

January 9, 2009



The Ram Report

Rousseau Elementary School – 3701 South 33rd Street – Lincoln, NE 68506

CALENDAR

January

- 12 Character Council Mtg.
- 15 Chorus Concert 7:00 PM
- 16 End of 2nd Quarter
- 16 Ram Report Articles Due
- 19-20 **NO SCHOOL**
- 23 Ram Report Newsletter
- 26 PTO Board Meeting 6:30 PM
- 27 PLC Early Release at 2:18 PM



4th & 5th Grade Chorus Program
 Jan. 15, 2009
 7:00 PM

Kindergarten Registration

Thurs. March 19th 8-6 PM
 Fri. March 20th, 8-4:30 PM

Rousseau School is updating our Kindergarten list for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have not been contacted by the Rousseau Office and will have a child attending Kindergarten next year, please call the office at 436-1165.

From the Principal's Notepad

Dear Rousseau Families,

Happy New Year!! Welcome to a fresh, new 2009, full of hope and possibility. The New Year is a natural time to reflect on the year gone by and, for some, set goals for improving - ourselves, our families, and in the case of the Rousseau staff, our school. It's a continuous improvement mindset that's at the heart of our mission and drives our discussions and decision-making. The end of the semester is next Friday and is a routine time for teachers to evaluate student progress and make adjustments in curriculum and instruction aimed at helping ALL students meet rigorous standards.



Lincoln Public Schools and Rousseau School have always been committed to setting the bar high because we know that establishing high expectations is an important factor leading to increased student achievement. But... you may have been left wondering about that when you read the December 24th Journal Star front page article about recently released Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) information for Nebraska schools. The headline stated that Lincoln Public Schools has more schools identified as not meeting state standards than Lexington, Papillion-LaVista, or Omaha. While this statement is technically true, I hope that a bit more information will help you understand the facts beneath the Journal Star headline.

First, a little background; the concept of adequate yearly progress (AYP) is related to the federal No Child Left Behind goal that all students will be proficient in rigorous state standards in reading and math by the year 2013-2014. Each state defines the progress that must be made each year. In Nebraska, there are three-year incremental goals along the way to 2013-2014 to hold school districts and states accountable for making adequate yearly progress each year toward the goal of 100% proficiency for all students. For the 2007-08 school year just reported, the incremental goal increased from approximately 70% of the three previous years to slightly more than 80% for 07-08 and the next two years.

Nebraska school districts design their own tests of student proficiency on state standards and LPS has set high standards and created rigorous tests. All school districts must test the same standards, but each test is different and each district's definition of "proficient" is different. That means the tests are not comparable, and comparisons among districts using the district-designed tests, like those made in the Journal Star article, are not valid. As a district, we could improve our reported performance for AYP purposes by lowering our expectations, but that's not what's best for students and it's not what quality organizations do. Students learn much more by setting high standards, even if we don't always reach them, than by setting low standards that can easily be achieved.

To get a complete picture of student achievement in Lincoln Public Schools and at Rousseau School, we use a number of data sources. In multiple measures, like the Metropolitan Achievement Test in elementary and middle school grades and the PLAN

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test at the high school level, LPS has the first or second-highest student performance of the four schools named in the Journal Star article. And on the ACT, the most "comparable" measure, LPS has the highest performance, with an average ACT of 23.3.

Dr. Marilyn Moore, Associate Superintendent for Instruction has stated that, "Given the achievement of LPS students on other measures, I am confident that our students perform as well or better than students in other districts on the state standards, also." Marilyn Peterson, Director of Federal Programs at the Nebraska Department of Education, notes in the article that LPS has created rigorous tests. "I give LPS very high credit for setting their standards high and sticking to them," Peterson said.

All of this is not to say that we don't have work to do and goals to accomplish in LPS and at Rousseau School. We won't be satisfied until ALL students can perform at high levels. But comparing LPS performance to that of other districts when the district-designed tests and the district-selected levels of proficiency are not comparable is misleading. It's not an apples to apples type of situation! The intent of the current state assessment process was not to compare districts but to use data to improve student learning - our ultimate goal. While we met AYP standards this year at Rousseau School, we know the proficiency standard will continue to increase until we reach that 100% mark. Specifically, we are still working to know and do more to close the achievement gap that exists between students with disabilities and all other students at Rousseau School and to designing intervention systems to support all learners. We will continue with relentless effort and focus to help all children LEARN, THINK, and LEAD.

Most sincerely,

Sue Braun

REVISED BREAKFAST & LUNCH MENU

Please see the REVISED
Breakfast & Lunch menu for
January attached to the back of
the Ram Report.



Rousseau student Emalyn Kruse got an idea for a clothing drive from reading an American Girl book last fall. With help from her teacher, Mrs. Mandl, a 3rd-grade clothing drive was initiated in December and 3rd graders were invited to bring bags of donated clothing to school the last week before the winter break. By the end of that week, Room 124 was piled high with a couple dozen bags of clothing and shoes! On Monday, December 22, Emalyn, brother Graydon, and their mom Cheryl, along with Ellen Kinsey and her mom, Susie, took the bags of clothing to the People's City Mission Distribution Center located at 21st and "N" Streets. What a wonderful way to help those who are less fortunate. Thanks, Emalyn, for putting your idea into action!!



Matt Savage, 2nd Grade student, recently participated in a Chess tournament. He placed 1st under 400 Ratings in the 2008 Midwest Open/Primary Section.

Congratulations, Matt.



This week your student participated in the first activity for Mission: Moonwalk, a project that the Entrepreneurship Focus Program is doing in Lincoln's Elementary Schools. This project is an effort to get kids more active through fun activities. The goal is to accumulate 252,088 miles, the distance to the moon, by May. More information will be coming soon.

Thank you!
Samantha Karnes
Hannah Tyrrell
Entrepreneurship Focus Program

Lincoln Public Schools Food Zone

Elementary Breakfast Menu January 2009 - Revised

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
JANUARY 5 MANAGER SELECTS MENU	JANUARY 6 GOLDEN WAFFLES or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 7 BREAKFAST TAC-GO or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 8 CHEESE OMELET or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 9 HOT OATMEAL CEREAL or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk
JANUARY 12 FRENCH TOAST STICKS or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 13 TOASTED ENGLISH MUFFIN or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 14 SCRAMBLED EGGS or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 15 PANCAKE & SAUSAGE+ ON A STICK or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 16 BREAKFAST BURRITO or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk
JANUARY 19 NO SCHOOL	JANUARY 20 NO SCHOOL	JANUARY 21 BUTTERMILK PANCAKES or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST Juice Milk	JANUARY 22 CHEESE OMELET or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST Juice Milk	JANUARY 23 BREAKFAST BAGEL or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST Juice Milk
JANUARY 26 BREAKFAST BACON+ SCRAMBLE or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 27 BREAKFAST BITES+ or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 28 EGG & CHEESE ON BISCUIT or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 29 TOASTED ENGLISH MUFFIN or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	JANUARY 30 MAPLE PANEGGCAGES or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk

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+Contains pork.

<http://www.lps.org>

/ELEMBREAKFAST

Lincoln Public Schools Food Zone

Elementary Lunch Menu January 2009 - Revised

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Caesar Salad	Diced turkey Ham Salad	Oriental Chicken Salad	Chicken Ranch Salad	Turkey Ham Chef Salad
JANUARY 5 MANAGER SELECTS MENU	JANUARY 6 PEPPERONI+ PIZZA HAMBURGER ON BUN Corn Tossed Salad Dried Fruit Applesauce Milk	JANUARY 7 CHICKEN TERIYAKI WITH RICE PILAF BEEF TACO CHALUPA Baby Carrots & Dip Tossed Salad Orange Wedges Pineapple Milk	JANUARY 8 BREADED PORK+ SANDWICH SLOPPY JOE Potato Wedges Tossed Salad Sweet Cherries Peaches Milk	JANUARY 9 CHEESE PIZZA BBQ RIBLETTE SANDWICH Sweet Peas Tossed Salad Apple Wedges Pears Milk
JANUARY 12 CORN PUPPIES CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP WITH CRACKERS Tender Carrots Tossed Salad Dried Fruit Applesauce Milk	JANUARY 13 MUCHO NACHOS EGG ROLL Refried Beans Lettuce & Tomato Orange Wedges Pineapple Milk	JANUARY 14 CHICKEN FINGERS WITH BISCUIT COUNTRY BEEF STEAK SANDWICH French Fries Tossed Salad Cinnamon Apple Slices Peaches Milk	JANUARY 15 SPAGHETTI & MEAT SAUCE WITH GARLIC BREAD TACO HOT POCKET Broccoli & Cauliflower & Dip Tossed Salad Banana Pears Milk	JANUARY 16 GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH HOT DOG ON BUN Tomato Soup Veggies/Salad Fruit Mixed Fruit Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Milk
JANUARY 19 NO SCHOOL	JANUARY 20 NO SCHOOL	JANUARY 21 FRENCH TOAST STICKS & SAUSAGE+ LINKS BEEF & BEAN BURRITO Hash Brown Potato Tossed Salad Orange Wedges Peaches Milk	JANUARY 22 ITALIAN DUNKER POLISH DOG+ ON BUN Baby Carrots & Dip Tossed Salad Grapes Pears Milk	JANUARY 23 BREADED BAKED CHICKEN WITH ROLL SALISBURY STEAK WITH ROLL Whipped Potatoes & Gravy Veggies/Salad Fruit Mixed Fruit Milk
JANUARY 26 CHICKEN POPCORN WITH BREADSTICK BEEF TERIYAKI WITH RICE PILAF Celery & Dip Tossed Salad Orange Wedges Applesauce Milk	JANUARY 27 SOFT SHELL TACO SAUSAGE+ PIZZA Refried Beans Lettuce & Tomato Apple Wedges Pineapple Milk	JANUARY 28 CHEESE STUFFED BREADSTICKS WITH SAUCE SUB SANDWICH Peas Tossed Salad Sweet Cherries Peaches Milk	JANUARY 29 BREADED CHICKEN SANDWICH HEARTY CHILI WITH CINNAMON ROLL Fresh Broccoli & Dip Tossed Salad Dried Fruit Pears Milk	JANUARY 30 MAC & CHEESE FIESTADA Tender Carrots Veggie/Salad Fruit Mixed Fruit Rice Krispie Bar Milk

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*Menu subject to change without notice.

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