

UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #23

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"EDUCATION TO MEET TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES"

"ALL IN - EVERY CHILD - EVERY DAY"



FEB. 8, 2019

Next Week's Schedule

- Mon., Feb. 11** - 99th Day of School - Day 3
- Regular Day
- Tues., Feb. 12** - 100th Day of School - Day 4
- Regular Day of School
- Wed., Feb. 13** - 101st Day of School - Day 5
- Regular Day of School
- Thurs., Feb. 14** - 102nd Day of School - Day 6
- Valentine's Day Classroom Parties
- Fri., Feb. 15** - 103rd Day of School - Day 1
- Regular Day of School

Late Starts, Early Outs, No School

Union Community School District serves the communities of La Porte City and Dysart, which covers over 256 square miles and is in the 3 counties of Black Hawk, Tama, and Benton. Our transportation hubs are the middle school in Dysart and the high school in La Porte City. Having many rural bus routes and the size of our district in 3 different counties is challenging in the winter months dealing with snow, ice, winds, and hazardous roads conditions. We will try to use all of our possible options to have school while working around the winter weather and poor driving conditions. Just a reminder that inclement weather announcements about the late starts, early dismissals, and no school will be made on the radio and television stations listed below. These changes are always done with the safety of our students and staff in mind.

AM Radio: KXEL-1540, KWLO-1330, WMT-600, KOEL-950

FM Radio: KOKZ-105.7, KFMW-108, WMT-96.5, KKCW-98.5

Television: KWLL-7, KGAN-2, KCRG-9

School Alerts: Iowa School Alerts Gov delivery

Internet: kwwl.com, kgan.com, kcrg.com
www.union.k12.ia.us

Facebook: Union Community School District

Hard Surface Bus Routes

This is just a reminder to bus route parents. Due to the soft gravel roads and the possibility of having to go to hard surface routes in the winter and spring, your student's hard surface information can be found on your JMC account. Click on the bus tab on the left of the screen. If we decide to go hard surface, a notice will be sent out as usual. If you have any questions, contact Mike Timmer @ m_timmer@union.k12.ia.us or the Bus Barn at 319-342-3286. The District Office number is 319-342-2674.

Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 1 - Reading Around the World Day
Feb. 5 - 1st Semester Report Card Sent Home
Feb. 12 - 100th Day of School
Feb. 14 - Valentine's Parties
Feb. 25 - No School - Teacher Inservice

Valentine's Day Classroom Parties

This coming Thursday, February 14, the elementary classes will have their Valentine's Day parties. Your child's teacher should be letting your child know if they need to bring anything for their classroom party. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Iowa School Alerts: School Notification System

The State of Iowa (Iowa School Alerts) notification system that has been in use in the district for many years has been upgraded. In order to receive email or text messages from Union Community School District, you will need to subscribe to the service. Sign up for texts and email notification at <https://insights.govdelivery.com/accounts/IAEDU6536/subscriber/new>.

Lunch Money Reminders

Just a reminder to parents to keep a close eye on your child's lunch account each month to make sure the balance is in the positive. Adding money to your child's account at the beginning of each month on a regular basis will eliminate any worries or confusion of having a negative balance. Remember that your account will be used up quicker if your child also eats breakfast. Notes are given to students to take home if their lunch balance is at \$4.00 or below. Our JMC program automatically emails parents as an additional reminder of low lunch account balances. I do see the daily print outs and do call parents if their accounts reach a large amount of negative balance. We track the negative lunch balances each day and that is sent over to the district office. They check it over and ask us to make sure to remind parents that the auditors discourage us from having large amounts of negative balances in this account, since it is not a charge account. Your help and assistance is needed in this area. Please call the elementary office if you have any questions.



REPORT to PARENTS

The Rewards of Reading

You know how important it is to read to your children. Children whose families read with them do better in school. And the bonds that you make with your children when you read with them help them feel loved, comforted, and secure. Like most families, you want to read with your children, but somehow days can go by without you sitting down with them and opening a book. The key is to make it a priority. Here are several suggestions to help your children improve their reading skills.

Fifteen minutes a day can change their lives. You may be surprised to know that educators recommend just 15 minutes a day of reading, as a minimum. Like exercise, of course, longer sessions are even more beneficial.

Always have a book on hand, no matter where you are. Keep a small book in your purse or your car's glove compartment. Or have a picture book or two in the baby's stroller. Make sure that you and your children always have something to read when time is available.

Focus on their interests. Reading with you should be for pleasure, so get books from the school or public library that feature characters or topics they're really interested in. It doesn't matter if they're reading a book about NASCAR or NASA—either way, they're reading!

Ask them questions while you're reading. Everyone is a better "listener" when they know they're going to be asked questions about what they're listening to. Don't make it a test, but do keep their interest going by asking them stories about what's being read. Get their brains working. Don't just ask who the characters are. Instead, ask questions like "Why do you think he did that?" "What would you do if you were in that situation?" or "What do you think will happen next?"

Be a patient listener. It can be difficult listening to your children struggle while reading. But think how terribly important it is that they succeed. Don't jump in and finish the sentence for them, no matter how slowly they're reading. Instead, encourage their effort and let them see that you're proud they're reading, and not annoyed that it's taking so long.

Get everyone involved. The more people who read with your children, the more they'll see that reading is important. Talk with the other adults and older children in your household and let them know that reading with each child is going to be a daily activity, and that you need them to participate.

But first... Kids make time for a lot of extras in their day. So do parents. TV shows, computer games, and going online can eat up surprising amounts of time. Read first—before the computer goes on or their favorite TV show comes on.

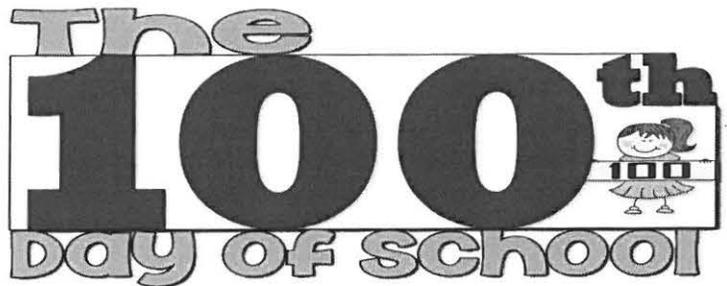
There's something special about owning a book. Libraries and garage sales offer "well loved" books for sale, often for as little as 25 cents. Keep spare change on hand so you can pick up some great reads for your children when you see a sale. When birthdays or holidays come around, make sure there's always a good book wrapped up and waiting.

Yes, you're busy. Yes, your children are too. But reading with your children really needs to be part of your day, every day. Fifteen minutes a day is a small investment that will generate enormous rewards.

Report to Parents, written to serve elementary and middle-level principals, may be reproduced by National Association of Elementary School Principals members without permission.

100th Day of School Coming Soon

We are quickly approaching the 100th day of school that our students have attended. With eight snow days now this winter, Tuesday, February 12 will be our 100th day of school for students. Each classroom will be doing lessons and activities centered on the concepts of 100. Take time at home to talk to your child about what 100 means to them. Try counting 100 things, by either 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, 20's and/or 25's. These different ways of counting will reinforce the basic concepts in math. This is a great teachable moment to incorporate math into our everyday activities.



The Gold Star Award

Last week, students brought home brochures to nominate their teachers for the Golden Star Award for Outstanding Teaching. If you would like to nominate an LPC elementary teacher, please fill out the form and return it to the elementary office this week. We feel all of our teachers are golden star teachers. We have some that have won the award in the past.