

Tornado Times



DR. HUMBLES, SUPERINTENDENT

Everyone is back from the holiday break and pushing full steam ahead into ISAT. Teachers are selecting themes and activities to get students motivated. Norwood District has a great staff, dedicated to helping students succeed. Why do we put so much emphasis on ISAT? We do this because this is how the state measures school success and what they call AYP, Adequate Yearly Progress. These scores are published and those who do not make AYP are flagged or put on watch lists.

Parents and educators often wonder if ISAT testing is the best way to measure student success. It can be very frustrating for all involved. We know there is so much more to a child than a test score on one given instrument. High school scores in Illinois have been questionable. Until we see real changes in the system for accountability, we will continue to strive in meeting the ever increasing target scores for AYP. Norwood District did an excellent job last year on ISAT! We want that success to continue.

I want to mention that once again this year, Norwood School District had a very good ranking on our financial profile from the State of Illinois. School districts are measured against various criteria on school expenditures and account funds. Once again, we did very well and will receive financial recognition. This is a testament to the sound practices utilized by the Board of Education and the Administration. In these tough times, this accomplishment is significant.

I want to take this time to thank our extra-curricular coaches/sponsors, parent helpers, student helpers, and staff. Most every afternoon or evening there are activities taking place in our schools. Basketball, Volleyball, Scholastic Bowl, Math Counts are just some of the opportunities provided for students. These dedicated folks work long days out of commitment and passion for students. Whether it is volunteering to supervise a game, handling ticket sales, or working the concession stand, the support is appreciated. Thank you to all who assist in working these events!

Tornado Pledge

*At NGS we prepare today for the future.
We are ready with supplies, great attitudes, strong effort, and open minds.
Together we discover new ideas, solve problems, and assist others.*

We are the Norwood Tornadoes!

Dates to Remember

February 9 & 10

-Spring parent teacher conferences

Monday, February 20

-President's Day, No School

MRS. LINHART, PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Norwood Primary School Families,

Our spring parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 9 and Friday, February 10. Parent teacher conferences give us an opportunity to increase communication between school and home and keep parents informed about their child's progress. Teachers gain valuable information through parents and can use this knowledge to better teach the children in their class. They can find out what motivates a child, what they like, and what they don't like. Parents can discuss how their child learns and teachers can use this information to help a student succeed. Parents can use parent teacher conferences to find tools and strategies to help their child at home. Working together, parents and teachers can offer a child a successful school year. If you do not yet have a time scheduled to meet with your child's teacher, please contact your child's teacher at the school office. Thank you.

Norwood Primary School celebrated grandparents last month. Grandparents were invited into classrooms to do a variety of things with their grandchildren: read books, make projects, play games, be interviewed, and share stories. Students became aware of the strength, information, and guidance older people can offer. The children had the opportunity to honor their grandparents and the grandparents an opportunity to show their love for their grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Linhart

Grandparents are a family's greatest treasure, the founders of a loving legacy, The greatest storytellers, the keepers of traditions that linger on in cherished memory. Grandparents are the family's strong foundation. Their very special love sets them apart. Through happiness and sorrow, through their special love and caring, grandparents keep a family close at heart. ~author unknown

MR. ESTILL, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

We have completed one full semester of school. As we move into the second part of the year, we need to prepare our students for state assessment as well as high school for our eighth graders. We have spent countless hours this year teaching our students the skills need to do well on their assessments. We have also helped our students acquire appropriate social skills in relationship to bullying. Making good choices for themselves and others has been a priority of Norwood Elementary this year and we are hopeful that change is occurring and sustainable.

With ISAT right around the corner we need to remind students of some important information...

- Always get a good night's rest...Go to bed early.
- Eat a good breakfast (there is always one provided here at school)
- Use your strategies that you have learned on the test.
- Be on time to school and do your best not to be absent.

Let's work together as a community and help all of our students do well this year on ISAT. I am looking forward to second semester and the excitement that builds for the eighth graders as they realize there is an end in sight. Let's celebrate the success of our students daily as they complete assignments, do well on quizzes and tests, create outstanding projects, develop new skills, and generate goals for the future.

M S . H E I N Z & M R S . N Y B E R G , K I N D E R G A R T E N

Kindergarten has studied half of the alphabet! WOW! We began the Superkid Club in January. We are really excited about all of the adventures the Superkids will be having. Please continue to review letters, sounds, and blending words at home. Your efforts show in your child's performance and attitude. We will begin reading color, number, and sight words for progress reports and report cards. Please practice for 15 minutes each day reading words with your child. If your child masters all the kindergarten words, feel free to move onto the first grade list. If you need a new vocabulary list, please let us know.

In math, we have studied numbers 0-20. Please practice reading, counting and printing these numbers at home. We will be working on money and time in the coming month. Encourage your child to count out coins from their piggy banks.

February is Dental Health Month, Black History Month, and Heart Healthy month. We are looking forward to Groundhog's Day and our Valentine's Day party. Please send a decorated valentine box to school by February 14. We will be having Parent teacher conferences again this month. The teachers will contact you to make arrangements

for a time.

Please remember to have your child wear their hat and gloves each day. We will go outside for recess if the wind-chill is above 20 degrees Fahrenheit and if the blacktop is clear. Please make sure you label your child's belongings. The hats and gloves are easier to find when we know whose is whose.

Thank you to all the kindergarten families for helping their children practice kindergarten skills as well as your help with parties and class activities. Your help is the most important thing for your child's success in Kindergarten!

M R S . M A T H U S & M S . B R A D L E , F I R S T G R A D E

Our first grade students have gotten off to a good start in 2012. We will be finishing our first semester in the Superkids reading series shortly. We continue to work on contractions and adding endings to base, or root, words. We will become better readers and spellers as we recall these basic spelling rules. We are also working on long vowel words and this is the **BIG** first grade challenge. We are learning about "Super Silent E" at the end of words. And, we are working with 2-vowel combi-

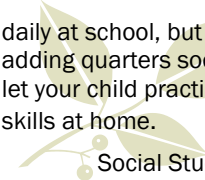
nations that change the vowel sound. This is a big step for us in reading. We know that "when 2 vowels go walking, the first 1 usually does the talking and the other is silent."

We are working hard on story writing skills as well. We want others to read stories that are authored by us. At the same time, we are learning to listen to and read works by other authors while we share past experiences on a variety of topics. The class as a group shares previous knowledge and poses

questions that we would like to find out from the book. Then, we check our list of past experiences and questions as we read and address as many as we can. Afterwards, your child might choose a library book on that topic or ask you to help he/she on the internet to answer questions.

We will continue to work on addition and subtraction, even to 18. There will also be work on counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's **AND** counting pennies, nickels, and dimes We practice these

daily at school, but we will be adding quarters soon. Please let your child practice these skills at home.

 Social Studies in January focused on human equality and Dr. Martin Luther King's peace plan for all people. February brings Ground Hog Day (fact or fiction), birthdays of both Lincoln and Washington, Black History and Dental Health Month, and Valentine's Day.

Have a great February!

M S . T R O L L O P E & M R S . H A Y N E S , S E C O N D G R A D E

It is hard to believe it is February already. We are gaining many reading and writing skills with the Superkids Program. We enjoyed reading the book selections Wagon Wheels and Betsy Who Cried Wolf. Besides being great stories, these books have given the students the opportunity to earn Accelerated Reader points. The book club selections have also sparked the

students' interest of investigating new genres that they may not have selected when choosing a library book. We have started Level 6 in the Superkids Program. Our magazine theme is Color Crazy. Upcoming book selections will be Breakout at the Bug Lab and Tornado.

The students are geared up to learn how to write in cursive. We will work

on a few letters at a time. In math, the students are working on addition with regrouping. We are also working very hard to memorize the subtraction facts. Please practice the subtraction facts with your child. The students enjoyed our 100th day of school by displaying their collections of 100 things, making Twinkie centipedes, and other activities centered around the number 100. What a

celebration!

February is a great month for our study of Presidents. The students are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with parents at our Parent/Teacher Conferences on February 9th and 10th. Oh, what a busy time of the year!

**MRS. RANKIN, MRS. MOODY, & MRS. LITTLE,
THIRD GRADE**

Can you believe the school year is already halfway over? We are very excited about the progress our students are making! We will continue to work on reading strategies to improve our comprehension. In writing, we will work on organization, writing more detailed sentences, and editing our own work.

In math, we will concentrate on fractions &

decimals, as well as solid & plane figures. The students will also be practicing some new concepts, such as written responses, which they will need for the ISAT test in March.

In science, the students will be learning about ecosystems. Our social studies units will focus on Black History Month and Presidents' Day.

As always, thank

you for all your support at home!

MRS. BAILEY & MRS. GALL, FOURTH GRADE

Second semester has begun, and we are working hard; there is so much to look forward to in the new semester! The fourth graders are growing in so many ways as they prepare for middle school.

In reading classes, we have wrapped up our study of characters. The students learned just how much the characters help to build excitement and contribute to the events of the stories that we read. We have completed the AIMS Web reading assessment, and will use

these results to better meet the needs of all of our students. The students are also still enjoying the chance to test their reading strategies at the computers with our Study Island program. This month, the students will be reading biographies and preparing a report on their person, creating a "Famous American Report." Look for instructions to soon be sent home.

Science classes are getting energized this month. We will begin our study of matter and its properties, learn about different types of energy and forces, and wrap up with the chance to under-

stand and build electrical circuits. The students will have fun learning all about static and current electricity. They will also enjoy learning all about magnetism and building some different simple machines. This is all great preparation for the ISAT tests that are just around the corner.

In math classes we have been studying probability, geometry, fractions and decimals. We have also been completing many mixed review types of lessons as we continue to prepare for ISAT testing. It will be a great help in preparing for the extended response questions if you would ask your child to

explain to you how they arrived at their answers on some of their word problems when doing their homework. The students also continue to "rocket ahead" in our weekly Rocket Math multiplication and division practice.

As we look forward to Valentine's Day, we wanted to let you know that we will exchange cards, and that the students will be making a card-holder at school. Thank you for all of the continued support you have given to us here at school.

MRS. SNOWDEN, CCI

We're back to work after our relaxing two weeks off for winter break. Math groups are working on addition and subtraction, place value, and graphing. Reading groups are learning many interesting things in the many

stories they are reading. Students are earning points in the Accelerated Reading Program. The points will be exchanged for rewards at a later date.

I will be calling soon to schedule annual review conferences in Feb-

ruary and March. I look forward to meeting with each parent to discuss their child's progress.

M S . T O R N Q U I S T , R E A D I N G T O R N A D O E S

During the week of January 9-13, the whole school was assessed in Reading and Math using AimsWeb. All of the students increased their words per minute or letter sounds per minute from August. Way to go students!!! It is so important to have your child read nightly. Research shows that rereading stories multiple times also helps increase a child's reading fluency.

The third and fourth graders have been working very hard on getting prepared to take the

ISAT next month. They have been working on Main Idea, Facts and Details, Sequencing, Cause and Effect, Comparing and Contrasting, and Making Predictions.

Please make sure that your child is here and on time every day during the ISAT testing week. It is also important that each child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good, healthy breakfast each morning.

The kindergarten, first and second graders will be reviewing the vowel sounds this month.

The vowel sounds (short and long) seem to be the hardest concept to grasp. Hopefully, they will have a good handle on these sounds very soon.

Please stop in the library during Parent/Teacher conferences this month to browse through the Blue Ribbon Book fair. This is a new book fair that Mrs. Howell and I are trying this year. If it is a success we will probably bring it back next year. Happy Reading!!!!!!

M R S . N E L S O N , M U S I C

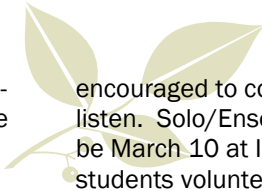
"Notes" from music – The kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classes have just finished listening to and dancing to songs from the Nutcracker Ballet. We will do some work with Swan Lake, also. The kindergarten classes will be focusing on high/low pitches in their songs this month. The 1st and 2nd graders will be focusing on rhythms, while "reading" some from the board and performing them on the rhythm instruments. The 3rd and 4th graders are learning about George Frideric Handel. They will be listening to his famous Hallelujah Chorus. The 3rd

graders will be working with more difficult rhythms while the 4th graders will be focusing on the meter in music. We will be back working in our recorder books as well. A few students need a brief review from the beginning of the book. Please remind your student that he/she needs to bring the recorder home to spend 15 minutes reviewing from the beginning of the book. Thank you!!

The 5th grade students have just finished their unit on the instruments of the orchestra. I'm anxious to see how well they do on the test! They will be working on African/

American spirituals in February. The 6th graders are continuing work on notenames of the treble clef staff. We will be learning about half vs. whole steps and their arrangement to create a scale. We will be playing these using the hand chimes. We will also learn about chords.

Chorus has some performing dates coming up. Our Organization contest will be Saturday morning, Feb. 25. The exact time is to be determined, so will send more information later. It will be at Norwood Primary, with our "dress" in black!! This is a REQUIRED performance. Parents are



encouraged to come and listen. Solo/Ensemble will be March 10 at ICC. Only students volunteering will be participating. This is not required. The Choral Festival at LCHS will be Tues, March 27 @ 7p.m. This IS REQUIRED. Please mark your calendars for these events. Hope to see you at one or all of them!! Thanks for your continued support of music!!!

M S . W E S S O L , B A N D

I hope everyone had a great holiday break and is ready for another great semester making music in band and in class! We just started a new cycle of music in band and are playing a couple difficult pieces but the students are playing very well for just a couple weeks in. I am very happy with the progress I am seeing, so please keep encouraging practice time at home. We had another wonderful performance at the Boys basketball game on January 19th; thanks for coming out to support the band and athletics and making it possible for your student to be there.

We have a few upcoming performances so you can mark on your calendar.

March 10th, 2012- Solo and Ensemble contest at ICC. (Students choose to participate).

March 28th, 2012-Middle School Band Festival at LCHS. Rehearsal all day and concert at 7 pm. (Concert Band only.)

April 17th, 2012-Band Field Trip; Peoria Symphony Orchestra.

Please return your permission slip and money as soon as possible so we can reserve our seats.

M R S . J A M E S , C O M P U T E R S

Everything is moving full speed ahead in both the Elementary and Primary Computer Labs. The big news at the Primary is that Comcast Business Class High Speed Internet service has finally been installed. Prior to the installation, speed tests revealed that we were running 100 kbps with a lab full of students. Now we are running over 33,000 kbps! Technology keeps improving at Norwood which means new opportunities for your student.

Primary students will be exploring many educational websites to

help them hone their Reading, Math and Language Arts skills as well as working on their keyboarding skills through many websites and engaging activities. The mastery of these skills will lay the groundwork for advanced lessons and endeavors.

At the Elementary, 5th- 7th grade students have wrapped up their Excel Unit completing several varied assignments. Fifth grade students will be working on their first web quest, (an inquiry-oriented activity in which some or all of the information that students interact with come from

resources on the Internet – Discovery Education 2012), “The Year You Were Born.” Students will work to become independent researchers and record their findings in an Excel spreadsheet. Sixth grade students will have their choice of historical web quests while 7th grade students will be completing the “I Want That Car” web quest. Students will explore many websites where they will choose and customize their car. It is very surprising how those options add up! Students will create an Excel spreadsheet where they will compute their

fuel economy, monthly payments, insurance and record their data. Eighth grade students will complete their Excel Unit and begin their Career web quest. Students will also be creating resumes and cover letters.

M S . L H A M O N , P R I M A R Y P . E .

The students finished a volleyball unit where they learned basic skills including bumping, setting and serving. We played volleyball lead-up games and learned several rules for volleyball. We have been doing some dancing in P.E. class lately, as well. Ask your students about the Swimming song and the Shiny Clean Dance song.

Jump Rope for Heart will be February 17th

this year. You should have already received information and are now finishing up getting donations. The envelopes/donations are due the day of the event. Thank you in advance for your support!!!

We are continuing our “Walk Across Illinois” once a week indoors with the cold weather. The students have been doing a super job! We are half way to our destination, which is Lake Michigan in Chicago.

Most of the PE classes have “walked/ran” over 100 miles combined since September. It is 169 miles from the Mississippi River in Rock Island to Lake Michigan in Chicago and it looks like all the classes will make it to Chicago by the end of the school year, which is one of our goals.

There was a February activity calendar sent home for students and parents to enjoy while at

home. These are basic activities that the whole family can have fun with and get fit in the process. When students bring the calendar back to school at the end of the month, signed by an adult saying everyone participated in the activities, they will receive a prize.

Enjoy and stay active!

M R . J A C K S O N , E L E M E N T A R Y P . E .

The month of February is National Heart Month. Please take some time this month to see where you can make some improvements to your overall heart health. More people die from heart disease than anything thing else, as it

has overtaken cancer as our #1 killer! Proper diet, exercise, plenty of rest, and lifestyle choices are all keys to a healthy heart. In P.E. the students just wrapped up their round-robin pickle ball tournament. In the upcoming weeks the stu-

dents will participate in an archery unit. This unit is one of my favorites to teach. It allows everyone a chance to perform at a high level regardless of athletic ability. We are very fortunate here at Norwood to be able to have this unit as nobody else in

the Limestone area is able to do it. The student will be able to compete in several different games such as cricket, tic-tac-toe, single and team competitions.

MRS. WROBLEWSKI, FIFTH GRADE

During class we will be working and training for the next four weeks. Just like an athlete who trains for a major competition, the students are training for the 2012 ISAT's. These tests are an important assessment tool, with test results posted in the newspaper. Our "training" reinforces reading strategies, enriches vocabulary, and relieves test stress. We have been very successful on our Discovery tests, and I'm sure all of our preparation will

ease our testing anxiety.

Conferences will be held on the evening of February 9th and the morning of February 10th. If you haven't set up a conference time, please contact me as soon as possible. Conferences will be scheduled on a first come basis.

MRS. HOFFMAN, FIFTH GRADE

The fifth grade recently learned about England's advances & desires for building colonies in the New World. Ask your student if the explorers ever found the Northwest Passage and what became known as "brown gold" and why. As these fledgling colonies start to develop, many more Europeans will come to the New World as well.

What were there motivations for coming? How do these motivations help shape the country we are today? The start of the original thirteen colonies is on the way. Students will be learning the 13 colonies song as well as need to be able to locate the colonies on a map. Keep an eye out for students bringing these items home to study.

In math will be heading into geometry as we continue to prepare for ISAT. I can not stress enough the importance of practicing their math skills daily. Your student's membership to IXL.com is one of the best ways to review both new and old skills. There are also ISAT preps in your child's book if you do not have home internet

service. Thanks for all your support!



MRS. COLVILLE, 6TH & 7TH LANGUAGE ARTS

The sixth graders have been working their pencils and fingers to the nubs as they practice extended response writing. They read short passages and then answer a question about the reading. They must provide explanation and support from the text, use complete sentences, and include a transition word to connect their ideas. We will continue to practice supporting an argument.

The seventh graders have been concentrating on non-fiction text. The students read articles from Scope magazine, and complete compare and contrast graphic organizers, editing work, and identify key ideas. The students also worked in groups to perform a readers theater piece called "A Retrieved Reformation" by O. Henry.

Both grades continue to complete vocabu-

lary packets each Monday, with a quiz on Friday. For the second semester, **I will no longer be accepting late assignments.** The students are also learning a vocabulary word of the day and completing graphic organizers to help reinforce the information. Keep reminding your child to read independently to meet their AR goal (10 points for sixth, 11 points for seventh) for the nine weeks, and to earn a

free ticket to a Peoria Chiefs game!

I am proud of how hard the students are working to prepare for ISAT. While this is an important aspect of their schooling, it is not the be-all, end-all. Education needs to extend to real life and should be ongoing, not just for one test.

M R . B R A N D T , 6 T H - 8 T H S O C I A L S T U D I E S

6th Grade Social Studies- I feel like I am in the movie Back to the Future. I have traveled back in time to some faraway places that we have already visited. The next journey we are going to make will be to Greece, the first country that created a democracy. We will be studying the geography of Greece and how that played a role in the different city states that formed during that time period. We will dis-

cuss Homer the Philosopher and the different mythological people that the Greeks created. This should be an exciting time period to study.

7th Grade History- Students will be focused on the early 1800's time period in the United States, the so called "Era of Good Feeling." Students will be focused on President Monroe/Andrew Jackson/Martin Van Buren and the contribution that each

president had during their presidency to make the United States a better country.

8th Grade History- The 8th grade history classes are almost done with the federal part of the constitution. The students have done a great job with the constitution unit. We will be taking a state constitution test in a few weeks, and then finally the flag portion of the constitution.

Thanks for being supportive with the constitution unit.

M R . A L M A S I , 6 T H - 8 T H S C I E N C E

In sixth grade students have been dissecting different eras of the earth. Students have learned what organisms appeared in each era, which ones became extinct, and how and why scientist divided the Eras like they have. Students have also learned how fossil evidence has dictated this. Currently, students are learning about

the classification system for organisms.

In seventh grade students have been doing an in-depth study of both plant and animal cells as they learn about the basic unit of function in living things. Students have learned about the evolution of the Cell Theory as they studied the structure and function of cell organelles. Finally, students

learned how cells make tissues, organs organ systems, and organisms.

In eighth grade students have been learning about how much pressure we are under as they learn about the nature of forces in fluids and fluid pressure. Next, students investigated the relationship between gravity, weight and buoyancy. Finally, students investi-

gated the relationship between density and buoyant force as they constructed aluminum foil vessels and filled them with various masses in order to see what vessel could hold the most mass.

M R S . S T A G G S , 6 T H & 7 T H M A T H

The weeks are flying by and ISAT is around the corner. The students are doing wonderfully keeping up with the fast paced curriculum. With many great probability scores on the last test, I am sure the likelihood of everyone doing well on ISAT is high!

To prepare for ISAT, keep working hard. Make sure to look over the warmups and truly understand what each question is asking. Stay organized!

Keep using your binders to separate your papers into the proper category, so if you want to look back, you may do so. Review the previously learned standards on a nightly basis, so it will look familiar when you see it on ISAT. Concentrate on doing your best! "If you say you can do, you can do it."

The 6th grade students have recently started learning Geometry.

They are studying angles, shapes, lines, etc. Once they have a basic understanding of these topics, they will use their knowledge to apply it to finding area of many shapes.

The 7th graders will be learning measurement systems and probability. We will do our own mini metric Olympics. Once it is over, we will analyze our data to see what the likelihood of what a winner will accom-

plish.

To check your child's progress, remember to look at their grades online.

MRS. BLEDSOE, 7TH & 8TH LANGUAGE ARTS

Happy 2012! After a busy holiday season, we are busy at work in seventh and eighth grade language arts. It's time once again to put our creativity in full gear and read and write some poetry. It's the best way to clarify and solidify our understanding of figurative language. Many students tend to want to take what they read quite literally, so figurative language can be a bit of a challenge at the beginning. We will be studying the different types of poetry as well as the various elements and sound devices of figurative language and imagery. Even though there are a few grumbles at the beginning of the unit, students are typically very

eager to present their favorite poem or poems by the time we conclude. It doesn't take them long to discover the strong connection between poetry and song. Funny, many can visualize themselves as future songwriters, but not poets. However, when they take the music out of their favorite song, they see they are left with a lyric poem. It's an enjoyable unit, because there is a little, and sometimes a lot, of creativity in all of our Norwood students. It's fun to see them express themselves throughout the poetry unit.

Students are still working at earning points for free tickets to a Chief's baseball game in the

spring. AR will continue through the third grading period. Seventh graders need to earn eleven points, and eighth graders need to earn twelve. Please encourage your child to read at home. It helps them to achieve their points, and more importantly, it improves their vocabulary and writing skills. Keep reading!



MRS. JOHNSON, 6TH & 8TH GRADE MATH

Math

The 8th grade students and 6Br did a fabulous job on the recent benchmark math tests as indication of how they would score on the state ISAT test. Keep up the great work!! Our projects this quarter will be raisin-toothpick towers in the 8th grade and creative math stories in the 6th grade. The students look forward to these projects as one of their assessments each quarter.

Mathcounts

Students are working hard on some topics normally presented in freshman algebra. They also love using the book on lateral thinking puzzles to expand their logic skills.

Scholastic Bowl

Fridays after school, we have a lot of fun practicing for our upcoming season beginning at the end of January with area schools. Admission is free and all matches are held at Norwood. Come join us in the Board room to see us compete. Schedules were sent home the first week in January and are also posted on the school website.

MR. COOPER, C C I I I

Time sure goes fast! For 8th grade, we are deep into formulas and algebra like Pythagorean, inequalities, and functions. We will have a strong review from this month to ensure understanding. 7th grade is

finishing up our unit introducing inequalities. We will be moving into geometry soon. I am very proud of our 6th grade. We finished our unit on percents, decimals, and fractions with flying colors. 5th grade will con-

tinue working with ratios, decimals, and other numbers that need to be converted in everyday life. All of our students have done a great job since Christmas break!

VISIT US AT
WWW.NORWOOD63.ORG

N O R W O O D S D 6 3

6521 W. Farmington Rd.
Peoria, IL 61604

(309) 676-3523
(309) 676-6099 (fax)

B R I G H T F U T U R E S

We are back and in the full swing of things! We have been talking about Jan Brett and reading the books, *The Hat*, *The Mitten*, and *Three Snow Bears*. We have compared the books to other stories. This month we were visited by the Red Cross and Nutrition. Next month we will look forward to another visit from Mrs. Kirk.

We also started our project for the spring. Right now we are learning how we hear and learning about the different parts of the ear. Next we will talk more about hearing and listening. Some of the fun activities we will be doing about ears and hearing are visiting a radio station, trying to hear through telephones made out of

cans, a hearing test, and a listening activity. We will continue this project in to the month of February! In February, we will be having parent teacher conferences. Please make sure you sign up for a time!

MRS. DUCKWORTH, CCII

I hope everyone is having a very happy new year so far! My language arts students have been working hard on their New Year's Resolutions writing project. During this project, we discussed the importance of setting goals and making plans to help achieve them. Ask your student about their resolutions and talk to them about what you hope to accomplish this year too!

ISAT time is right

around the corner. This is a very important test that we take every year. This year the entire school is participating in the Survivor themed fun to help everyone get excited about "Outsmarting ISAT" again. We plan to start putting all the strategies we learned to good use on practice tests and learning how to respond to different forms of literature. The students will be using Study Island and other ISAT prep materials

throughout the month of February. It is very important for students to be in attendance during ISAT week, so start talking about things at home that you can do to help get your student ready. Eating a nutritious breakfast and getting a good night's sleep are great ways to prepare your student every morning.

Also, parent teacher conferences are scheduled for February 9th and 10th. If you have not

yet set up a time to meet with me, please contact me as soon as possible. If you have already made an appointment, I would like to thank you. I will be sending home a reminder sheet later this week to remind you of your time. If that time no longer works for you, please let me know so we can arrange a time that works best for you. I look forward to seeing you all at conferences!

MRS. MOSS, CCII & CCIII

Hard to believe it's February already. Seems like we were just celebrating Christmas and New Years! Don't forget about the parent/teacher conferences on Thursday, February 9 from and Friday, February 10. I am looking forward to seeing you then.

5th grade Language Arts

We are continuing to learn new vocabulary words along with a synonym and antonym for the

words. We are working on identifying the parts of speech. The students are doing a great job identifying nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in sentences. We will continue to identify those and start to work with prepositions and object of the preposition.

6th & 7th grade Language Arts

We have been busy with finding definitions, sen-

tences, synonyms, and antonyms for the word of the day. The students are using the dictionary and thesaurus to help them. Ask them what the word of the day is. We will be wrapping up working with drawing conclusions and making inferences and will move on to comparing and contrasting. We are still working on fluency and comprehension.

6th & 7th grade math

We are wrapping up working with geometry. The students have gotten good at measuring angles and identifying them. They've enjoyed using the protractor. We will be moving on to finding percents, finding a number when the percent is known and a whole lot more.

MRS. GRANT, TITLE I

Happy New Year!
We have been busy preparing ourselves for ISAT's. In reading group, students have been working out of the Break Away book. This is an ISAT preparation book that helps students mas-

ter many areas of reading. Some areas we have been focusing on are sequencing, main idea, and context clues. Students have also been working through the computer based program Study Island. We continue to work with our

Read Naturally program; many students have improved their reading level and skills tremendously.

With the new semester all Norwood students were benchmarked through Discovery Education and AIMS Web. Both of these benchmarks help

the teachers identify areas in which students need to improve in. Norwood has shown great results! We are proud of our Tornadoes!

