



## Principal's Talk

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

As you may be aware, our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Read for Speed Program has begun. The kick off occurred on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the program will run until May 14<sup>th</sup> (12 weeks) for our 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade students. There is also a Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade program, but that is a 6-week program ending on April 4<sup>th</sup>. For the Grade 2-4 program, a list of AR books with point values can be found on our school web site under parent information. You might have AR books in your home library, so this is a good resource for you. Parents that have children in the Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade program should remember to turn your logs in each Monday.

March is also Arts in Our Schools Month. Please look for specific flyers coming home from each building with information on these various events. Some events are listed on the district calendar as well.

Please make a note on your calendar that March 22<sup>nd</sup> is a regular full school day in session. This is a change from the original district calendar printed over the summer. **As a reminder, March 12<sup>th</sup> is still an early release day.** Students are released at 12:05 PM on half days.

Check out events and get other interesting school information by going to the district website at [www.watkinslenschools.org](http://www.watkinslenschools.org) and clicking on the elementary school.

Respectfully yours,

Rod Weeden, Principal

## Reading Corner



### Tips to Encourage Reading

Encourage your child to read aloud to younger siblings, cousins, neighbors, or even stuffed animals.

Play word games such as Scrabble Junior, Boggle, ABC Bingo, Word Concentration, etc. Tell jokes, riddles and limericks. See how many words rhyme with \_\_\_\_\_.

Leave notes for your child in his lunch box or school bag. Leave notes for him/her around the house. Ask your child to leave notes for you. Have your child create a to-do list. Have him/her turn it into a checklist to encourage self-monitoring.

Read aloud daily to your child. Talk about the pictures. Make predictions about a story and see if they come true. Read aloud a chapter-book before bed.

Let your children see you read for pleasure. Share vocabulary, quotes, characters, and the story with them.

### Art Work Featured at Arts of the Southern Finger Lakes in Corning.

Congratulations to our elementary students who will have art featured in a local showing this month.

Grade 2: Taylor Hines & Peter Sandritter

Grade 3: Madison Ryan & Brooke Wilson

Grade 4: Kendra Larson, Kristopher Ayers, Hannah Hornby, Tristan Yuhasz, Wyatt Mosher, Jared Sandritter, Dalton Cummings, Kaitlyn Valla, Ethan Franklin, and Amanda Armstrong



### Important Dates:

- March: Music in Our Schools Month
- March 1: BOE Mtg., 6:30 PM, HS
- March 2: Spring Pictures Rescheduled
- March 5: Hat Day Rescheduled
- March 8: Swim Unit Begins (Gr 1-4)
- March 10: PTO Meeting ES 5:30 PM
- March 11: HS Music Concert @ 7:30 PM
- March 12: Early Dismissal (12:05 ES)
- March 15: BOE Workshop @ HS 6:30 PM
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day (Spud Run)
- March 22: Regular School Day (Change from District Calendar)
- March 22: SDM Meeting (Rescheduled)
- March 26: ES Sports Day (Student Council Spirit Day)
- April 1: Early Dismissal (12:05 ES)
- April 2: Good Friday (No School)





**Parents: We need your help from the WGES Library!**

**Please help your child(ren) by:**

**Helping them to remember to read and return their library books once a week. Longer books may be renewed, without returning the book.**

**Remind your children, who are reading, to choose books on their reading level. Third, fourth, and better second grade readers should be reading chapter books to become better readers and for Read for Speed.**

**Remember that the school's AR list is on the school website and is updated. Please remind children that they may need to check out a second or third choice, as many books go out on a daily basis.**

**Please Try Our Reading Tips!**

- 1.** Set aside a regular time for reading in your family, independent of schoolwork, the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of free reading a day can help improve your child's skills and habits.
- 2.** Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.
- 3.** Encourage your child to read aloud to you an exciting passage in a book, an interesting tidbit in the newspaper, or a joke in a joke book. When children read aloud, don't feel they have to get every word right. Even good readers skip or mispronounce words now and then.
- 4.** On gift-giving occasions, give books and magazines based on your child's current interests.
- 5.** Set aside a special place for children to keep their own books.
- 6.** Introduce the bookmark. Remind your youngster that you don't have to finish a book in one sitting; you can stop after a few pages, or a chapter, and pick up where you left off at another time. Don't try to persuade your child to finish a book he or she doesn't like. Recommend putting the book aside and trying another.
- 7.** Treat your children to an evening of laughter and entertainment featuring books! Many children (parents, too) regard reading as a serious activity. A joke book, a story told in riddles, or a funny passage read aloud can reveal another side of reading.
- 8.** Extend your child's positive reading experiences. For example, if your youngster enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a natural history museum.
- 9.** Offer other special incentives to encourage your child's reading. Allow your youngster to stay up an extra 15 minutes to finish a chapter; promise to take your child to see a movie after he or she has finished the book on which it was based; relieve your child of a regular chore to free up time for reading.
- 10.** Limit your children's TV viewing in an effort to make time for other activities, such as reading. But never use TV as a reward for reading, or a punishment for not reading.