

# LOWREY SCHOOL

APRIL 2016

## A Note from the Principal:

Dear Lowrey Families:

Our Lowrey Polar Bears have so much to be proud of as we continue to build upon our legacy and tradition during the 2015-2016 school year! During the month of March, we recognized and celebrated our love for READING with a "March Reading Madness" theme. Jerseys, basketballs, and slam dunks filled the hallways as teachers and students shared their favorite stories and reading experiences.

A big thank you to our parents for taking the time from their hectic schedules to not only read to our children, but to engage and answer questions as great role models for young our children.

In addition, several community members volunteered their time to visit with our students to read their favorite childhood stories. We would like to recognize all those who took the time to contribute to our Reading Madness. The hall of fame readers are: Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Superintendent Dr. Glenn Maleyko, Dr. Youssef Mosallam, Dr. Jill Chochol, Judge David Turfe, Judge Adel Harb, Judge Charlene Elder, Judge Sam Salamey, Magistrate Yvonna Abraham, Maylee Mosallam, Maysam Alie-Bazzi Chief of Police Ronald Haddad, Fire Chief Joseph Murray, Lt. Andreas Barnett, Officer Foyid Mockbil, Susan Dabaj, Fadwa Alawieh, Magistrate Helal Farhat, and Monica Boomer. THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN for making our month extra special!

Also, we invite all our parents to take the time to visit our wonderful and creative hallways and classroom doors that our students and teachers designed this month. Each class chose a reading theme and decorated the doors to show their love for reading. Teachers then voted on the most interesting and creative work. As always, we strive to do well both in and out of the classroom.

I think we all agree that we are ready to bid the winter farewell and receive the spring with open arms. Although we are still in that transitional phase, please dress your children in layers and drop them off no earlier than 7:45 a.m. for middle school and 7:55 a.m. for elementary school. Please plan to pick up your children at 2:55 for middle and 3:05 for elementary, as the kids will be waiting outside.

Although we are excited to embrace the warm weather, all students are required to adhere to the spring/summer dress code at Lowrey School. Students should wear neat and clean clothing, which is practical seasonally school appropriate. T-shirts and sweatshirts may not display any inappropriate words, pictures or slogans. Hats including baseball caps, visors, and bandanas may not be worn. Clothing must not have tears or holes. All tops, blouses or shirts must cover the midriff area and shoulders. Spaghetti straps, off the shoulders and tube tops are not acceptable clothing for students during school. Beach sandals/ flip-flops are not permitted in school for safety reasons.

**M-Step Testing:** M-Step testing is extremely important and we must all work together to make sure our students are resting and sleeping early, getting a healthy breakfast to start the day, and that we all understand how serious and important this test is. Please prep your children and stress the importance of putting forth a strong effort on the test

Testing Start Dates:

- April 11<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- April 25<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades
- May 9<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades

**Kindergarten Round Up- April 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.**

We held our annual kindergarten round up on April 11<sup>th</sup>. It was truly a pleasure to have had the opportunity to meet all of you who took the time to attend this important meeting. For those of you, who did not have the chance to attend, please make it a point to come into the office and retrieve the papers. At that time, your child will have an assessment done in order for us to properly help him/her for the upcoming school year. You will also receive a backpack full of useful resources for you to work on with your child over the summer.

*Thank you for making Lowery School an exceptional place.*

*Mrs. 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.

### **BusRiders:**

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-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:

As educators, our hope is to develop joyful, self-directed, engaged learners. Learners who are curious about the world around them, who are excited to take on challenges, who are willing to take risks, and

who are resilient and flexible in the face of failure. Our goal here at Lowrey, is to have learners who have a growth mindset.

The Kindergarten TEAM has found that building a classroom culture of growth mindset changes how students approach their learning, and is transformational in helping them build the habits of mind to be successful within and beyond the classroom. As one of our kindergartners explains, "If you don't know how to do something, you can try it again and again and fix your mistakes, and if you don't give up, you really showed growth mindset."

We start by asking our kindergartners to share how their muscles get stronger. We give our students the example of working out our muscles through exercise to working out our brains through the effort of purposeful practice (building stamina). By showing brain images of growth, students can discover the way that their brains change as they learn new things.

You can also extend and enrich this understanding of growth mindset by reading aloud literature that celebrates a growth and facilitating discussions about how growth mindset plays out in different contexts. Students may also be inspired to read the biographies of famous athletes or thinkers who overcame huge obstacles and who embody a growth mindset...

### **First Grade**

Our first graders had an amazing time exploring at the Ann Arbor Science Museum this month. We had the chance to use the scientific process with so many aspects of science. In social studies our focus will be on map skills, when we return from break. You can get a head start by practicing right and left directions along with your address and phone number at home. You can make a game out of it. Remember, as always, read to and with your child daily. Use this time to ask your child about the story.

### **Second Grade**

Our second graders are working very hard! We have introduced constructive response writing and they are taking off with great results. We are excited about our next PBIS celebration and looking forward to a wonderful break. March is reading month has been a big hit, reading daily, and having such great guest readers to help spread the message. Please continue to encourage reading everyday! Quick reminder for parents, our conferences are on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Until then thank you for all your support.

### **Third Grade**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Team**

Happy Spring from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Team! Students are continuing to work extra hard as they are preparing for the upcoming NWEA and M-Step Assessments. We have been really focusing on reading, writing short and extended responses (R.A.C.E. Method) and all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade concepts in math. The students have shown great progress with all of the new test taking strategies and how to appropriately apply each of them. Please encourage your child to continue to review all completed packets, reading daily with comprehension questions and practicing all concepts of math. For math, please have them practice telling time, mixed amounts of money, multiplication, division, fractions and applying think aloud math. The students are aware of where to find the resources/websites from home that will help to prepare them for the assessments. Lastly, if possible, please have them

practice typing on the computer at home as they are expected to type their responses on the computer.

We are currently covering:

- Math-Unit 8 Fractions
- Life Science-Rocks and Minerals, Fossils
- We are continuing to learn all about Michigan's government
- Writing-focusing on applying the R.A.C.E. method to short and extended responses

Please continue encouraging your child to always be doing their personal best as 4<sup>th</sup> grade is quickly approaching. Thank you for your continued support in and out of the classroom, as this promotes for a healthy school-home relationship.

### **Fourth Grade:**

April will be a busy month for fourth graders. When we come back from Spring break we will continue prepping for the M-Step. Students will be busy learning test taking strategies as well as concepts. Please make sure students are getting their homework done to the best of their ability. The homework sent home is a review of what is taught in the classroom and students should be able to complete it. Also, ensuring your child is getting a good night sleep will help them be more focused in school during the day. Please encourage them to read daily for at least 30 minutes!

### **Fifth Grade**

In fifth grade we are preparing for the MSTEP. We are reviewing social studies concepts from maps, globes, pictures, and charts to Michigan history then on to the American Revolution. In math we are focusing on fractions, volume, area, perimeter, and coordinate grids. Please encourage your student to practice these skills in Moby Max, Front Row, and Khan Academy. They should be spending 20-30 minutes each day practicing reading and math on these websites. To keep our strong readers, please have your child read no less than 30 minutes daily at home. The reading they do at school does not count for this time. We look forward to meeting with you about Chicago and will be sending more information about the raffle and payments. We are all so excited for the trip!  
Happy Spring!

### **ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Hello Everyone!

The Martian Marathon is coming up on Saturday, April 9th at Ford Park in Dearborn-500 Monroe St. The race for the Kids Marathon starts and finishes at the park--All ages are welcome!

Registration is \$19 if you want to join Lowrey's group, the race is 1.2 miles and will start at 12:00-the blue wave. You can use this link to register:

<https://runningfitevents.redpodium.com/2016-martian-kids-marathon>

Enter in your child's information then as you scroll down, you can click on the green button that says "join a team". Click on Lowrey Elementary and then enter in the password: polarbears Here is another link with more helpful information: <http://martianraces.com/index.php/parents-and-educators> Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions! Happy Racing!~Mrs. Murray

<http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/murrayj1/>

### **Sixth Grade**

Dear Families,

On behalf of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade staff, we want to thank you for your continued support. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend parent teacher conferences earlier this month. We will continue working together as a team to provide your child with an educational experience that strives to meet

both their personal and academic goals (My Learning Plan). As we make our way through the spring months, it is crucial to take this time and make sure our students continue to approach each school day with purpose. It is important to remember that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the Michigan Student Test of Educational Process (M-STEP) at the end of April- beginning of May. You play a vital role in helping your student give their best performance; even when testing. Below are a few suggestions that could help your student feel more comfortable and confident before and during the weeks of testing:

- During the weeks leading up to the M-STEP begin to talk with your student about the importance of giving their best effort during testing.
- The night before the test(s) assists your student with getting to bed on time.
- Research shows that being well-rested help students achieve at higher levels.
- Talk with your student about the M-STEP and encourage them to give their best.
- Get up early to avoid being rushed the days of testing.
- Have your student eat a HEALTHY and nutritious breakfast!
- Make sure your student arrives to school on time.
- Practice! Practice! Practice!- Students know how to access the M-Step practice tests online. It is crucial they practice at home!

Instrumental- Mrs. Voelkner

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Chamber Concert is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. Parents are encouraged to attend.



## Seventh Grade

### Academic Corner:

**Language Arts:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA team has been working on preparing students for the M-Step & NWEA assessments by going over word analysis, reading comprehension, writing strategies and writing conventions.

**Math:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team has been working on measurement and geometry strand. To prepare for the upcoming M-Step & NWEA assessments, teachers are finishing up math curriculum. Teachers are going over number sense, algebra & functions, measurement & geometry, statistics & probability strands to adequately prepare students to answer questions of varying difficulty from the academic content standards in 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics.

**Social Studies:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team has been analyze classical civilizations and empires and their lasting impact on institutions, political thought, structures, technology and art forms that grew in India, China, the Mediterranean basin, Africa, and Southwest and Central Asia during this era.

**Science:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team is almost done with Organization of Living Things & Growth unit. Our last strand is Earth science where students will develop an understanding of how sun's warming relates to weather, climate, seasons, and the water cycle.



- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team is preparing students for M-STEP by taking an online practice test for ELA, Math & Science. You are encouraged to go to the following link <https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/ott1> for additional practice at home.
- Online M-Step is from May 9<sup>th</sup> - May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team encourages the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to do the following to prepare for the state wide online testing:

- o *Practice the RACE strategy.*
- o *Do your BEST on the TEST*
- o *Use your time wisely.*
- o *If you can't figure out which answer is correct, try to eliminate the answers that you know are wrong.*
- o *Practice typing by going on online tutorial sites.*  
<http://www.sense-lang.org/typing/tutor/keyboarding.php?lang=EN> Dvork
- o *Complete the Spring Break M-Step Packet.*

## **Eighth Grade**

Teachers are affording plenty of time to practice the M-step because of the test's change in format--the test is to be taken entirely on computer and has new features, such as the computer adapting questions in response to student answers. The test will be administered from April 11 to May 26, giving each middle school grade two weeks to complete the tests.

Students are collecting money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with the classes that collect the most money being awarded a lunch prepared by the Olive Garden.

March has been designated as Reading Month. Academic advising classes have been reading books and creating door decorations displaying the characters and scenes described in the books. The classes with the best door decorations will be awarded prizes.

From the beginning of the school year, students have been reminded of the importance of improving their reading. The Northwest Evaluation Test (NWEA) has thus far been administered twice, in September and in January. In May will be the final take. Being acutely aware of the importance of the test in determining their high school classes, students have been striving in their classes to apply all the reading strategies they have been taught so they can successfully apply them in their upcoming tests



## MARCH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### Kindergarten

Marwa Gobah

Sarah Mallah

Sukayna Alammar

Ilyas Saleh

Ishl Wasfy

### First

Gabriella Maatouk

Souad Abdallah

Fatima Mteirek

Ahmed Alsuraimi

Aya Hazamy

Amil Altam

### Second

Amlak Saif

Sireen Wazne

Hadi Rayes

Alaadeen Aladwar

Husayn Abdulsater

Miriam Flaih

Naif Alsoofi

Haliah Kobaree

### Third

Zahra Aljabery

Zina Cheikh

Suliman Haider

Tasnem Omar

Zynab Shami

Sanad Alharbi

Asraa Almosawi

### Fourth

Furkan Yasarlar

Ahmad Maatouk

Fatme Hamid

Ali Jouheir

Hussein Zreik

Injy Wasfy

Khadiga Nasser

### Fifth

Aya Seklawi

Ali Mohamed

Maram Jaber

Aya Bazzi

Ghleb Gobah

Jamilah Abdulla

Abdulwahab Alabasi

**Batoul Muheisen**

**Mina Aljibory**

**Doaa Kaid**

**Camille Wilson**

**Siham Alward**

**Abdulaziz Alkhalisi**

**Judy Baydoun**

**Adam Hammoud**

**Maya Hamze**

**Ramy Abouelella**

**Tofouf Hassan**

**Samuel Elakkari**

## MARCH MIDDLE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### 6th Grade

**Ghassan Ahmed  
Sadek Aoude  
Sarah Hachem  
Aya Hazime  
Dayanara  
MagdalenoLeal  
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 Mchaimch**

## April 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|--------|--------|--|-----------|---|---|----------|
|        |        |  |           |   | 1<br><br>No School  | 2        |
| 3      | 4      | 5<br><br>PTA Store<br>9:30-12:30<br>Girls<br>Volleyball<br>Lowrey @<br>Stout | 6         | 7<br><br>Girls Volleyball<br>Bryant @<br>Lowrey | 8   | 9        |
| 10     | 11     | 12<br><br>PTA Store<br>9:30-12:30  | 13        | 14<br><br>Parent Meeting<br>@9-9:30             | 15  | 16       |
| 17     | 18     | 19<br><br>PTA Store<br>9:30-12:30  | 20        | 21<br><br>PTA Bake Sale<br>9:00-1pm             | 22<br><br>Coffee with<br>the Principal<br>@ 8:30-9<br><br>PTA<br>meeting<br>9:00-9:30 | 23       |

|    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|----|----|---------------------------------------|----|----|--|--|
|    |    |                                       |    |    | <i>PTA Bake<br/>Sale<br/>10:00-1pm</i> |  |
| 24 | 25 | 26<br><i>PTA Store<br/>9:30-12:30</i> | 27 | 28 | 30                                     |  |