



Ongoing learning and growth will prepare each Gering Public Schools students to be college and/or career ready.

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September 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had an amazing start to the 2020-2021 school year. It is always exciting to get the students back into the building as they bring energy and excitement! Students have been working on their goals, plus developing classroom rules which support our climate for learning. Thank you for the support you provide your child in his/her learning and your willingness to partner with us. Just a reminder, everyone at Lincoln Elementary values a strong family/school/community communication and welcomes your feedback in helping all of our students grow academically as well as socially and emotionally. As we move forward into the 2020-2021 school year, we have many exciting activities planned.

### **LINCOLN BOOSTER CLUB**

At the September Booster Club meeting, the members discussed the following:

- Ordering t-shirts for Lincoln students
- Monthly birthday treats for students
- Red Ribbon Week Oct. 23-Oct. 30 activities
- Snack bag for staff for Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
- Fundraisers for the school year
- Active involvement of parents and staff
- Lincoln Elementary Booster Club facebook account:

[www.facebook.com/LincolnElementaryBoosterClub](http://www.facebook.com/LincolnElementaryBoosterClub)

- **Fundraiser: smile.amazon.com (when you sign in on the website before you purchase items note the group you are supporting--Gering Lincoln Elementary Booster Club Inc and .5% goes directly to the Booster Club). Last year, close to \$2,500.00 was given to the group. Thank you!**
- **Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17 this is the morning you will need to pickup cookie dough items by 10:30AM**

Please take a moment to thank the Booster Club officers who spend hours planning, organizing and supporting Lincoln Elementary

### **TAKE HOME FOLDERS**

To improve communication between the school and home, a first day of school folder was sent home. Throughout the school year on Thursday, your child's weekly important papers will be sent home. Please take the time to review them and then return the empty folder to school. Thank you.

## **PARENTS AND TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER**

At Lincoln Elementary we are committed to helping every student succeed in school. We believe it is important for families and schools to work together and share responsibility for student success. We very much value family members' expertise about their children. Families know a student best and we can learn from you. Also, we want our students to know the importance of schools and families together supporting their work at school. As part of this goal, we have developed some two-way communication tools and shared activities. They are:

- The Lincoln Booster Club is avidly working on family-school activities focused on partnering and relationship building.
- Classroom two-way communication tools (website, email, Facebook, etc.) so that you and your student's teachers can share successes and concerns in an ongoing manner.
- School expectations for homework, behavior, and learning communicated to you by your student. We want students to know and understand that we are working with you to help them succeed.
- Different learning opportunities for families and staff on various topics throughout the school year. Some of these opportunities will be at school and others at various places in our community.
- A Lincoln Facebook account has been established to keep you updated on various Lincoln events. [www.facebook.com/LincolnElementary](http://www.facebook.com/LincolnElementary)
- A Lincoln Twitter account has been established to keep you updated on various Lincoln events.

@LincolnEle69341.

We look forward to a year of learning and partnership.

## **RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RtI) and Multidisciplinary Team Support System (MTSS)**

We are promoting MTSS/RtI this school year. MTSS/RtI provides a continuum of support for students who need support in academic and behavioral areas. MTSS/RtI focuses on addressing concerns when they first begin in the classroom, so that learning support can be implemented in a timely manner. In MTSS/RtI families and teachers team together in intervention planning, monitoring, and decision-making as needed student support. If you have concerns about your student, please share those with the classroom teacher so that together we can discuss intervention planning for home and school. If you would like more information about the MTSS/RtI process, please call the school office at 436-2350.

## **SOCIAL SKILLS**

Teaching social skills is an integral part of our day. They are the life tools an individual needs to successfully survive in society. Whether we are trying to keep a job, or simply keeping our friends, we must possess the necessary skills to interact successfully with others. Academic achievement does not ensure success in society – especially if the student lacks appropriate social skills. At Lincoln, we will continue to teach/review social skills with our students. We realize the benefit these life tools create for students. In the months of August and September we focused on "How to Greet Someone," "How to Introduce Yourself," "How to Follow Instructions," "Making a New Friend," "Sharing Attention with Others" and "Completing Homework." During October, students will learn the social skills "Interrupting in a Nice Way," "How to Apologize," "How to Get the Teacher's Attention," and "Correcting Mistakes."

Please visit with your child about these skills and practice them at home. We will keep you informed each month as to the skills we are reviewing and learning.

## **PARENT – TEACHER – STUDENT SCHEDULED CONFERENCES**

Parent-Teacher-Student Scheduled Conferences will be held October 19, 20, and 21. Information concerning conferences will be sent home in the Thursday communicator October 8.

## **FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM**

This school year we have eight wonderful Foster Grandparent volunteers assisting staff and students daily. Four foster grandparents assist students in the K-5 program: Mrs. Cindy Cole, Mrs. Joan Coker, Mrs. Denise Everhart and Mrs. Carol Nash. Ms. Trudy Schindler, Ms. Robyn Anderson, Mr. Don Knaub and Mrs. Myrna McCabe assist students in the Preschool. These individuals enrich the lives of students and staff members throughout the day.

The Foster Grandparent program has been in existence since 1965. The program's purpose is to empower seniors to enrich their lives and the lives of children they serve. The Foster Grandparent Program currently has volunteer sites in Elementary and Secondary Schools, Preschools, Head Start Centers; and in Day Care Centers throughout the nine county area of western Nebraska. If you know of anyone interested in this program, please call the school office.

## **ITEMS TO SAVE**

Continue to save Panhandle Coop receipts, Fresh Foods receipts, Campbell's Soup labels, and Box Top receipts. Students may bring these to school at any time and deposit them in the correct container by the school office. Thank you for supporting these programs.

## **TELEPHONE**

This year 370 Preschool-Fifth grade students and approximately 68 staff members attend Lincoln Elementary. As you can imagine, our telephones are very busy. We are asking for your assistance in not calling school to give a message to your child unless it is an emergency. When your child leaves in the morning make sure he/she knows what to do for lunch and after school.

## **RED RIBBON WEEK**

October 26-October 30 has been designated as Red Ribbon Week. Throughout the United States school children will be taking part in activities that reinforce anti-drug issues. The effort began after the 1985 torture and murder of Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena by drug warlords. Friends and family in Camarena's hometown of Calexico, California, started a movement to honor him and stop the destruction caused by drugs. Camarena Clubs were formed there in which members pledged to live drug free. A red ribbon became the symbol of this fight against drug abuse. Parent associations in other areas took up the fight and adopted the red ribbon symbol. The movement gained national attention. In 1988, the United States Congress proclaimed Red Ribbon Week, and Nancy Reagan, then First Lady, served as Honorary Chairperson. Now, more than 100,000 schools and civic organizations participate. As parents, you can support this week by wearing a red ribbon, displaying red ribbons, setting a good example, practicing ways to say NO to drugs, planning drug free family activities, and by pledging to lead a drug free life. At Lincoln, we will celebrate Red Ribbon Week Oct. 26-30.

# Red Ribbon Week

Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free.

October 26-30

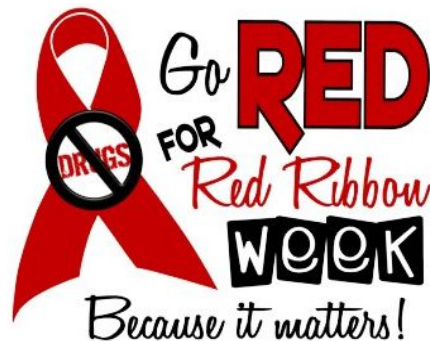
Monday-"Be Brave"  
Dress as Your Favorite Superhero

Tuesday-"Red-y to be Drug Free:  
Wear Red

Wednesday-"Sock It to Drugs"  
Wear Crazy Socks

Thursday-"Saying No to Drugs is No Sweat"  
Wear Sweats

Friday-"Drugs are Scary"  
Wear Halloween Costume



#### **SCHOOL PICTURE DAY**

School pictures will be taken by Spectrum Photography on Thursday, October 1. Picture envelopes will be sent home with students in the Thursday communicator on September 24.

#### **FREE STUDENT MEALS**

As previously communicated via GPS social media sites, the USDA recently announced a CARES Act funded waiver program for schools amid the coronavirus pandemic, which will allow access to free meals for millions of children in communities across the country. This program includes free breakfast and lunch for all students, and will continue through December 31, 2020, as long as funding is available. Students will be charged for any extras, such as seconds or drinks that are purchased when a lunch is brought from home. Extended Campus Learning students are also eligible

and can enroll in the Grab & Go meal pick-up by contacting our school office. Funds on student accounts will remain on the account for use once the waiver program expires.

### **INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY**

On Wednesday, October 7, Lincoln students and staff will begin their day by celebrating International Walk to School Day. Students from all over the world are participating in this worthwhile event, and we encourage you to do the same. Beginning at 7:30 a.m., adult supervision will be at various corners around the school, anxiously waiting to walk your child to school. We will culminate the event with a short assembly. Come and join in the fun!

### **TARDIES and ABSENCES**

According to page 16 of the 2020-2021 Student-Handbook, "students will be counted tardy five minutes after 7:50am. which will be 7:55am. Five tardies will equal one absence." Please be aware of this school policy and make sure your child(ren) is at Lincoln by 7:50am daily.

**Also, this school year it is imperative that if your student is absent, please secure a doctor's note and send/bring to the school office. Also, only appropriate excuses will be accepted these include: serious illness, bereavement, or extreme family emergency. Thank you!**

### **THE BULLDOG WAY**

The Bulldog Way is a philosophy supported and implemented by the Gering Public School system. Founded on the life principles of humility (knowing your strengths and weaknesses), passion (a standard of excellence in all you do), unity (putting the team first), servanthood (giving to others), and thankfulness (an attitude of gratitude for the opportunity to learn), adults are mentoring students in this philosophy and students are being encouraged to strive for an attitude of selflessness.

Daily, the students and adults meet as a team **virtually** to discuss and develop an understanding of this positive philosophy and students display their leadership abilities through numerous activities.

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT (PBS)/BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT TEAM**

What is BIST? A professional, evidenced based model that creates a caring and productive academic environment for all students. BIST empowers schools and teachers to change students' lives and behavioral skills by:

- Providing a balance of grace and accountability.
- Teaching students powerful problem-solving skills and the GOALS FOR LIFE.
- Creating high expectations for all students.
- Supporting the home to school connection.

BIST is founded on the belief that families and schools want all students to be smart, to work hard, and to make and keep friendships.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to serve as Student Council members for the 2020-2021 school year:

Third Grade--Kinlee Bayless, Janie Carlilse, Liliana Harper, Kaliyah Lopez, Eliot Raines, and Sage Stewart

Fourth grade—Velysia Gomez, Chase Cline, Brooke Greene, Morgan Morlock, Madison Pieper, and Cruz Rohnke

Fifth grade— Velysia Gomez, Lynlee Harper, Gavin McKonkey, Emme Tofflemire, Autumn Uttecht-Hemphill, and Emme Voigt

## **NWEA (MAP)**

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth will be taking NWEA tests this school year. NWEA or MAP testing will take place three times during the school year: in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping all children learn. NWEA provides research-based assessments, professional training, and consulting services to improve teaching and learning.

NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are state-aligned computerized adaptive assessments that provide accurate, useful information about student achievement and growth.

All Gering Elementary second through fifth grade students are given Reading, Math, Language Arts, Science (grades 2, 3, 4, and 5) MAP tests during the fall, winter, and spring of the school year. In kindergarten and first grade students will take Reading and Math assessments.

## **ARRIVAL**

Busses begin arriving daily at Lincoln at 7:20am. We are asking for your cooperation in making sure that your child arrives at school by 7:50 if your child is not eating breakfast (however, he/she may come earlier). At 7:40am students, enter the building adhering to safety protocol. Once in the classrooms, students participate in the virtual "The Bulldog Way" assembly conducted by Lincoln staff and students. Also, if you bring your child to school or pick him/her up after school, **please do not park in the driveway in front of the school.** We need to keep this driveway clear for special education busses that drive through to load and unload students. Also, please make sure your child uses the crosswalk when crossing the street. If you have questions or concerns, please call 436-2350.

## **CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Cell phones and personal communication devices (such as smart watches, Gizmo Gadget, Garmin, etc.) are not necessary for students to have at school; however, some family situations require a student's need for a cell phone or communication device for emergency purposes. Cell phones and/or personal communication devices brought to school MUST be kept off and in the student's book bag. Parents wishing to reach students during school hours are asked to call the main office and leave a message for the student or ask that the student come to the office and return the call.

## **SENSORY ROOM**

Lincoln Elementary staff created a school-wide sensory room for our students in grades PreK-5 over the summer months. The room allows any student, especially those with Autism, ADHD, CVI, sensory processing challenges, and other special needs to visit the room for movement and self-regulation opportunities. Items from swings, to weighted balls, balance items, a trampoline and more appeal to the different sensory needs and preferences of our student population are located in the room. These items serve as an additional resource for our Occupational and Physical Therapist.

Research shows the positive benefits of movement on student achievement, behavior, and classroom engagement.

At our school, we believe that education should be a whole-child approach. The sensory room is an asset to our school by allowing students to receive another dimension of support they need to be successful throughout the school day.

Sincerely,

*Pam Barker*

Lincoln Principal

## October Happenings:

Oct. 1.....	<b>INDIVIDUAL SPECTRUM PICTURES</b>
Oct. 2.....	Wear "I Love Public Schools" t shirt
Oct. 4-10.....	Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 7.....	<b>International Walk to School day</b> PLC meeting 2:30 2:10 Dismissal Walk to School day
Oct. 8.....	Booster Club meeting 5:30 pm
Oct. 14.....	<b>All Pro Parents 7:00AM</b> Health Screenings for K-5 in the gym <b>Staff meeting WORK ON REPORT CARDS</b> Walk to School day 2:10 Dismissal
Oct. 16.....	<b>TEACHER WORK DAY</b> <b>FLU shots 9:00-10:30</b> End of first quarter
Oct. 17.....	<b>Fundraiser Pickup in the gym until 10:30 AM.</b>
Oct. 19-23.....	National School Bus Safety week
Oct. 19.....	Parent-Teacher-Student Scheduled Conferences 3:45-7:00 School Board meeting
Oct. 20.....	Parent-Teacher-Student Scheduled Conferences 3:45-7:00 Administrator's Meeting
Oct. 21.....	Walk to School day 2:10 Dismissal Parent-Teacher-Student Scheduled Conferences 2:30-4:00
Oct. 23.....	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Oct. 26-30.....	Red Ribbon Week
Oct.28.....	Vision Screening for grades 1-4
Oct. 29.....	Clowns at school for K-2 and Preschool
Oct. 30.....	<b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN! Students wear costumes today</b> Quarter Assembly