

Lovejoy Newsletter

October 2009

Alton Community Unit School District, #11

October, 2009

Friday, October 2
Students attend a.m. only

Monday, October 12
Columbus Day - Holiday

Thursday, October 16
1st Quarter Ends

Tuesday, October 20
7:00 – School Board Mtg. – Admin. Ctr.

Thursday, October 22
1-8:00 p.m. – Parent/Teacher Conferences
No School for students

Friday, October 23
8-1:00 p.m. – Parent/Teacher Conferences –
No School for students

Friday, October 30
1:00 Halloween Parade & Classroom parties



November, 2009

Sunday, November 1
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS - Don't forget to move your clocks back an hour.



From the Principal, Debbie Sheary

We have lots to be proud of at Lovejoy Elementary. Our students are working hard and showing great pride in their progress. Teachers are talking regularly with students about measures of their achievement. Students are motivated to learn and having fun doing it. I am seeing great things in the classrooms thanks to our teachers and students. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

United Way “Give Like a Rockstar”

The Alton School District is participating in an area wide fundraiser from **October 5-16, 2009** for the United Way. Alton employees are known for their generosity to the area United Way and students are being asked to participate this year. Students can purchase “squares” for \$.25 each or five/\$1. They will put their name on them and hang in their classroom. The classroom with the greatest donation amount will be treated to a pizza party. Please donate a quarter or two to this organization that gives back so much to our community.

4th/5th Grade

So far this school year is off to a great start. The fourth and fifth grade students have adjusted to our new school and are finding their way around.

There are a couple of trips happening in the next month. Fourth graders will be taking a field trip to the new Alton amphitheatre to listen to a talk given by Greg Mortenson, the author of the novel **Three Cups of Tea**. Currently the

fourth grade is reading the novel together in their classrooms. The fifth grade classes will be observing Animal Shelter Week, that takes place during the first week in November, by collecting food and supplies for the 5 A's animal shelter in Alton. The collection drive will be held the last week of October and first week in November, so please send food, clean towels, blankets, new toys, or cleaning supplies with your child and they can bring the items to the fifth grade classrooms. The items collected will be given to the 5 A's shelter when the fifth grade classes visit to tour the facility and learn about their necessary mission.

Also, Lovejoy Fall Festival is quickly approaching. It is scheduled for **Friday, October 16th**. This will be combined with a science night as well! More information will be coming home regarding this.

This past week, we officially ended our first theme unit in Story Town, our reading series. As always, you can look for spelling words for the week to come home on Monday, giving plenty of time to study for the tests given on Fridays. Students should bring their Story Town books home frequently to re-read the story at home. This would make a great before-bed reading time with your child.

Lastly, we always like to remind parents to please check agendas every night for homework assignments or notes from the teacher. This helps your child stay organized and on top of work and grades before there is a problem.

Have a great October, students and families!



**Alton Community
Unit School
District. #11**

Lovejoy Elementary
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Alton, Illinois 62002
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Friday, November 3
7:00 p.m. - Lovejoy
Memorial Music – East
Gym

Tuesday, November 11
**Veteran's Day -
Holiday**

Tuesday, November 17
7:00 p.m. – Board Mtg.

Friday, November 20
Progress Reports go
home with students.

*Wednesday, November
25 – 27*
Thanksgiving Break



Second Grade

Second graders have just finished a science unit on animals. During this unit we studied animal lifecycles. On October 15th, we will be going to Eckert's Pumpkin "Farm to learn about the lifecycle of a pumpkin and, of course, have a little fall fun. Watch for permission slips to be sent home soon.

Parent/teacher conferences will be on October 22 and 23rd. Watch for notices to sign up for your child's conference.

First Grade

We are ready for fall! This month first graders will be engaged in learning activities focused on the season. We will incorporate these activities into our reading, math, writing, science, and art. Be sure to ask your child what we do each day and send them to school ready to learn. With cooler weather arriving remember to write your child's name on jackets, sweaters, and coats.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled this month. Please sign up for a conference to discuss your child's progress and ways we can work together. We are looking forward to meeting with families throughout the year at Lovejoy family events.

Kindergarten

We are looking forward to a fun fall! Kindergarten students will be learning about apples, pumpkins, the changing seasons, and Halloween. As the weather turns cooler, children will be wearing more jackets and sweaters to school. Please make sure your child's name is inside each article of "outer wear." Also, have your child practice zipping his/her coat and tying shoes.

The quarter ends on Friday, October 16. We will be doing one-on-one assessments with your child to check alphabet and number (0-20) recognition, letter sounds, rhyming, reading popcorn words, shapes, colors, and counting. Please keep working on these basic skills with your child. At the end of the month we will be taking a field trip to a pumpkin farm and a fire station. Watch for more information to come home soon.

Volunteer Screening

All volunteers will be screened this year through an application process. This includes parents accompanying students on field trips. In the future we will have the forms available at registration for parents to fill out if they anticipate going on any field trips or spending any time working at the school. The forms are available in the office and can be filled out at any time. Parents volunteering for field trips will have a form sent home and it will be kept on file in the office. This process is intended to make sure that any person involved with our students is a safe adult. Thank you for your cooperation with this process. Please feel free to call Debbie Sheary if you have questions.

Halloween at Lovejoy

Lovejoy students will parade in costume on the sidewalk in the neighborhood surrounding Horace Mann School at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30. Parents will prepare treats and things for the classroom parties immediately following. Those parents willing to walk with students in the parade are welcome to join us. Costumes should not include any weaponry.

Third Grade

Third graders have been adjusting to the demands of intermediate academics wonderfully. We have had our AIMSWEAP and MAZE testing for the fall to better accommodate varied reading levels of students. Please encourage reading aloud at home to improve students' fluency. Your child could read aloud to any family member, a pet, a stuffed animal, or a friend to make it enjoyable. Book discussions about characteristics, settings, beginning, middle, and end of stories are helpful for comprehension.

We have learned about plants and are now studying about animals and their life cycles now. Mealworms are coming soon for us to observe their life cycle.

