

# UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #21

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"EDUCATION TO MEET TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES"

"ALL IN – EVERY CHILD – EVERY DAY"



JAN. 27, 2020

## Next Week's Schedule

- Mon., Jan. 27** - 93rd Day of School - Day 3(M/PE)  
- Regular Day of School
- Tues., Jan.28** - 94th Day of School - Day 4(A/M)  
- Regular Day of School
- Wed., Jan. 29** - 95th Day of School - Day 5(L/PE)  
- Regular Day of School
- Thurs., Jan. 30** - 96th Day of School - Day 6(PE/M)  
- Regular Day of School
- Fri., Jan. 31** 1 - 97th Day of School - Day 1(M/L)  
- Regular Day of School

## 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, 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, my contact Mike Timmer at [m\\_timmer@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:m_timmer@union.k12.ia.us) or the Bus Barn at 319-342-3286. The District Office number is 319-342-2674.

## Late Starts & Early Outs

This winter season we will try to use all of our possible options to try to have school while working around winter weather conditions that could involve poor driving conditions due to snow, wind, and ice. 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, KCCV-98.5

**Television:** KWVL-7, KGAN-2, KCRG-9

## End Of the First Semester

With our no school days on Jan. 15 and 17, we have moved the end of the first semester to today, Monday, January 20. It has been a good first part of the school year for our students and staff. Classroom Report Cards will be sent to parents via JMC Wednesday, January 29. Title and Special Education reports will be mailed out the same day.

## Upcoming January Dates

- Jan. 6 - Classes Resume from Winter Break  
Jan. 20 - 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Ends  
Jan. 29 - Report Cards Sent Home via JMC Email

## Cold Weather Clothing Alert

The cold weather has moved in and a chill is in the air. Please have your child prepared for the cold weather by having them wear a warm coat, snow pants, mittens, a hat, and boots. Make sure they have these items of clothing with them when the snow hits in the near future. Also don't forget to pack their shoes in their backpacks to change into when they arrive at school. Recesses are held outside whenever possible. The following guidelines will be followed when having outside recess in the winter season.

- All students must wear a warm coat, mittens, and a hat.
- All kindergarten and first grade students are required to wear snow pants and boots during recess at all times during the winter season. This is required for both on and off the pavement areas.
- All second, third, fourth, and fifth grade students are strongly encouraged to bring boots and snow pants. Boots and snow pants are required off the pavement areas, on the snow, and on the playground equipment. Boots may be required on the pavement areas on days of heavy snow and/or ice.
- Throwing of snowballs and/or ice is not allowed.
- Sliding on the ice is not allowed.
- Rough play in the snow or on the snow piles is not allowed.

## Lost & Found: Winter Clothing

It is that time of year that our students are wearing all of their winter weather clothing. It is so important to remind your children to keep track of their items throughout the day. Putting your child's name on their winter items would help in returning these to them in case they are dropped. One easy trick is to have your child put their gloves and hat in their sleeve when they take them off. We have a lost and found spot in the hall on the benches near the gym. If you have lost items, have your child check these spots.



# 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.**

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## 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Coming Soon

We are quickly approaching the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school that our students have attended. With 2 no school days now on Jan. 15 and 17, the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school for students will now be Tuesday, February 4. 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.



# LPC Elementary PTO

## **Sweet Treats due February 7th**

The PTO would like to help deliver your Valentine's messages. Students can order Sweet Treats for teachers, staff, bus drivers, siblings, etc. Family members can also order treats for students. The PTO will be sure to deliver the Sweet Treats before Valentine's Day. The order forms will be sent home next week.

## **Family Night Out - February 17th**

We're excited to host another Family Night Out at Vinton Pizza Ranch! Join us Monday February 17th from 5-8pm. A percentage of sales and all tips will be donated to LPC PTO. Don't forget to order your Pizza Ranch gift cards in advance through Scrip - the school will earn an 8% rebate on Pizza Ranch cards.

## **Amazon Smile**

When your shopping online, please consider using the Amazon Smile account for the LPC PTO. If you shop at Amazon using the link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-4666834>, the PTO will receive a donation of 0.5% of the total purchase.

*To stay up-to-date with PTO events or announcements, please like our page on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/LPCElementaryPTO/>*