UNIT I

There are some important changes and additions in Unit I this semester. Our two new student teachers are Miss Debra DeLozier with Mrs. Finkelstein, and Miss Vicky O'Brien with Mrs. Burke.

The first fifteen minutes of each class is now being devoted to "Little Groups." During this time creative activities in reading and language arts geared to the abilities of the children in the group are presented. There are three groups, one taught by Miss DeLozier and Miss O'Brien, one taught by Mrs. Finkelstein, and one by Mrs. Burke. The children who work in reading with Mrs. McClain engage in activities directed by her at that time.

We are currently discussing winter. We certainly are getting plenty of cooperation from the outdoor temperature! Hopefully it will warm up enough sometime so we can have a "Play in the Snow Day" and also build snow sculptures with our 6th grade friends.

Three evening parent meetings are planned this semester. "Play-Its Characteristics and Importance" was the topic on February 8. The other dates and topics will be announced later. Hope to see you there!

UNIT II

The intinerary for Unit II students during the spring semester is very full and will take us to interesting places. Expanding our social studies units from "Family" and "Neighborhood," we will discover other cultures in the Southwestern United States and farther afield, to a non-western culture, Japan. We will concentrate on similarities within these cultures and more particularly, the Basic Needs of all.

Students should be using metric vocabulary soon. Science units of Distance, Volume, and Mass were introduced in January and will continue through February.

Because of the bitterly cold weather, we've been using the classroom for rhythms and movement, taking every opportunity to get some exercise and large motor activity.

UNIT III

After our Christmas break, we are settled into our regular routine. This nine weeks we have two student teachers: Miss Paulette Jacobsen, who is working with Mrs. Ewald; and Miss Beverly Robinson, who is working with Mrs. Smith. Welcome!
Unit III has been studying a social studies unit entitled “An Introduction to Maps and Globes.” Such terms as grid, coordinates, legend, rosette, and cardinal directions have become a part of our working vocabulary. And to those of you who shared family maps with us, thank you.

After a science unit relating to Sand, we will focus on Australia. Koala bears, eucalyptus trees, and Aborigines are just a few of the words you will probably hear at home! If you have any Australian items, or if you know any folks who might serve as resource persons, do let us know.

UNIT IV

During the second nine weeks the fifth graders of Unit IV were studying Iowa with a special emphasis on geography and economics. The main activities of the geography unit included making five maps which covered elevation, rivers, growing season, precipitation, and major cities.

The economics segment included the identification of Iowa’s industrial resources and an activity illustrating economic interdependence of people in an economic system.

Students in Unit IV completed a unit on family living. The materials, compiled by Mrs. Soy, included pamphlets, films, filmstrips, tape recordings, transparencies, books, and slides.

“Reproduction is the process by which living things produce new individuals like themselves. If a species did not reproduce it would disappear from the earth.” This basic idea was developed throughout the unit as the reproductive processes of many forms of animal life were studied and compared. This led to the study of reproduction in man and other mammals. Mrs. Soy and Mr. Christensen were the teachers involved in the program.

In an effort to keep parents informed, two meetings were scheduled where materials were available for review.

The program and materials are currently being evaluated for inclusion in the curriculum next year.

Student teachers working in Unit IV this nine weeks are Julia Messersmith, Connie Mohr, and Terry Travis.

UNIT V

Maps Show the Way: Consider a mapless world. How easy would it be to find Howard’s Hobby Shop, locate the Manager’s Office in College Square, or figure mileage to Newton? Try to find out which direction Iowa is from Peru, decide what time it is in Hawaii, or compare Iowa’s rainfall with Georgia’s without a globe, map or Atlas? Yes, maps make our lives easier and contain a wealth of information. However, they are worthless to people who have little experience with them.

Unit V teachers and student teachers will begin a unit designed to take advantage of their students’ wide range of skills, understandings, and experience with maps and globes. Students will use a variety of maps, projections, and media in activities designed to meet specific skill needs. This unit should help “show the way” to a fuller appreciation and reliance on maps.

Student teachers in Unit V this nine weeks are Janice Hartwig and Al Fritz.

UNIT VI

The Resource Program now has a room! Two offices were combined to create this new space which is located just off the hall that leads to the lunchroom. You are welcome to come visit us in our new location.

In addition to our regular subject areas of math and reading, the students have been practicing using correct spelling, punctuation, and letter formation in writing addresses. We should be all set for addressing cards for Valentine’s Day.

This semester we are fortunate to have two Phase II U.N.I. students working in the Resource Room. Each week Nancy Weisshaar will be with us two mornings and Elizabeth Webster will be here two afternoons.

Mrs. Deb Laneville is student teaching in Mr. Clausen’s room this semester and Mrs. Janee Boever has been assigned as a full-time teacher aide.
THE "COUNSELOR'S CORNER"

Children deal with conflict constantly, sometimes well, sometimes badly. Because conflict seems to be inevitable, there should be some emphasis on teaching skills which will enable children to find positive and workable methods for dealing with conflict. Fifteen 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are currently involved in small group sessions which are designed to explore the area of constructive conflict management. Through role playing, discussion and reading material, students will be exposed to a variety of alternatives for handling conflict, and will be given opportunities to practice different approaches which hopefully will lead to new understanding and satisfaction with regard to conflict resolution.

Take note! Another series of parent meetings will be starting the end of February--(Friday mornings, Feb. 25; March 4, 18, 25; April 1, 8, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.). These sessions deal with exploring effective methods of parenting through the use of logical consequences, encouragement and communication.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The indoor physical education program for all grades basically consists of two days of ball skills, one day of swimming, one day of apparatus work, and one day of either stunts and tumbling or rhythmic activities. Often the ball skills will involve low organization games.

The objective in ball skills is to develop all around ball-handling skills. Various kinds and sizes of balls are used as throwing, catching, and striking skills are practiced.

Several new mats and pieces of gymnastics equipment have been purchased this year, and this has enabled considerable expansion of this phase of our program.

National Physical Education and Sport Week will be held March 1-7. The physical education department is exploring possibilities for holding an Elementary School Physical Education Night during that week.

ART

Children in Art and Industrial Technology switched areas January 17th. Unit II will use many different ideas and materials including paper weaving, valentines and clay. Of special interest at third grade level of Unit III will be weaving a choice of mats or purses with a wide variety of yarns. Fifth grade of Unit IV will start soon with curved string stitchery and Unit V will do leather and junk 3-D collages.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

A BRIDGE OVER ROARING RIVER: The Unit V students will be involved in a new unit of study during the third nine weeks. This unit is an outgrowth of the new state guide for industrial arts. The new guide includes as one of the content organizers the study of industrial production. Production involves those portions of man's technology which deal with manufactured and constructed products.

In order to make elementary students aware of one phase of man's construction technology the Unit V students will design and construct model bridges. The scale will be one centimeter equals one meter (1-100) with our bridges being a maximum of twelve meters wide, eight meters high, and fifty meters long. The models will be weighed and then tested for strength in order to determine which designs have the best weight to strength ratio.

SPEECH & HEARING

All students in grades 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 were administered hearing screening tests prior to Christmas. Since that time, rechecks have been made and parents of students needing medical attention have been informed. If you have a child in any of these grades and were not contacted, you may assume that your child had normal hearing at the time of testing.

Similar hearing screening tests are administered to all new students soon after they enroll in the Laboratory School. If you ever have questions or are concerned about your child's hearing and/or speech, please contact Dr. Lois Potter, (273-2546).
A number of changes will be made in the summer school program this year. The two most significant changes will be the length of the summer session and the tuition charge.

In previous years, the summer program has operated for an eight-week session. This has posed problems for families who wanted their children to attend school, but also wanted to have time for a family vacation. This particular problem has been compounded in recent years with a trend toward starting summer school earlier in June and the regular school year the last week of August rather than after Labor Day. An eight week program in the summer has also made a rather large dent in the summer vacation for children. The program this summer will operate for six weeks, from June 13 to July 22. The effects of the six week session for both elementary students and the University teacher education program will be evaluated for its application in future years.

The second change will be a rather significant increase in the tuition charge assessed for the summer program. Tuition has remained at the same level ($24.00) for the past ten years, even though all other costs have increased greatly during this period of time. There have been minor adjustments in the room fee during this time, but I'm confident that you would agree that a half-day school program operating for eight weeks for a total charge of $32.00 (last year) has been the best educational bargain available! The exact tuition rate must be set by the Board of Regents at their meeting in February, and will be announced following that decision.

The Summer School brochure will be developed during the next few weeks and should be available about the middle of April.

Mid-year parent-teacher conferences are optional, and may be initiated upon request by either parents or teachers. If you would like a mid-year conference, please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements.

HOLA! The fourth grade Spanish classes have begun using the text Introducing Spanish. This text has no words, but students use the pictures to stimulate introduction of new words and dialogues which fit the pictures. We are also reviewing numbers now because we will be learning to tell time in Spanish.

In observance of the Christmas season, the fifth grade Spanish classes learned about the Mexican Christmas custom of "las Posadas." On the last day of classes before vacation began, the classes celebrated a "posada" with Spanish Christmas carols and a pinata. Since returning from vacation, the fifth graders have been learning how to describe the exteriors of their homes. Next we will move inside the house to learn the names of rooms and furniture and how to talk about activities which take place inside the home.

The sixth graders have been reading Spanish newspapers from Puerto Rico. It has been interesting to read about the possibility of Puerto Rico becoming our 51st state and to find out about the feelings of the Puerto Ricans on this subject. We are also comparing the format and contents of the Spanish newspapers with ours in Cedar Falls and Waterloo.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Elementary Orchestra will perform at Valley Park School in Cedar Falls</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Elementary Physical Education Demonstration at 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>March 5-13</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK--NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Conferences--NO ELEMENTARY CLASSES</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Conferences--NO SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Good Friday Recess--NO SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Beginning Reading Conference--NO ELEMENTARY CLASSES</td>
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