

# Harding Elementary Newsletter

Spring 2023

## Message from the office:

Within this newsletter, you will find lots of information about upcoming events and dates to save on your calendar. Please take the opportunity to read the newsletter in its entirety.

I want to remind parents the importance of daily attendance for your student. At the elementary level students attendance is really a result of the parents commitment to ensure that they are at school daily. Please utilize scheduled days off and breaks to take trips. Set daily routines that encourage your child to be up and moving in a timely manner to arrive at school on time. The quote "miss a day, miss a lot" is so true! Most learning that occurs in the elementary is in the moment and done collaboratively in a hands on way. It is rare that classroom teachers would assign homework or have the ability to send work home that would replicate the learning that your student would receive in the classroom. Nine absences in a semester is a sign of chronic absenteeism. The policy that we try our best to implement to support awareness around absences and tardies:

-3 or more absences a level one attendance letter will be sent to families.

-5 or more absences a level two attendance letter will be sent to families.

-From there meetings between the school and family would be scheduled and could involve our juvenile court liaison, as well a mediator if necessary.

The goal of the school is for your child to attend school on a daily basis so that they have the best opportunity to be successful.

## Important Dates:

### March:

- **Spring Conferences:** 3/28 4:00-7:30 p.m. 3/30 1:00-7:30 p.m.
- **Early Dismissal** 3/30 12:15 p.m.

### April:

- **Harding Elementary Carnival & Book Fair!** 4/6 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- **No School for students (K-12)** Friday, 4/7
- **PTO Mtg.** 4/12 5:30 p.m. in Harding Rm. 113

- Kindergarten Music Program 4/20 6:00 p.m.
- Kick Off to Kindergarten Open House 4/27 6:00 p.m.

**May:**

- Fourth Grade Music Program 5/11 6:00 p.m.

## Read Across America Week!



### Culture Day!

Students had the opportunity to learn how to use chopsticks!



### Influential Athletes!

Author Coach Sloth spent the day with us! Students had a chance to hear him read a few of his books and participate in acting them out!

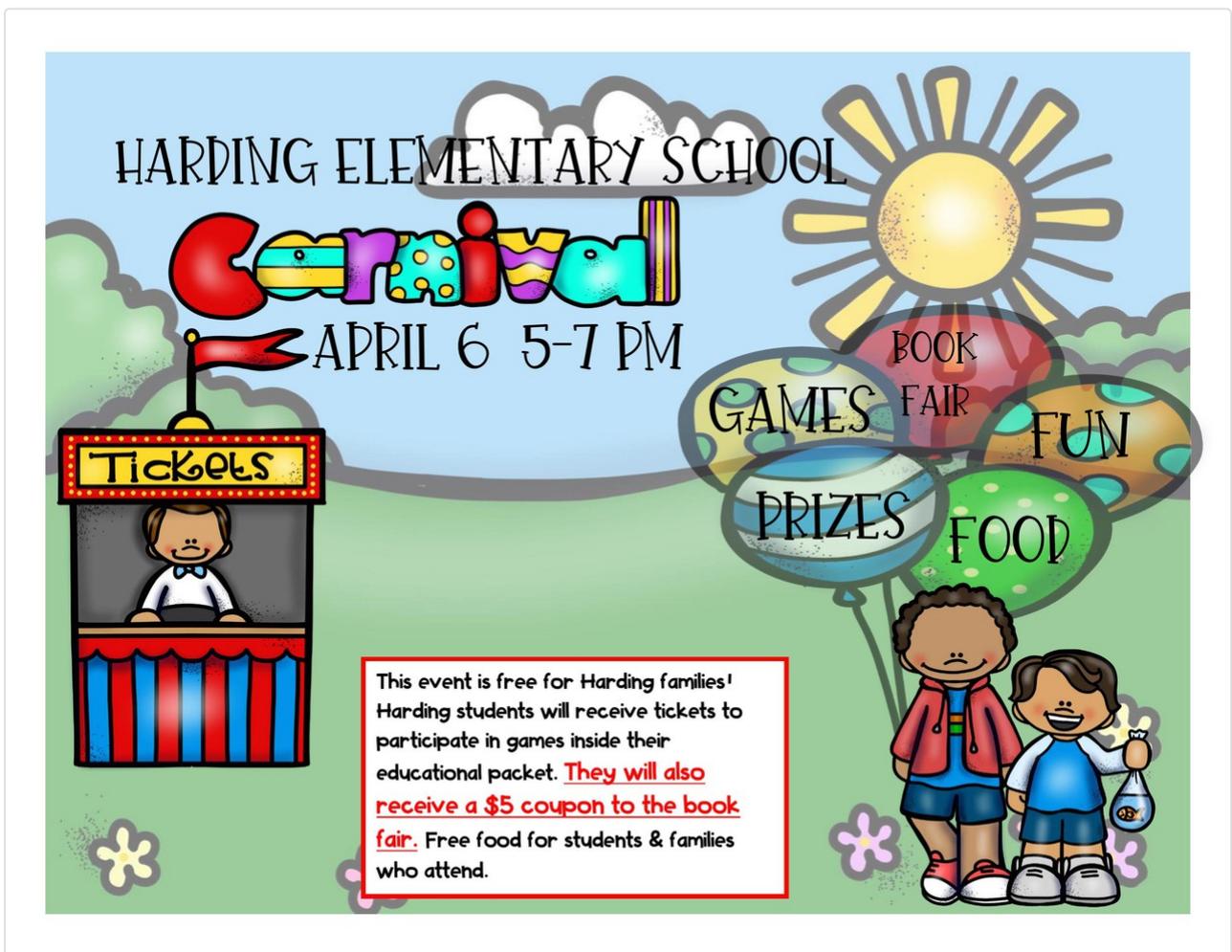


### Famous Americans!

We celebrated with red and blue snow cones and a photo booth!

**Little Riverhawk Preschool Sign Up**

**Harding Carnival! Mark your calendar!**



We are in need of parent volunteers to help make this carnival event successful! If you are willing to help with popcorn or work a carnival game from 5:00-6:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m. please email Mrs. Brunsvold at [bbrunsvold@masoncityschools.org](mailto:bbrunsvold@masoncityschools.org) or call the office at 641-421-4406!

Do you know a high school student looking for silver cord hours? Have the contact Harding Elementary to volunteer!

**Kindergarten Registration Information (Click Here!)**

**Upcoming Music Programs!**

**Kindergarten Music Program!**

Kindergarten is exploring the world of Eric Carle, author of books like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* and *10 Rubber Ducks*. We will be singing songs that go

along with his beloved story books!

The program is **Thursday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m.**



## 4th Grade Music Program!

Join the Fourth Grade on a world tour! We will be performing songs from Israel, Jamaica, Ireland, Japan, Canada and the USA. We will also have presentations of our country research projects and art work from 4th grade on display! This event begins **Thursday, May 11 at 5:15 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:00 p.m.**

## ISASP Assessments

Harding 3rd and 4th grade students will be taking the ISASP assessment (formerly the Iowa Test of Basic Skills) the week of April 17-21. It is important that students try their very best on these assessments. Support from home is extremely crucial for their success. A few helpful reminders:

- Ensure that your child gets a decent night's sleep and a good breakfast before taking the test.
- Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher and to read each question carefully.
- Make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Do not add to your child's stress.
- Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.
- We talk a lot about perseverance, encourage your child to not give up, try their best and work hard all the way to the end!

## Preschool Information

- **Conferences are schedule for March 29 & 30.** Please reach out to your child's teacher to get your conference scheduled.
- **There is no scheduled for preschool on Thursday, March 30.**
- **Harding Carnival 5:00-7:00 p.m.**
- **There is preschool scheduled for Friday, April 7**
- **Kick Off to Kindergarten Open House** (Held at your home building) 6:00-7:00 p.m. April 27

- **Last Day of Preschool:** May 23, 2023

## Kick off to Kindergarten Open House

### WHEN

**Thursday, April 27th, 6-7pm**

### WHERE

**1239 North Rhode Island Avenue  
Mason City, IA**

### MORE INFORMATION

Do you have a child that will be entering kindergarten in the fall 2023? Please come to our open house for a chance see the building, meet our staff and to pick up and drop off paperwork! Haven't registered yet? That's ok, we can help you get registered that night! Can't wait to meet the graduating class of 2036!

## Message from Mrs. Brunsvold:

I wanted to inform the students and families at Harding Elementary that I have made the difficult decision to not return to Harding Elementary next fall. I have accepted a new position outside of the Mason City school district.

Harding Elementary has been my home for the past ten years. The staff, students and families that pass through these halls are amazing! I feel honored and blessed to have had the opportunity to lead this school. I want the students here to never forget that they are kind, smart and important!

The district is working hard to find a quality candidate to be the next Harding Elementary Principal and will make that announcement sometime this spring once the position has been hired.

Sincerely,  
Brooke Brunsvold

