

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Longfellow Families,

Let's hope that March comes in like a lamb and we can begin to enjoy some spring like temperatures. Although the children have so enjoyed the snow and we have some great snow forts being built!

Our 3rd through 5th grade students will begin the state testing, Illinois Standards Achievement Tests, on **Monday, March 1st**. Please make sure that your child is in attendance and on time each day, as testing will begin promptly at **9:30AM**. If your child arrives after testing has begun, they will be directed to the library and the test will be made up for them in the afternoon. This will necessitate them missing part of their afternoon instruction. We will attempt to make up any missed tests due to absences, but cannot guarantee that we will be able to make up the entire test depending on how many days were missed. I appreciate your efforts and support in getting your children to school and having them well rested with a good breakfast.

March also brings the required Illinois State Tornado Drill. Longfellow students will participate in the drill on Monday, March 1st. We will not run the drill with the state on Tuesday morning due to our ISAT testing. The students will move to the safe area assigned to their classroom and get in the "duck and cover" position. While we hope that we will never have to use all of the knowledge we have in keeping safe, it is a great feeling to know how well prepared our students are for these events.

The PTA Fun Fair was awesome! I had so much fun seeing everyone at the ticket table and I hope that you enjoyed the family day! Congratulations to Cody Rogers for winning "Principal for a morning" and lunch!

Our kindergarten roundup meeting for parents will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:30pm. If you have not already sent in your information, you may call the school office at 630-682-2080 to register. Please pass this information along to any neighbors that may have kindergarten age children for next year!

The Longfellow PTA has arranged for our next school assembly and we are excited to host author Tom Lichtenheld on Monday, March 22nd. He will be meeting with each grade level to discuss "How a Book is Created". His assembly will also be in conjunction with the completion of our school wide reading incentive program, "Read for the Gold" and our top readers will get to have lunch with the author! Thank you to the Longfellow PTA for bringing this event to our school community and to our building Reading Incentive Committee for the great student program.

Technology arrives at Longfellow School!!! We have just purchased seven digital presenters and projectors to be used in our classrooms. Our Technology Committee has been very busy researching products and presenting training for the staff on the use of the presenters in the classroom. The cost of the technology for the PTA was just over \$8000.00 and we have worked for two years to gather this funding. We are very grateful to the PTA for their very generous support to bring technology to the students at the classroom level and know the work that goes into fundraising for this and the many other great events, such as the previously mentioned educational assemblies. The Longfellow Technology Committee will now be looking at applying for grants to continue to progress toward supplying each classroom with a presenter and a projector. If you work for a company that has any matching grants or awards that we may be eligible for, please let me know. Thanks PTA!

Remember the CUSD 200 Community Forum on budget reduction will be held the new Hubble Middle School on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:00pm.

Fondly,
Mrs. Dianne Thornburg