

# Monthly Newsletter

May 2022



"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."  
-John F. Kennedy

Another fulfilling school year is coming to a close. Different kinds of challenges presented themselves, as we were moving rapidly through academic quarters and semesters. We have experienced shortages of substitute teachers this school year and had to be creative with how we covered different classrooms. Stumbling over various challenges, we have also witnessed many acts of kindness from our community members and our parents. A special thank you for substitute teaching goes to Mrs. Dianne Conyers, our former Longfellow (retired) teacher. So far, Mrs. Conyers has subbed for us for 93 days! We are deeply thankful for her help.

We have made some great gains with students' reading achievement due to the small group reading instruction. Our Kindergarten, first and second grade teachers, and also reading teachers and paraeducators have worked very hard this year to build the reading foundation through teaching students phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading fluency.

The expectations for modern schools are substantial. We work very hard to achieve goals set for us, but we cannot do this alone. Families' help in achieving the noble goals of educating our youth is crucial. We would like to thank our parents for your support and continuous encouragement in our work with your children. We are very grateful for your kindness this school year. -Erickson



## Longfellow PTO Sign Project

Hello Longfellow Families! It was brought to the attention of the PTO that some families had questions about the new Longfellow Elementary sign project regarding the history, funding, and overall look of the new sign. The Longfellow PTO started looking into the addition of a new monument sign out front of the remodeled school back in February of 2020. The sign was designed by Troy Keilig, Principal Architect with CMBA Architects and Longfellow Dad. The sign specs, with multiple revisions, were sent to several companies to bid the project. PTO reviewed all options as it related to materials, overall cost, and longevity of the sign. Ultimately, a final version was bid and all materials have been ordered. This project has been severely delayed due to COVID and the availability of materials. We are hopeful for a completion of the sign by spring of 2023. Proceeds from the Spelling Challenge fall fundraisers, as well as other PTO funds will be used to pay for the sign. Donations are welcome and can be made out to Longfellow PTO. If you have any questions, join us at our next PTO meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd at 6:30 PM in the Longfellow Library.

- Longfellow PTO

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## Track Meet

The 4th and 5th grade track meet is on May 9th. The 4th grade participates in the morning and the 5th grade participates in the afternoon.

## 5th Grade Promotion

The 5th grade promotion is on May 16th at 2:45pm in the Longfellow gym. Parents and families of 5th grade students are welcome to celebrate the finishing of their time at Longfellow elementary!



## Field Day

Field day will be on May 18th. Our students and staff will be having fun playing various games and activities. This is one of our favorite days of the whole year!

## Thank you to our student teachers and outgoing staff!

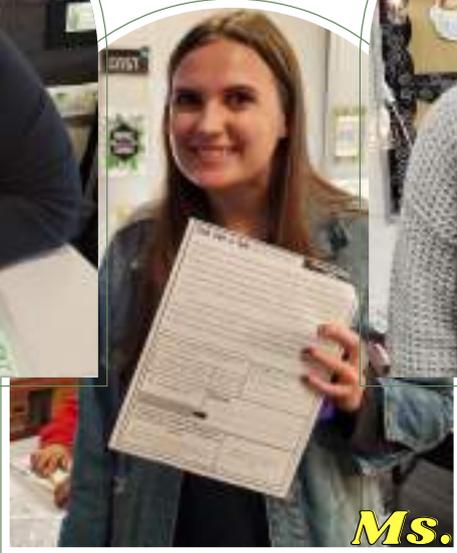
***Ms. O'Neill***



***Ms. Hansen***



***Ms. Cole***



***Ms. Murray***

Ms. Loetterle has been offered an amazing opportunity to teach in Japan!

ありがとうございました

***Ms. Loetterle***



***Mrs. Goetz***

She is happily retiring! Her service and passion for students will be missed at Longfellow!



***Mrs. Nanfito***

She is taking her high energy to the Hastings Middle School to teach 7th grade English!





## End of Year Reading and Summer Reading Opportunities

During the first week of May, students will be partaking in the end of the year Acadience Reading Benchmark. The Acadience Reading Benchmark is completed three times a year. It helps us to track student progress in reading and personalize reading instruction for students. Our students and teachers work so hard throughout the year; it is always a great feeling for students and teachers to see the end of the year growth.

Over the summer, I encourage you to continue to read with your children. Set aside at least 15-25 minutes each day for reading. The Hastings Public Library is a great place to check-out new and different books. They also offer several free activities throughout the summer that can help foster a love of reading in your child. You can help set your child up for success in August by reading over the summer months.

-Kayla Perry, Longfellow Reading Specialist

## Summer Reading Challenge!

How many can you check off this summer?

### What to read

- Read a book about summer
- Read a book with red on the cover
- Read a comic book
- Listen to an audio book
- Read a fiction book
- Read a book with no pictures
- Read a non-fiction book
- Read poetry
- Read a book on the tablet
- Read a mystery
- Read a chapter book
- Read a joke book
- Read a how-to book
- Read song lyrics
- Read a book with yellow on the cover
- Read about animals
- Read your parents' favorite book from childhood

### Who to read to

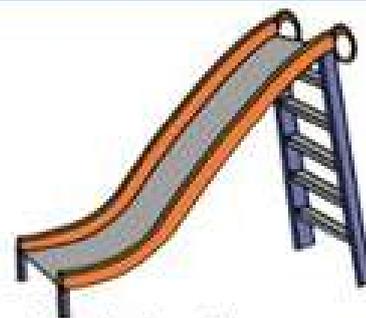
- Read to a stuffed animal
- Read to a grandparent
- Read with a friend
- Read to a sibling
- Read to a parent
- Read to a pet

### Where to read

- Read in a tent with a flashlight
- Read at the park
- Read in the car
- Read on a beach bag
- Read in the bathtub (no water!)
- Read at a coffee shop
- Read on a swing
- Read by the pond or lake
- Read at the library
- Read in your closet
- Read in bed
- Read outside
- Read on the trampoline
- Read under a tree



## Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide



Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the "summer slide" if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide-or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

**1** Visit your local library! Help your child find "right fit" books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.

**2** Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.

**3** Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.

**4** Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for different characters and increasing your volume during exciting parts are only a few ways to keep children engaged.

**5** Read with your child –explore different types of reading such as poetry. For our little ones, poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.

**6** Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.

**7** Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples improves vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of hopscotch or 4 square into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words. Be sure to check out the "8 Super Summer Sight Word Activities" on the Make, Take & Teach blog.

**8** If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can we prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate reading growth.

For more teaching ideas and activities be sure to visit our blog! [www.blog.maketaketeach.com](http://www.blog.maketaketeach.com)



## Additional Information

**Our last day of school is May 19th with a dismissal time of 1:15pm.★**

**Every Wednesday students will be dismissed at 2:30 pm.** Please make arrangements to have students picked up on time, as teachers will be participating in collaborative meetings.★

Breakfast starts at 7:30 am. Students should enter the building through door number 5 (south side on playground). Lunch and breakfast are free for students this school year. We still request that you fill out free and reduced lunch forms, as there are other benefits that families might experience by submitting this form. The form was mailed to families by the district office. If you need a new form, please call or stop by our office. Our phone number is 402-461-7584.

We ask that you bring your child to school on time. Every morning students line up at their "paws" on the playground. Staff members will begin morning supervision at 7:50 am. Please do not bring your students directly into the building.

Please provide a doctor's note every time your child stays at home sick.

A student handbook is available online or can be printed. Parents may request a paper copy. It is important to review this handbook with your child, so he/she is aware of school policies. Parents and students will sign the acknowledgement receipt that was sent in the mail to every student. If we haven't received a signed receipt, we will continue sending a form in your student's Wednesday folder. Please take time to read the handbook and sign the receipt with your student and return it to school.



Student Handbook QR

Teachers will communicate with parents via communication apps, such as ClassDojo or Remind. Principal's emails are sent to parents once a week. If you would like to receive important updates from school, please sign up for these emails by going to our website. The school newsletter is sent once a month. Our website will also help you stay informed about important events and information at Longfellow Elementary and Hastings Public Schools.

Parents are encouraged to take students out for lunch, instead of having lunch with them at school.

Parking is limited around Longfellow School. Please consider parking a block or two away and walk toward our building. We want to make sure that our children, staff, parents and community members feel safe at the drop off and pick up times. **Please do not park in the parking lot of the dental office across from Longfellow School or in the parking lot of Mary Lanning Hospital.**★

Breakfast and lunch menus can be found on our Longfellow page.  
<https://hastingspublicschools.org/schools/longfellow-elementary/>



<p><b>02</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Turkey &amp; Cheese Snackable</li> <li>* Chili Cheese Fritas</li> <li>* Crispy Chicken Sandwich</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Golden Corn</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>03</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Ham &amp; Cheese Deli Round</li> <li>* Hot Peppercorn Sub</li> <li>* Cheeseburger</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Sweet Potato Fries</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>04</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Asian Salad with Roasted Flatbread</li> <li>* Corn Dog</li> <li>* Chicken Ranch Pasta with Dinner Roll</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Pasta</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>05</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Turkey &amp; Cheese Deli Round</li> <li>* Home-style Tater Holdish with Cheese Roll</li> <li>* Chicken Nuggets</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Baked Beans</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>Rice Crispy Treat</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>06</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Nacho Snackable</li> <li>* Pepperoni Pizza</li> <li>* Pizza Hut Pizza at Alcott, Hawthorne, Lincoln</li> <li>* Ham &amp; Pasta Holdish with Dinner Roll</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Green Beans</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>
<p><b>09</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pizza Snackable</li> <li>* Original Beef Goulash with Breadstick</li> <li>* Stuffed Cheese Gyoza</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Golden Corn</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Grill Out and Chili Out @ Alcott</li> <li>* Ham &amp; Cheese Deli Round</li> <li>* Popcorn Chicken Bites</li> <li>* Southwest Pulled Pork Nachos</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Candied Carrots</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Grilled Chicken Salad with Roasted Flatbread</li> <li>* Super Nachos</li> <li>* Chicken Fried Rice</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Zesty Black Beans</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  1% Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Grill Out and Chili Out @ Watson</li> <li>* Turkey &amp; Cheese Deli Round</li> <li>* Mozzarella Boscio Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce</li> <li>* Honey Garlic Glazed Chicken over Rice</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Hash Brown Triangle</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pizza Hut Pizza at Longfellow &amp; Watson</li> <li>* PB&amp;J Snackable</li> <li>* Test Your Senses- Donut Cheeseburger</li> <li>* Cheese Pizza</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Green Beans</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pretzel Snackable</li> <li>* Italian Melt</li> <li>* Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Green Beans</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Grill Out and Chili Out @ Longfellow</li> <li>* Home-style Chicken &amp; Noodles w/ Dinner Roll</li> <li>* Country Fried Steak with Dinner Roll</li> <li>* Ham &amp; Cheese Deli Round</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Mashed Potatoes with Country Gravy</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Chef Salad with Roasted Flatbread</li> <li>* Beefy Taco in a Bag</li> <li>* Oven-Roasted Hot Dog</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Black Turtle Beans on Fruit &amp; Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>Peanut Butter Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Grill Out and Chili Out @ Lincoln</li> <li>* Grill Out and Chili Out @ Hawthorne</li> <li>* Turkey &amp; Cheese Deli Round</li> <li>* Crispy Chicken Sandwich</li> <li>* Ricot &amp; Gravy with Scrambled Eggs</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetables</b></p> <p>Golden Corn</p> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p>Fruit and Veggie Bar</p> <p><b>Milk</b></p> <p>1% Unflavored Milk                  Chocolate Skim Milk                  Skim Unflavored Milk                  Strawberry Skim Milk</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Entree</b></p> <p>Enjoy your summer break!</p>