eighth graders are Macy Lanser, Jenny Rankin, Karli Roozeboom, Alexa VanderLeest, Lyndsay Terpstra, Dylan

Cross, Austin Rozendaal, and Talon Woods.

Our next task was to vote for the Homecoming Days. Monday is PJ Day, Tuesday is Black and White Day, Wednesday is Evil Villain/Fairy Princess Day, Thursday is Cowboy/Cowgirl Day, and Friday is School Color Day.

The last thing we have done is had Picture Day. We all smiled so pretty! 😊 We are having a great time in sixth grade. As a middle schooler you may have more responsibilities, but you also have more freedom!