

# LOWREY SCHOOL

**MARCH 2017**

Dear Families,

Your children have been working very diligently this year. We have just wrapped up both WIDA and NWEA testing. The students have all worked hard to show that they have made academic progress throughout the year. Students are taking ownership of their scores and are creating new goals for spring. Please be sure to ask your child about his/her new goals.

This month is a special month because March is recognized as reading month. If you walk into our building, you will notice the hallways have been decorated using a science theme to celebrate reading. Our hallways have been transformed into rainforests and bodies of water with aquatic life. Students are taking the time to read their favorite books and are writing about their books using claim, evidence and reason (CER). Additionally, we have welcomed many guest readers to our building to read to our students. Some of these readers include Judges, Dearborn Police officers, and other important city and district officials. Our students have had the opportunity to listen to stories and ask questions about the careers of our guests.

We want to remind you that M-STEP testing will begin on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will be tested in language arts, math, science and/or social studies. Currently, students are preparing for this test by reviewing test taking strategies and applying these strategies to what they are learning in class. If these strategies are applied in all daily assignments, students are more likely to succeed on the M-STEP.

Please continue to encourage your child to read every day for at least 30 minutes. It is essential that children practice their daily reading in order for reading comprehension and vocabulary to improve. After reading, have your child tell you about the book. This will improve speaking skills as students use academic language to share.

We look forward to your child's continued success. As always, our doors are always open and we are here to support you and your children in every way.

Thank You,

Rima Younes  
Principal



**MARCH IS READING MONTH**



### **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 remind your children that waiting or looking for friends while the bus waits for them is not acceptable. 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. Baydoun 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.freereading.net/index.php?title=MainPage>

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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

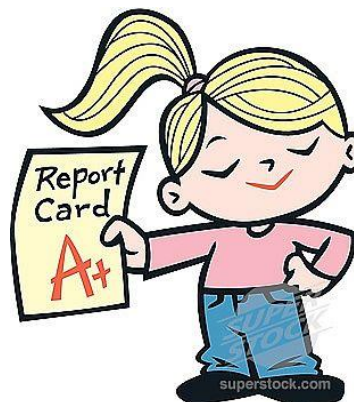
<http://www.handwritingforkids.com/handwriting>

[www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com),

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

[www.mobymax.com](http://www.mobymax.com)

[www.myon.com](http://www.myon.com).





### From the desk of the 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...

### **Dear First Grade Families,**

March is READING MONTH!! Our theme this year is Science. First Grade has decided to write informational pieces about the Earth, Sky and Moon as we wrap up our Earth and Sky unit. Look forward to fun activities centered around reading and science. May 10, 2017 our first graders will be exploring many aspects of science using the scientific process at the Michigan Science Center. We can't wait to explore. We are beginning a social studies unit on map skills. Practice using the vocabulary left and right. It might be fun to practice map skills by drawing maps of different rooms in your home. Label the maps and don't forget a title! Your child will also be expected to write his or her address and phone number with area code. In math we are working on fact families and how addition and subtraction work together. As always, read and write with your child. Try writing a note to your child and leaving it somewhere he/she can find it. End with a question so he/she will write you back. This is a great way to encourage writing but also a nice bonding experience for you.

Thank you,

First Grade Teachers

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**

March is reading month!! We are so excited to have a science theme throughout the building to encourage a unified participation of all grades. During the month of March there are many activities that each child can use to help improve their reading skills, and hopefully reading for leisure. We use this month to invite readers of all genres to encourage student's interest, while increasing their skill levels. It is highly recommended that parents participate and give their support by signing reading logs, library trips, and listen to your child's reading each evening. Your interest will stimulate your child's love for reading. As always we appreciate your support and together we can make this year successful!

Thank you,

The Second Grade Team!

### **Third Grade:**

Amazing things are happening in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! Students are overly excited about all the on-going learning in their classrooms! This month our building is celebrating March is reading month. Our building is promoting enthusiasm for reading, the Central Staff has planned a month long reading celebration using the theme "We are mad about Science."



We have been implementing a variety of techniques and strategies in preparation of NWEA test in the spring, as well as the upcoming M-step test that will take place this spring. Please continue encouraging your child in reaching all of their personal and academic goals. Thank you for your continued support in and out of the classroom, as this promotes for a healthy school-home relationship.

#### **Fourth Grade Families,**

Our field trip to the roller skating rink was a success! Now that the students had a chance to unwind it's time to start focusing on M-Step. In Math we will be focusing on division, multiplication and fractions. Please practice with your child at home. In Science, we have been learning about the phases of the moon. We will be starting food chains and food webs and the life cycle of animals. Also, for March is reading month we have turned our hallway into a "Reading Rainforest", if you have a chance please come check it out. In order to ensure all our kids to pass the M-step it is crucial that they read every night for at least 30 minutes. Some websites that students can use at home are [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com), [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org), [www.mobymax.com](http://www.mobymax.com), and [www.myon.com](http://www.myon.com). Once again, thank you for all of your support!

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Fifth graders are working harder than ever this month! During ELA, students are meeting with their teacher daily and working on reading comprehension strategies and test taking strategies. Please make sure students are reading for at least 40 minutes on a daily basis. With the M-Step and NWEA approaching next month, it is essential students read daily and work on stamina. During math, students recently learned about mixed fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators, and extending their knowledge of fractions. Currently, students are learning about volume and coordinate grids. In science, students are learning about animal adaptations, plant adaptations, food chain, food web, and the survival of organisms. During social studies, students are learning about the road to revolution. On another note, students will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Chicago with their classmates in May. Fifth graders are excited to be planning a trip to Chicago. They will be visiting the Millennium Park, Lincoln Park Zoo, and Navy Pier. This is a great experience that your fifth grader should take advantage of. More information regarding what was sent home this week. As always, please make sure your child is reading daily and working on Prepdog at home. Once again, thank you for all of your support!

Fifth grade team



#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

The 7th grade singers performed wonderfully at Choral Festival on Friday. Choral Festival was held at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor. Our students prepared two memorized pieces and sight read. Schools from across Southeast Michigan participated in the festival. Not only did our students sing beautifully, they represented our community with poise, grace and professionalism. This was a very powerful opportunity. :) Please congratulate our 7th grade students when you see them! We are very proud!



7th Grade students just started to learn to explain that organisms are made of cells that may specialize for a particular purpose, and that cells function in similar ways in all organisms. Next, students will learn to compare sexual and asexual reproduction of organisms for the continuation of genetic characteristics. Finally, we will learn about the process of photosynthesis.



Students in 7th grade Math have been working on solving and graphing 2-step inequalities. Students will be finishing up Equations and Expressions and begin on the Geometry unit in the next two weeks. The basic skill quiz for this card marking is changing percents to decimals and then to fractions. Students get up to 5 retakes to pass this quiz. Students should be doing 60 minutes of khan academy every week.



Students in 7th grade Language Arts have been introduced to the different elements and styles of poetry. They have also been exploring how much figurative language resides inside poetry. Students should be reading for at least 30 minutes, four times week.



Students in 7th grade Social Studies have been learning about Economics as a separate sub-unit. Today, students were completing their project presentations. This was a really enjoyable unit for the students because they had a chance to create their own businesses, or ideas to see how economics goes into all of the products we see in stores and markets every day.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Students in eighth grade are writing narratives on happenings at Lowrey written with half of the text being dialogue-- characters speaking to each other. The assignment is an exercise in composition with an emphasis on paragraphing and properly placing words in quotation marks. Students have been given ample time to revise the narratives because rewriting has shown that with each revision student writing improves.

Simultaneously, students are reading the play; The Diary of Anne Frank while exploring the differences between prose, film, and drama.

Recently, students finished taking the PSAT. The test focused on reading, writing, language, and math.



## **Elementary Physical Education**



Thank you so much, Lowrey Elementary for your generosity and giving hearts. Lowrey Elementary raised a total of \$4,059.43 for their 2nd annual Jump Rope for Heart event. Even though we didn't reach our goal this year, I am still very proud of those student's that worked hard and donated their time and money. 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. Rida's 5th grade class raised the most with a total of \$380.00 and Adam Hammoud of Mrs. Rida's 5th grade class, raised a total of \$200, 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



## **Middle School Physical Education**



Middle School Physical Education classes are currently engaging in our Volleyball, Swimming, and Basketball units. Students are engaging in daily physical fitness activities, and they are encouraged to practice with siblings and parents at home! Ask your children what exercises they can perform at home and join in the fun!

Lowrey PE Staff



## SPRING BOOK FAIR



Lowrey Media Center will be hosting a book fair from Tuesday, Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>. The hours for the book fair will be Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Thursday, Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 1:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Lowrey School Media Center Staff

## SCHOOL INFORMATION REMINDERS

### School Closing

If there is a chance that schools will be closed due to inclement weather, please be sure to check the following websites to see if the Dearborn Public Schools are closed:

Channel 4 WDIV-TV

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/closings/index.html>

\*Note – This website also has a feature where you can sign-up for email alerts if your child's school district is closed

Channel 7 WXYZ-Detroit

<http://www.wxyz.com/schoolclosings/default.aspx>





# MARCH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



## KDG

Laila Sayed  
Ali Fouani  
Tasneem Omayan  
Ali KandilElsayed  
Mohamad Ahmad  
Amirah Atallah  
Issam Alshmairy

## FIRST GRADE

Aya Atallah  
Zainulabdeen AlElayawi  
Hussam Alnakeeb  
Hamza AbdelHaq  
Marwa Gobah

## SECOND GRADE

Amal Mugali  
Adam Elitawi  
Farah Mohamed  
Fatima Mteirek  
Ibrahim Mosleh  
Shams Saeed  
Abraham Elitawi  
Yousef Alzaba  
Darine Wazne

## THIRD GRADE

Amad Alharbi  
Maha Noor  
Hadi Dabajeh  
Serene Yassine  
Yasmeen Abuhmoud  
Sarah Abdallah

## FOURTH GRADE

Mohamad Osseili  
Edris Almraisi  
Mossab Abdallah  
Deena Khalil  
Ali Tarraf  
Shatha Morshed  
Waddah Saeed  
Hussein Sobh  
Yasmeena Hammoud

## FIFTH GRADE

Patricia CastroCastaneda  
Yunus Muqbel  
Ali Charaf  
Ahmad Maatouk  
Samera Alwaseem  
Tayib Bazzi  
Marwa Deeb  
Dana Habhab  
Haddy Rachidi  
Hussein Zreik  
Sajad Ridha  
Mariam Alzaba  
Ahmad Alabdali





March 2017



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>
<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>6</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>
<b><u>12</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>	<b><u>14</u></b>	<b><u>15</u></b> <b><i>Late Start</i></b>	<b><u>16</u></b> Elementary Spring Picture Day	<b><u>17</u></b>	<b><u>18</u></b>
<b><u>19</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>	<b><u>21</u></b> Spring Book Fair in the Media Center	<b><u>22</u></b> Spring Book Fair in the Media Center	<b><u>23</u></b> Spring Book Fair in the Media Center	<b><u>24</u></b>	<b><u>25</u></b>
<b><u>26</u></b>	<b><u>27</u></b>	<b><u>28</u></b> Girls Volleyball @Lowrey	<b><u>29</u></b> -Mandatory Kindergarten Meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium  -Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences (By Appointment) 3:00-6:00 pm	<b><u>30</u></b>	<b><u>31</u></b>	

