

LOWREY SCHOOL

MARCH 2016



One of my main goals as principal is to provide open communication between Lowrey School and the community we serve. For that reason, we have created a time when all our parents and community members can express their concerns, ask questions, and be informed of happenings within our school community. We are calling these meetings "Coffee with the Principal" and they will be taking place every month (unless otherwise indicated) from 8:30-9:00 in Rm 130.

In a group format such as this, it is important to establish cultural norms under which the group will adhere in order to ensure respectful and productive communication:

1. Be punctual
2. Avoid side conversations
3. Silence your phones
4. Concerns must be voiced in a way that is mindful of everyone's right to privacy (please do not mention specific names of any community members)
5. Discussion will be solution focused and not a platform for unconstructive negative venting
6. Coffee with the Principal should reflect our commitment to provide solutions for the success of all our students and not as a personal discussion concerning one student in particular

Our next meeting will be held on March 4th at 8:30. I look forward to dialoguing with you all as we continue our journey in establishing a culture of excellence at Lowrey.

In addition to these meetings, should you have personal concerns or issues of a more delicate nature, I encourage you to email me, call the office to speak with me, or set up a meeting with my secretary to meet with me individually.

I would like to remind and encourage you to attend our "Annual Parent Walk Through" on March 10th at 8:30 am. Do not miss this opportunity to come in and get a snapshot of your child's daily routine at Lowrey School. You will have the opportunity to observe how classes are run and witness the strategies teachers are implementing in their classes daily to enhance student achievement.

Sincerely,

Rima Younes

Morning Supervision: As a reminder, Lowrey students are not to arrive to school until 7:45 a.m. They will be required to stand outside unless it is raining or below 20 degrees. **Students should not arrive early**, unless they are going to the cafeteria for breakfast or going to morning tutoring. Parents are not permitted to walk down to

Dismissal Time:

Lately, we have noticed that many of our parents are starting to arrive to school before the designated release times (2:55 for Middle School, 3:00 for Elementary) to pick up their children. Furthermore, when elementary parents are in the hallway before the end of the school day, it becomes very difficult for the teachers to keep students focused. Students become distracted when they see parents in the hallways. Teachers are instructed to walk all students outside at dismissal time. We would like all parents to wait either in their cars or outside their child's exit door.

Bus Riders:

If your children ride the bus, they must report directly to the bus at dismissal time. This will ensure that the bus is departing the school and dropping off students at home in a timely manner.

Please make sure your children are appropriately dressed while they are waiting for the bus in the morning.

Appropriate Dress

Students must have the appropriate clothing when they come to school. A warm jacket, pants, boots, gloves, and a scarf are all important so that your child can enjoy himself/herself safely at and around the school. We're also noticing that some students repeatedly leave their jackets behind. We will continue to remind them. Please support us by having a conversation with your child about wearing the appropriate clothing to school and using their jackets and gloves while at recess. Students will be required to go out for recess daily if the weather permits.

Overall Behavior

As we get into the holiday season, the students will be experiencing some time away from school as a result of holiday breaks. Please be sure to maintain high expectations in regard to student behavior. This includes interaction with their siblings and friends. Ensuring that conversations about behavior continue with your child will lead to an easier transition back to school and a culture of high standards for student behavior.

Response to Bullying

You can support us by making sure that your child doesn't bully others emotionally or physically, and also by ensuring that they don't stand by or be part of

bullying. Although this problem isn't unique to our district, we are addressing it with passion to ensure our students have a safe and healthy experience at school. Please contact your child's teacher or principal if you have any questions, and we will be happy to talk to you about ways you can address these issues with your child.

Morning Supervision:

As a reminder, Lowrey students are not to arrive to school until 7:45 a.m. They will be required to stand outside unless it is raining, snowing or below 20 degrees. Students should not arrive early, unless they are going to the cafeteria for breakfast. Parents are not permitted to walk down to the cafeteria with their children to breakfast. We want to help our students build independence.

Mr. Esseily and Mrs Zreik
Lowrey Assistant Principals



Reading

Research has shown that reading is vital to the success of students in all subject areas; if students can't read, they can't begin to understand what they're reading in any subject. Not being able to read will inevitably hinder the student's performance at school. So how do we help our students with their literacy? One of the most effective and easy ways to ensure students are improving their reading is by exposing them to print constantly. This means that children need access to a variety of books that they can read whenever they want. Also, making sure that the books are interesting and at the student's reading level, will increase interest for reading. Increased reading will lead to improvement in skills over time. Let your children read to each other or their friends. Give them a library in their rooms or somewhere in the house where they have some books that they own and cherish. Involve your children with anything that gets them involved in reading for information that produces a result they're interested in (like buying a certain snack, or convincing you of getting them a certain game, etc...) These things I've mentioned, coupled with the Daily 5 and Café program we use with the students, will ensure that students are provided with what they need. We encourage you to have conversations with your children's teachers to make sure you have all your questions answered regarding what you can do to choose appropriate books for your children. Dearborn residents also have the benefit of free access to the Dearborn Public Libraries. This is a priceless resource that you can use with your children to spend quality time while addressing their school needs. The Henry Ford Centennial Library has many resources with a wonderful children's section designed for supporting students at home or at the library if they stay and read. You may contact the library at 313-943-2330 if you'd like more information.

Some Helpful Sites:

Jan Brett: a wonderful site by a wonderful author

<http://www.janbrett.com>

Suessville

<http://www.randomhouse.com/seussville/>

Robert Munsch: listen to him read his books

<http://www.robertmunsch.com>

Dav Pilkey

<http://www.pilkey.com>

Children's Books Forever: Many Hans Wilhelm books to print out or use on SMART Board

<http://www.childrensbooksforever.com/>

freeReading: open source free reading intervention program for preK-6

[http://www.free-](http://www.free-reading.net/index.php?title=Main_Page)

[reading.net/index.php?title=Main_Page](http://www.free-reading.net/index.php?title=Main_Page)

Cando's Helper Page: reading activities for primary grades

<http://candohelperpage.com/index.html>

Into the Book: great site for teachers and students to teach comprehension skills

<http://reading.ecb.org/index.html>

Starfall: interactive books and word games for long and short vowels

<http://www.starfall.com>

Handwriting for Kids: handwriting worksheets and lined paper to print out for manuscript and cursive

<http://www.handwritingforkids.com/hand>

From the Classrooms of:

Kindergarten Teachers:

So much is happening in our kindergarten classrooms. In Science we are learning about living and non-living things. We are writing about living and non-living things and what it means to be living and what we need to stay alive. In Social Studies, we are learning about where we are in the world. We will be learning to use a map and globe and how we describe locations and places. In Math we are continuing with addition up to 10 and now we will be learning to subtract numbers up to 10. We are also still working hard on composing and decomposing numbers up to 20. In ELA we will continue using Science and Social Studies informational texts to learn and then we will take the facts that we learn and write them down and be able to explain what we have learned. It is very important that we continue to discuss what we are learning and talk about it and then draw pictures and write about what we have learned. This helps us reinforce the concepts that we are learning about. Reading at school and at home is vital to our kindergarteners learning.

First Grade

Our first graders have been so busy with informational writing and poetry. We have been learning about the Earth and how it needs the sun for heat and light. Our first graders will be visiting the Ann Arbor Science Center on March 18th. We are so excited to use the scientific process to explore the many different aspects of science. Remember to read every night and ask your child questions after they read. What does this story make you think about? What lesson is the author trying to teach you? Can you retell the story?

Second Grade

March is here, and according to the groundhog it will be an early spring! Exciting things are happening in second grade. Students are generating informational animal reports, and getting ready for March is Reading month. We have our goals in place and students are ready for more reading across the curriculum. Whether it's learning about landforms, or generating story problems, students are showing great progress in moving forward toward their personal goals.

Our Dearborn Historical fieldtrip will start in March and continue for other classes throughout April. Students will learn about Dearborn's history and see firsthand how far we have come in present day. Churning butter, planting seeds, one room school house, and touring an old home is just a few of the amazing highlights on this trip.

We are looking forward to reading through March and planting into spring!
Parents please encourage your kids to keep reading by signing their reading logs.

Thank you!

Third Grade

Let's Celebrate March is Reading Month!

March is an exciting month and a great time for all to grab a book and read! As you know, every year in the month of March, reading is celebrated. It is a time to remind, stress and educate students on the importance of reading. As educators and parents, it is important to take advantage and create opportunities for our children to read, read, and read! Starting young, is the key to successful reading, therefore, it is imperative to begin building a strong foundation as early as possible! One way to inspire our children to love reading is to make it exciting! During March is Reading Month, our magnificent team at Lowrey school celebrates March is Reading Month by, inviting readers to classrooms, decorating doors/building, creating a calendar full of fun activities we can use in our classrooms and more. National March is Reading Month at Lowrey is geared towards motivating and providing opportunities for students to read while having fun during the process and turning our students into booklovers.

Fourth Grade:

March is a busy month for the fourth grade! In Math, we are focusing our attention on fractions; how to add them, decompose them and find equivalent fractions. Our science unit is wrapping up electricity and magnets and moving on to Earth Science! In Social Studies, we are wrapping up our unit on government, and we will begin to talk about what it means to be a citizen! This month we will also continue to work on strategies and skills to prepare us for the M-Step that will be coming up in May! Lastly, remember March is Reading month! This year our theme will be "March Madness" and our fourth grade will be reading away as we root for our favorite Michigan team! Each time they read a book, they fill out a basketball to add to the hallway. Please encourage students to read daily!

Fifth Grade

In fifth grade we are studying about living things in science. In social studies we are on the road to the Revolution! Ask your students what caused this war - you will be surprised at all the acts. In math we are continuing with fractions, line plots, and order of operations. Please be sure that your child is reading 30 minutes every single day at home. Next month is Reading Month! Be on the lookout for reading madness!

In other exciting news - we are gearing up for an adventure. Our students are being given the opportunity to go to Chicago on a field trip. The trip will be May 12-13. We will be holding a parent meeting next week for more details. Please look for the invitation we will be sending

home. If you are even thinking you might send your child with us, but haven't made up your mind yet, please join us so we can answer your questions.



ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Thank you so much, Lowrey Elementary and your family for your generosity and giving hearts. Lowrey Elementary raised a total of **\$5,321.16** for their first ever Jump Rope for Heart event. The money was donated to the American Heart Association and is helping so many people that were born with heart conditions or heart disease. This money will help with research, discover new medicines and technology to ensure these children will live a long healthy life.

Mrs. Alcodray's 5th grade class raised the most with a total of \$501.89. Haddy Rachidi of Ms. Fawaz's 4th grade class, raised a total of \$183, and was the top fundraiser of the school! I have posted pictures on my blog of the event: <http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/murrayj1/> Thank you again for your generosity

Mrs. Murray



Sixth Grade

The Lowrey 6th Graders have been a busy bunch! Many of our 6th graders (and parent chaperones) had the new and exciting opportunity to go on a Ski/Snowboard Field Trip to Mt. Brighton on February 9, 2016. Students traveled in style on Trinity Coach Buses to the mountain. Students were fitted for helmets, boots, and their choice of skis or snowboard. They then engaged in an hour long group lesson where they learned ski and boarding basics. Afterward, students spent the rest of the afternoon traveling up the beginner hills on the magic carpet, or tow ropes, and practiced their newly acquired skills coming down the hills. Snowflakes, pink cheeks, shining eyes, huge smiles and laughter were the sights and sounds of the day. The Brighton staff was fantastic! We were thankful and appreciative for their patience and time in teaching our students (and parents). The Brighton staff also complimented about how polite and well behaved our students were throughout the day. Way to go 6th Graders! Thanks for making Lowrey proud!

Academically, the 6th graders finished Winter NWEA Testing at the end of January. We are working towards improving Reading, Language Usage, Science, and Math scores each and

every day in our core classes. The 6th grade teachers would like to suggest **these tips for success**. Making these items a part of the every-day routine will help students' academic growth in EVERY subject:

Seventh Grade

Cookies, cakes, candy bars, cupcakes and even chips ... this may seem like a lesson on alliteration, but it's actually just a partial list of the items 7th grade students brought in for their MEGA BAKE SALE to raise money for their upcoming field trip to C.J. Barrymore's. Bus prices have been raised this year, but the 7th graders weren't going to let that get in the way of this fun and exciting annual tradition. The end of the year trip to the biggest amusement park in the Metro Detroit area has been moved up to May this year - stay tuned for more details. Special thanks to the math department for organizing this over-the-top bake sale. Speaking of bake sales, here's a little something one of our future poets whipped up during our recent poetry unit.

the world is not a pleasant place
by Ahmed Mauri

the world is not a pleasant place
to be without
internet
a kid would stop in life
if he had no tablet
a kid would barely crack a smile
if his phone weren't there
to let him play
the world is not
a pleasant place to be without
internet

A parody of "the world is not a pleasant place" by Nikki Giovanni.

HELPFUL REMINDERS FOR ALL STUDENTS (AND PARENTS):

- ❖ A quiet place to study is ESSENTIAL. Create an electronics free zone where you can study and read without distractions.
- ❖ KHAN ACADEMY is a great way to practice math skills. Make sure you are getting in your minutes each and every day. Don't forget to watch the tutorials if you are struggling.

- ❖ All students have recently checked out new library books that are based on winter NWEA Lexile reading levels. Reading a few minutes each day will help build vocabulary and comprehension. Reading is also a great way to improve your writing skills. ELA teachers do require reading logs with parent signatures.

Eighth Grade

A number of seventh and eighth grade students are excited about their upcoming trip to Washington, D. C. from Wednesday, May 11, to Friday, May 13. They will travel by bus and be lodged at the Embassy Suites. Mrs. Makled anticipates visits to the Vietnam and World War II Memorials and the Lincoln and Washington Monuments, as well as to Capitol Hill. Mrs. Makled has said, "I would like to make this trip a school tradition. Our Nation's Capital is a great way to spark student interest in American Government and History." Additionally, she notes that there are still a few places available for students in good standing.

In recognition of African-American History Month, students in Mrs. Makled's classes are researching African-American historical figures by drawing a timeline of their lives and doing a short oral presentation in class.

Eighth-grade Math students need to complete sixty minutes of Khan Academy exercises a week until the end of the year. The program focuses on improving NWEA skills.

FEBRUARY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Kindergarten

Aya Fares
Noor Algasid
Malik Opayeh
Asma Fayad
Shuoab Asrafel,
Daniel Alshawi

First

Abraham Elitawi
Reema Shohatra
Jumana Alsandaqchi
Selena Fneich
Mariam Khalil

Second

Fatima Cheibany
Amira Bazzi
Yanal Alchikh
Thaha Noor
Zainb Mufadhal
Amanda Salameh
Athar Mohammed
Hamzeh Ahmed

Third

Elham Sofyan
Mohamed Elhourani
Rahed Lahawl
Zeina Nassar
Amram Saif
Natalya Hobballah
Areei Alsoufi
Lea Hydous

Fourth

Sajad Aljanaby
Aishah Mohsen
Hawraa Alhussani
Madinah Bazzi
Fatima Fardous
Injy Wasfy
Marreih Obad
Sundas Mohamed
Leanne Nasser
Zeinab Aboutaam
Ragd Saleh

Fifth

Rian Aljahmi
Layla Bezih
Hussein Sobh
Kennedy Braxton
Aya Abdulhussain
Dunis Saeed
Dunia Saleh
Effat Khalil
Laya Chahine
Jaafar Fatla
Safa Alghazally
Hussein Aoun
Dina Alsaad
Hasn Omar

FEBRUARY MIDDLE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

6th Grade

Ghassan Ahmed
Sadek Aoude
Sarah Hachem
Aya Hazime
Dayanara
MagdaenoLeol
Fatima Saleh

7th Grade

Mohammed Alaa
Dua Ali
Alia Hammoud
Iyah Hussein
Alaa Kourani
Abdulaziz Shami

8th Grade

Muhammad Alnasser
Zainab Alrebaie
Nadine Bazzi
Lena Berry
Malak Kobeissi
Malak Mchaimech

March 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 <i>Book Fair Begins</i>	2 <i>Boys Swimming Salina @ Lowrey</i>	3	4 <i>Coffee with the Principal 8:30-9 P.T.A. 9-9:30</i>	5
6	7 <i>Boys Swimming Lowrey @ Stout</i>	8	9 <i>Boys Swimming Lowrey @ Smith</i>	10 <i>Parent Walk Through 8:30am</i>	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Late Start</i> <i>Boys Swimming Lowrey @ Unis</i>	17 <i>5th Grade Field Trip (Detroit Institute of Arts)</i>	18 <i>1st Grade Field Trip (Ann Arbor Museum)</i>	19
20	21	23	23 <i>Boys Swimming Woodworth @ Lowrey</i> <i>Elem. Parent Teacher Conference (By Invitation)</i>	24	25 <i>No School</i>	26
27	28 <i>No School</i>	29 <i>No School</i>	30 <i>No School</i>	31 <i>No School</i>	April 1 <i>No School</i>	