

Indian Creek News

April 2018

Marilee McConnell, Principal



April Dates to Remember

April 2-6	Iowa Assessments for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders
April 5	Volunteer workshop 8:30 AM
April 7	Coffee & Conversation with the School Board
April 7	Indian Creek Night at the Kernels
April 9	PTO Meeting in library 6:30 PM
April 10	5th grade music program 6:30 PM
April 16-May 4	NWEA Assessments for grades 2, 3, 4, & 5.
April 17	Volunteer Recognition 2:00 PM
April 18	Spring Photos
April 20	Family Fun Night 5:30-7:30 PA
April 26	Art Show/ Book Fair- evening hours 5:30 -7:00 PM
April 27	School P.R.I.D.E. Day - wear red & black
April 28	Insect Zoo 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
April 30	NO School Professional Development Day



CHEESE!



Spring Photos

All Indian Creek students in grades K through 5 will have spring pictures taken on Wednesday, April 18th.

Picture packages are not ordered in advance like they were in the fall. A few weeks after the pictures have been taken a picture package will come home with your child. Please look through the pictures and purchase only those you want to keep. Send your payment along with any unwanted photographs back to school with your student. There is absolutely no obligation to purchase pictures.



A Note From the Principal...

Dear Indian Creek Families,

I hope everyone had a great spring break in March! It is hard to believe that we only have two months left before summer break.

As the year begins to wind down, we will work together as a staff to determine student classroom placements for the 2018-19 school year. We have an excellent staff at Indian Creek and we feel that students will benefit from any teacher's instruction, but we do recognize that finding the right fit of teaching and learning styles is important for a whole year of learning. The teachers and I consider many different factors when compiling class lists including:

- Balance by gender
- Heterogeneous academic ability levels
- Organizational skills
- Behavioral skills
- Social and emotional needs
- Special education needs
- Medical needs
- Positive or negative relationships among individual students
- Teacher, counselor and administrative recommendations
- Learning style needs
- Previous relationships between the teacher and the family
- Information provided by parents
- Other needs that the individual student may have



Because this is such a delicate and important balance, we do not accept specific requests for individual teachers, but we do accept feedback from parents/guardians that will help ensure the best fit possible for their student. If you have information that you want to share about your student to help with the classroom placement process for next school year, please email me at mmcconnell@linmar.k12.ia.us or send me a written note by Friday, April 13th.

Our PTO is busy planning Family Fun Night on Friday, April 20th. Be sure to put that date on your calendars!

The Art show will be held on Thursday, April 26th. You won't want to miss it.

I hope everyone will be able to enjoy some beautiful spring weather soon! Life will quickly turn green! ☺

Sincerely,

Marilee McConnell, Principal



The Counselor Corner

Our 3rd through 5th grade classes will be completing the Iowa Assessments, which were previously known at the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS).

- The assessments are important to our school and should be taken seriously. They help to guide our instruction and determine the effectiveness of our teaching tools, strategies and interventions.
- The assessments will be completed across several days with breaks provided throughout the testing sessions to prevent students from feeling overwhelmed.

There is not a way to study for the tests, but there are ways to prepare our bodies and minds for the tests each day.

- Be sure to get a good night's sleep before the tests. Recommendations for school age children are 10 - 11 hours of sleep each night. (WebMD, CDC, National Sleep Foundation and KidsHealth.org websites). It is also recommended to eliminate all electronics or screen time in the hour leading up to bedtime to increase restful sleep patterns.
- Start the day with a healthy breakfast. Nutritious breakfast options are available every day here at school. Breakfast is served starting at 7:35 am and the same funds from a student's lunch account are also available for breakfast purchases.
- Young bodies need a chance to move and exercise in order to be at their best. Students should try to get plenty of exercise in the afternoons and evenings on the days of the tests. Our bodies want and need to move after a busy day of learning and testing at school.

For more information about Iowa Assessments, you can visit
<https://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/>

5th Grade Music Program

The Fifth Grade Music program will be held April 10, at 6:30 PM in the Indian Creek gym. Please have your child in their classroom at 6:10, as the program will be starting promptly at 6:30pm.

Art Show is April 26th



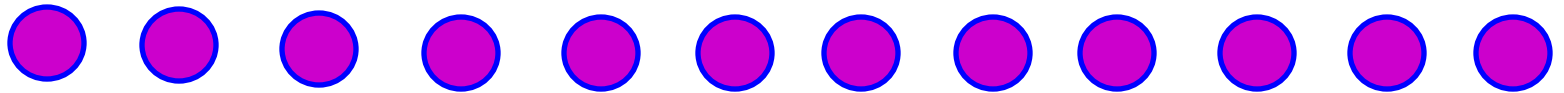
The Annual Indian Creek Art Show will take place on Thursday, April 26th from 5:30 until 7:00. Please come in and see all the beautiful and creative projects students have been working on all year long in Art. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade work will be on display in the Multi-purpose room and 3rd, 4th and 5th grade work will be on display in the Gym. We realize evenings get busy with music, sporting events and other activities but please encourage your parents and siblings to come in and see your efforts, even if you can just stop by for a minute. While you are here you can take your 3-Dimensional projects home and make sure they get home safely. This includes all clay projects, 5th grade masks, Model Magic in 1st grade, medicine bags for 4th grade, and God's Eyes in 2nd grade. It is a special night to share with your family. Come and join the fun and view the talent we have here at Indian Creek.

Please note: if you are unable to make it on Thursday night, you will receive your 3-D Art on Friday and will have to get it home safely.

Also, if you have not granted permission for your students' artwork to be submitted to Artsonia, you are missing out! Through Artsonia your student has their own Art Gallery of projects they have created through their time here at Indian Creek. Please grant permission so you can view it and share it with others if you wish.

To grant permission go to Artsonia.com and enter Indian Creek/Marion, Iowa as your school and find your student and access permission. It is as easy as that! From there you will be able to see several projects your students have created in Art.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing you April 26th at the Art Show!



Indian Creek Masterpiece Award

In honor of Maddeson Tersinar's April birthday, the art department selects the Annual Indian Creek Masterpiece Award. Maddeson was a gifted artist and encouraged her classmates to be dedicated artists too. The award is awarded annually to a 5th grader, during the Indian Creek Art Show.

The artwork of the award recipient will be displayed in a masterpiece frame in the Indian Creek hallway after the art show. The artwork will be returned the following year.

2018-2019 Kindergarteners

If you know of any neighbors with students entering kindergarten next year who may have missed our Kindergarten Round-up, please have them call Pam (447-3270) to be added to the list of incoming kindergarteners.



Indian Creek Elementary Yearbook Ordering Information

All orders must be placed online this year!

Just go to: YBPay.lifetouch.com

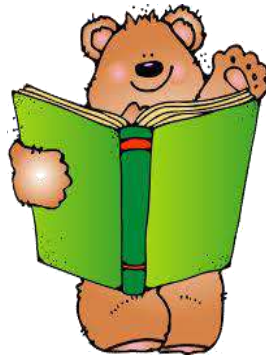
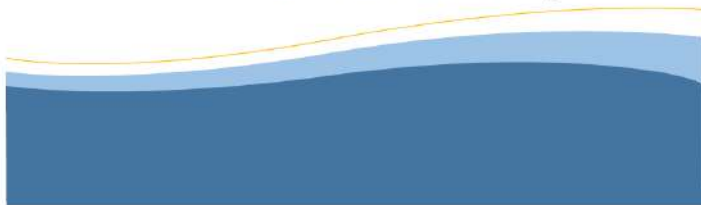
Use the  Indian Creek code: 1274018

Yearbooks costs \$12.75

Orders are due April 13th.

If you need assistance or access to place an order,
please stop in the Indian Creek Library.

Yearbooks will arrive in May.

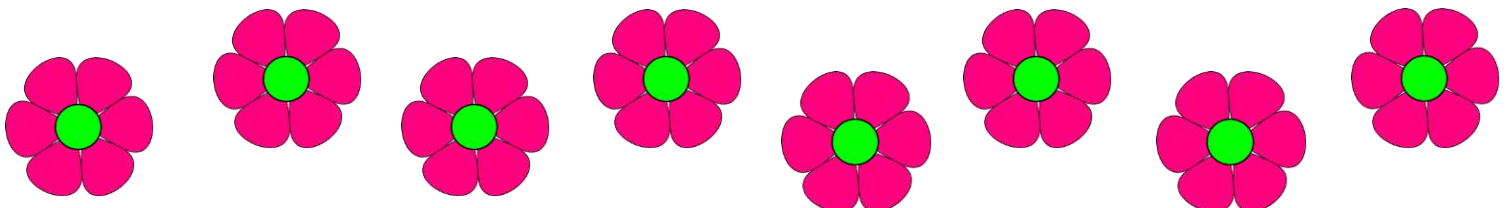


Indian Creek Book Fair April 23 - 27

Join us for Indian Creek's spring book fair April 23 - 27. Students will be able to shop during their library class and after school until 3:30. The book fair will also be open Thursday evening, April 26, during the art show (5:30-7pm). All profits will be used to buy new materials for Indian Creek students to check out from the library. There will also be an "Adopt a Book" table with books we would like to add to the school library. Indian Creek has added many beautiful books to the library over the years thanks to the generous support of families.

Volunteer Recognition

Indian Creek will be honoring all of our truly amazing volunteers on Tuesday, April 17th at 2:00 PM in the Indian Creek Multi-Purpose Room. We would like to recognize all of our wonderful volunteers and say thank you for all of the help you have so generously given to our students and staff.



ORCHESTRA NEWS



Upcoming Orchestra Events:

- 5th Grade Orchestra Spring Concert - Monday, May 7th @ 6:00 PM in the Excelsior Gym
- Orchestra Recital/Talent Show - Wednesday, May 9th & Thursday, May 10th during rehearsal ☺
- Last day of Orchestra - Wednesday, May 16th
- Summer Orchestra Program - Classes and individual lessons will be held during the month of June in the High School Orchestra Room. Students may visit the High School Orchestra website and register online: <https://sites.google.com/site/linnmarorchestra/>

Attention All 4th Graders and Parents:

The Band & Orchestra demonstrations will be held later this month to demonstrate our stringed instruments for students. If your child has any interest in some day playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass, then your child is in for a treat!!! Students will receive information on how to join the orchestra program during the presentation. If your child misses the presentation or if you would like further information on our program, please attend the parent meetings described below.

Beginning Orchestra - Informational Meetings

4th and 5th grade students interested in starting a string instrument should attend *one* of the orchestra informational meetings with their parents. There are two meeting times scheduled for **Tuesday, May 1st**. The meetings will be held at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Auxiliary Gym and will cover information about the Linn-Mar Orchestra Program as well as the *Summer Beginning Strings Program*. The meetings will last about 45 minutes. Representatives from local music stores will also be there with suggestions for renting or purchasing instruments!

•• 5th Grade Students

5th grade students wishing to learn to play a string instrument should attend the information meetings described above with their parents. Students are encouraged to take private lessons with a string teacher in the area or may sign up for the Linn-Mar summer beginning strings program in order to become a member of the 6th grade orchestra next fall. Questions: contact Mrs. Vieth at kvieth@linnmar.k12.ia.us or (319) 447-3219.

BAND NEWS

HEY 4TH GRADERS ~THE BAND IS COMING!!!

Beginning Band for Current 4th Graders –

All Indian Creek 4th graders will meet on April 17th to see a Band instrument demonstration and try out some instruments. On April 25th they will hear the 8th Grade Band and MS Chamber Orchestra perform. It is a very exciting time to be a 4th Grader and we look forward to having you in the Linn-Mar Band Program! Students will be bringing home information about the band program, instrument choices, and parent meetings at that time.

Informational meetings for Parents of 4th Graders who would like to start a band instrument are being scheduled for Monday, April 30th and Wednesday, May 2nd at 6:00 PM. Meetings will be held in the High School Little Theatre and last about one hour. Park in the HS lot by the digital sign and North of the LRC and enter Door #1 near the Auditorium. Parents only need to attend one meeting and your child does not need to attend. At the meeting parents will receive information about the 5th Grade Band program and our Summer Beginner lessons. Parents will also sign their child up for an individual 15 minute *Band Interview* to try out instruments (with parents in attendance). **NOTE: All beginner band students MUST interview to select an Instrument.** Interviews will be held between May 15th – 23rd. Parents who are unable to attend either meeting can call/email for information and to sign up for an interview beginning May 3rd. Voice mail - 447-3310 or kmakinster@linnmar.k12.ia.us (email is preferred).

5th Grade Band

The 5th Grade Band will give its Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 1st. The concert will be held in the HS Auditorium and begin at 6:15 p.m. All band students should report to the HS Little Theatre between 5:45 - 6:00 p.m. The program will last about 30 minutes. Nice dress clothes should be worn for this MAJOR performance. In preparation for the Concert, we will be rehearsing together THAT MORNING at L-M HS. Please drop your student off at the HS Auditorium Main Entrance (circle drive) between 7:15 – 7:20 am for our 7:30 – 8:30 am rehearsal. Students will be bused to school after the rehearsal. Since this is our only chance to practice together before our concert it is very important that ALL Band students attend.

Current 5th Grade Band students are able to sign up for the Summer Band Program. They can participate in Program #2 - Private Band Lessons. Students receive a weekly, 15-minute individual lesson with a MS Band Director for 6 weeks. Program #2 will run from June 7th – July 17th. 5th Grade students can also participate in the 5th Grade Band Camp – Program 3.5. This is a Group Band experience directed by Mrs. Nuss that meets daily from 8:00 – 9:00 am Mon – Fri for 1 1/2 weeks beginning June 6th. This year all of the Summer Band Programs will be held at Oak Ridge MS. Sign up forms will be sent home with band students in late April and will be due by May 18th. If you don't see one before our May concert we will have extras available there... Keep the kids working hard at home! Kevin Makinster and Amy Sams



Linn-Mar 5th Grade Track Day

Indian Creek Elementary, Novak Elementary, Linn Grove Elementary, and Wilkins Elementary

On Thursday, May 3rd the fifth grade students will be participating in the annual Linn-Mar 5th Grade Track Day. Four elementary schools (Indian Creek, Novak, Linn Grove, and Wilkins) will be competing at the same time. The meet will be held at the Linn-Mar Football Stadium beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. If this date gets rained out, we have a rain date scheduled for Friday, May 4th. Students will need to bring a sack lunch with them to the track meet. *Please no glass containers, gum, or pop.* *** Each year a great group of parent volunteer help make this a special day for the students. If you are interested in helping out please contact Amy Hutcheson at ahutcheson@linnmar.k12.ia.us

The order of events for that day:

Individual Races-9:30am

800 meter run
400 meter run
100 meter dash
200 meter dash
50 meter dash

Field Events-simultaneously

After Lunch-approx. noon

Long Jump
Soccer Dribble
Soccer Punt
Football Throw
Frisbee Throw
Softball Throw

Relays-After field events

Shuttle Relay
400 Meter Relay
400 meter – Mixed Relay

RULES

1. Each participant will enter two running events and one field event.
2. There will be a boys' and girls' division in every event except the 400 Mixed Relay, which has an alternating boy / girl order.
3. Ribbons will be awarded for the first six places in all events.
4. The number of entries in each event will be limited. Places are based on time and distance.
5. There will be two tries for the long jump, frisbee throw, soccer punt, football throw, soccer dribble, and softball throw.
6. The Soccer Dribble consists of zig-zagging the ball with the feet around three cones and back across the finish line. Cones are 10 yards apart.
7. Participants will sit in the stands listening for their races and cheering on their classmates.
10. Wear comfortable clothing and running shoes on the day of the meet. **NO SPIKES!** Wear hats and sunscreen too!
11. Small water bottles will be allowed, but **NO COOLERS!**



KERNELS NIGHT

Indian Creek Night at the Kernels is scheduled for Saturday, April 7. Game starts at 5:05 PM with gates opening at 4:00 PM.

Tickets are \$8.00 per person and can be ordered by calling the ticket office at 319.896.7560 or ordered online until Friday,

April 6th at 5:00PM. When ordering tickets be sure to request section 108. Tickets will be available for pick up at the gate the night of the baseball game or if you ordered online you may print them at home to save you some time in line the night of the game!

Link to online ordering:

<https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/Buy.asp?EventID=253571&promocode=indiancreek>

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Prairie Soup Company for generously providing a delicious soup and sandwich dinner during late night conferences. Also, thank you to all who helped by setting up, cleaning up and donating additional desserts. As always we greatly appreciate your support!

We are respectful.
We are responsible.
We are ready.

**We care at
Indian Creek!**



Virtual Backpack

Be sure to check out the Linn Mar virtual backpack at <http://www.linnmar.k12.la.us/pages.asp?uid=868AFC410C5B4D159895091FB7DC17D0&pid=4537> for a variety of helpful information.

REMINDER

Just a friendly reminder....
we do not allow fast food for lunch at Indian Creek.
Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.





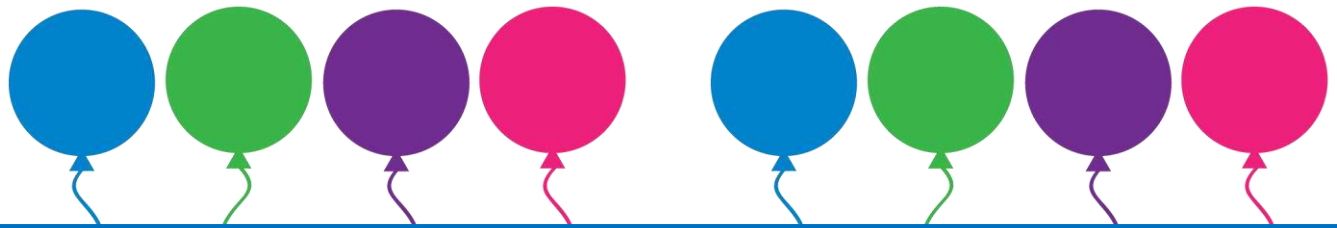
PTO NEWS



PTO MEETING ~

The next PTO meeting is April 9th at 6:30 pm in the Indian Creek Media Center.

Thank you for all of your support this year!



Join The Fun Family FUN Night At Indian Creek

Please join us for Family Fun Night
Friday, April 20th
5:30-7:30 PM
Indian Creek Elementary School



Coffee & Conversation with the board

Join Superintendent Shepherd and board members for coffee and conversation at Indian Creek Elementary beginning at 8:30 AM on ~~Saturday, April 7th~~ this date has been changed to Saturday, May 5th. This is a great opportunity to have casual conversation with the superintendent and board members regarding current district events.

Linn-Mar Growl Prowl 2018

Linn-Mar's 2018 Growl Prowl is scheduled for April 21, 2018.

The Linn-Mar Community School District will host its annual Growl Prowl on Saturday, April 21.

The event encourages physical fitness while helping Linn-Mar students in need. The event is hosted at the Linn-Mar Stadium and is a school and community event.

Participate by running in a 5k/8k run or by cheering on our student runners by being a race sponsor.

Visit the [Growl Prowl website](#) for additional information or to [register for the event](#).

All race day activities at Linn-Mar Stadium (3111 North 10th Street)

- 7:30 am – 8:30 am: Packet pick-up, Late registration
- 9:00 am: 5K / 8K race
- 10:15 am: Awards ceremony
- 10:25 am: Kids' mile run
- 10:45 am: Mile award ceremony
- 10:55 am: Kids' 200m / 400m fun run



Linn-Mar Growl Prowl
 5K (run/walk); 8K (run); Track / Field Events
 Linn-Mar HS Stadium
 Saturday, April 21, 2018 @ 9:00am
www.growlprowl.com



"The mission of the Growl Prowl is to raise funds from the community in order to provide the basic needs for living and for learning that a growing number of Linn-Mar children lack."

****Please fill out one registration per participant****

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Age on April 21, 2018: _____ '17-'18 Grade: _____ Gender: _____ Phone #: _____

Email address: _____ (please print)

T-Shirt Size - Adult: (circle one) small medium large XL XXL
 T-Shirt Size - Kids: (circle one) Y-Small Y-Medium Y-Large

Please check the event(s) you are registering for below:

Traditional Growl Prowl Events

- ☐ 5K Run / Walk
☐ 8K Run
☐ Mile Run (up to age 15)

Registration Fees (NO REFUNDS)

- ☐ Adult 8K / 5K (postmarked by 4/16) \$25.00
☐ Current LM student in 8K / 5K (by 4/16) \$20.00
☐ Youth mile (by 4/16) \$10.00

New Track and Field Events

- ☐ 100 meter dash (grades 1 – adult)
☐ 200 meter dash (grades 1 – adult)
☐ 400 meter dash (grades 1 – adult)
☐ 800 meter dash (grades 1 – adult)
☐ Punt – Pass – Kick (grades 1 – adult)
☐ * Marshmallow Race (PK – 5th grade)
☐ * Sack Race (PK – 5th grade)
☐ * Hula Hoop (PK – 5th grade)
☐ * Bean Bag Toss (PK – 5th grade)
☐ * 200 meter fun run (Pre-K to K)
☐ * 400 meter fun run (Pre-K to K)

* Participation ribbons given to all

- ☐ LATE (4/20-4/21): All 8K / 5K \$30.00
☐ LATE (4/20-4/21): Youth mile \$12.00

Track and Field Events

- ☐ 1 event \$10.00
☐ 2 events \$15.00
☐ 3 events \$20.00
☐ 4 events \$25.00
☐ 5 events \$30.00

Additional donation to Linn-Mar Growl Prowl \$ _____

Total Amount Submitted \$ _____

Age group and race information found at www.growlprowl.com

Make Checks Payable to:

Linn-Mar Foundation

Mail to:

Linn-Mar Foundation
 c/o Growl Prowl
 2999 N. 10th St.
 Marion, IA 52302

Waiver: I hereby release Linn-Mar, the Linn-Mar Foundation, all volunteers, and sponsors from responsibility for any illness or injury that may be sustained while I am participating in the 5K/8K or kids running events. By signing below, I am signifying that I am in proper physical condition to participate in this event. I hereby affirm that I am 18 years of age or older, I have read this document, and understand its contents. (Parent or guardian must sign if participant is under age 18).

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Linn-Mar Community Schools 2017-2018 Elementary Cycle Menu

Breakfast: (includes cereal, milk, juice and posted entrée)

Student: \$1.50; Adult: \$1.70

Lunch: (Includes choice of entrée, milk and sides)

Student: \$2.60; Adult: \$3.55

Elementary school not in session

A La carte milk \$.50

April

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

May

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast: Cereal bar	Apple bosco stick	Bagel bites	Waffle sticks	Toast
- Personal pan pizza (Cheese) - Pigs in a blanket Corn Fresh veggie cup Peaches • Lion Cub Meal	- French toast sticks with egg omelet - Fish sandwich Smiley potatoes Fresh veggie cup Grapes • Lion Cub Meal	- Chicken strips with fresh baked roll - Sunbutter/jelly s/w boat & string cheese Baked beans Fresh veggie cup Sliced apples with caramel • Lion Cub Meal	- Chicken patty s/w - Rotini & meat sauce with breadstick Romaine blend lettuce & tomato salad Fresh veggie cup Fruit cup • Lion Cub Meal	- Hot dog with bun - Chicken teriyaki & seasoned rice Stir fry vegetables Fresh veggie cup Mandarin oranges Fortune cookie • Lion Cub Meal
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast: Long john	Hard-boiled egg	Fresh baked muffin	French toast sticks	Toast
- Stuffed cheese sticks - Hot shredded beef sandwich Green beans Fresh veggie cup Pineapple chunks Sugar cookie • Lion Cub Meal	- Pancakes & little smokies* - Macaroni & cheese Tator tots Fresh veggie cup Juicy orange wedges • Lion Cub Meal	- Taco with tortilla chips - Hoagie sub s/w Lettuce & tomato Refried beans Pears • Lion Cub Meal	- Popcorn chicken with b&b sandwich - Breakfast sandwich Mixed vegetables Fresh veggie cup Fresh Fruit cup • Lion Cub Meal	- Mini corn dogs - Soft pretzel with cheese sauce Baked French fries Fresh veggie cup Strawberries • Lion Cub Meal
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast: WG Poptart	Mini WG donuts	Frudel pastry	Pancake on a stick*	Toast
- Hamburger - Grilled cheese sandwich Sweet potato fries Fresh veggie cup Apple slices • Lion Cub Meal	- Chicken patty s/w - Pigs in a blanket Baked beans Fresh veggie cup Mandarin oranges • Lion Cub Meal	- Waffle sticks with turkey sausage patty - Pretzel roll with hot ham & cheese Potato triangle Fresh veggie cup Pineapple • Lion Cub Meal	- Yogurt parfait with fruit & granola - Lasagna Romaine blend lettuce & tomato salad Fresh veggie cup Fresh fruit cup Chocolate chip muffin • Lion Cub Meal	- Chicken nuggets with b&b sandwich - Shrimp poppers with b&b sandwich Mashed potatoes & gravy Fresh veggie cup Applesauce • Lion Cub Meal

• Entrée Choice

Menu subject to change without notice.

Lion Cub Meal

Fruit, yogurt, cheese, crackers and a veggie (including beans when on the menu).

*May contain pork.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Sun Butter & Jelly sandwich Peanut free option made with sunflower seeds.

Linn-Mar School Foundation News

Dine Out For Our Schools Thursday, April 19th



Skip the kitchen and join us for a community-wide Dine Out For Our Schools event on Thursday, April 19th. The event is all day (for most locations) and includes dine-in, takeout and delivery! We currently have 17 area restaurant partners to choose from with a few additional being added soon. 10% - 20% of your total bill will be donated back to the schools. Proceeds will be directed to the Linn-Mar School Foundation which benefits K-12 students in all ten of our Linn-Mar Schools. Visit www.linnmarfoundation.org for more information.

Fun opportunities for swag for those who tag us on Facebook & Twitter with #DineOutLinnMar

All restaurants require patrons to mention the event to your server or present our Dine Out flyer to qualify. If you are dining at Buffalo Wild Wings, you must show them your BWW Home Team Advantage card which is available on the Foundation website and Facebook event.

Look forward to seeing you on April 19th for Dine Out!

University of Iowa Community Credit Union Give & Grow Program April 1st - 30th

The University of Iowa Community Credit Union (UICCU) offers a great member program each April which is a huge win for area school foundations. UICCU members (new & existing) can make a donation through UICCU's Give & Grow program, from \$25 up to \$500.00 per household, and designate the Linn-Mar School Foundation. UICCU will generously match the donation of the member to the Linn-Mar School Foundation up to \$15,000!



You can even further match your Give & Grow gift through your employers matching gift program. Learn about Double the Donation here. (linked to <https://www.linnmarfoundation.org/matching-gifts/>)

These gifts make a important and timely impact in our Linn-Mar K-12 classrooms.

To make a gift through UICCU's Give & Grow program click here (linked to <https://www.uiccu.org/uiccu-give-and-grow-initiative>)

Hills Bank Celebrates 10 years of Stories Alive! at Linn-Mar

Hills Bank and Trust Company

Member FDIC

We would like to send a BIG thank you out to Hills Bank & Trust for their 10th year of supporting the Stories Alive! visiting author program in our district. The Stories Alive! program, now 27 years at Linn-Mar, hosts a national author/illustrator to visit each of our elementary buildings to share their journey to becoming an author with our young readers and writers.

This year, Katherine Hannigan visited seven Linn-Mar schools in the last week of March to talk about how she became a children's author at 40! Katherine encouraged our students to "follow the fun" in their writing, don't worry about it being perfect, read, read, read and don't forget to believe in yourself as a great writer.

Thank you Hills Bank & Trust for believing in our students and supporting literacy in our schools.