

ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY

FALCON FAMILY COMMUNITY MEETING

Nov 11, 2024

6:30 pm

Alexander Library

WELCOME! REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

<p>Welcome! (5 minutes)</p>	<p><i>Tables Introduce Yourselves!</i></p> <p>In Attendance: Mrs. Thompson, ELL Team, Ms Coatar, Colbin E., Ms Madden, Ariane R., Sara K., Lindsay S., Francis N., Solange, M., Cecilia M., Kadi D., Michelle G., Sonia M., Ms Hansen, Norma P., Edgar S. Halyna V., Darilin F.,Sindy G., Milton G., Helene K., Mayte F.,</p>
<p>Principal's Report (5 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Katie Thompson, <i>Principal</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are so proud of raising almost \$5000 for our school with the Read A Thon! Thank you all for participating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We use that money to support our teachers, pay for field trips or buses, supplies for learning. It's truly amazing! ○ We celebrated the success of that with a silly string assembly. It was very fun! ● On Friday we had our Fall Festival, which is another Falcon Family event to raise money to support the PTO's mission of helping support the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This week and next week we have parent/teacher conferences. ○ We try to get every family to come in person, on Zoom, or call. Our goal is 100%.
<p>Teacher-Speakers*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome to ELL Night! <p>We will hear from the ELL Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emma Schroder ○ Julie Hansen ○ Will Dehogues ○ Maddie Sadecky ○ Gwen Neal ○ Susan O'Dell <p>ELL = English Language Learning Multilingual Snapshot on iowacityschools.org See Full Notes at end of Document</p>

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PTO UPDATE & DISCUSSION

Topic	Things to consider/Questions
Quick PTO Updates: (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● alexander.iowacityschools.org/pto (Meeting Minutes) ● Treasurer's Report - <i>balance</i>: \$7,122.77. Recent transactions: -\$575.00 to renew tax-exempt status. Prior +4,463.95 from the Read-a-thon!! (Fall Fest pending) ● Districtwide Parents Organization www.iowacityschools.org/dpo Ariane Rhone. Next meeting is Wed, 11/13, 6:30 at Liberty High
Fall Fest Last Friday, 11/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We hope everyone had a great time! ● Questions and/or Feedback are Appreciated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post the closing time on the Silent Auction on the table prominently next to the silent auction items. ● Difficult to hear announcements over the intercom

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent-Teacher Conferences Wed, Nov 13 Wed, Nov 20 Fri, Nov 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Meals will be purchased for 11/13 ● On 11/20, PTO will organize a Taco/Taco Salad Bar Potluck. Watch for Sign Up or email us! 	
Book Fair Wed, Nov. 20th Thurs, Nov. 21st Fri, Nov. 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteers Needed! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wed 11/20 3:00 - 6:00 ○ Thurs 11/21 2:15 - 5:30 ○ Fri 11/22 8:15 - 3:00 ● Sign up through email or Sign Up Genius, or talk to Librarian Annie Coatar 	

Next Business Meeting: 12/9/24 6:30PM (Zoom) <https://iowacityschools-org.zoom.us/j/97053526532>

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Notes from ELL Presentation (Transcribed by Ariane R. and Colbin E. and summarized with the assistance of ChatGPT)

Summary of English Language Learning (ELL) Presentation

What is ELL?

ELL stands for *English Language Learning*.

Testing for ELL:

The assessment used to evaluate English proficiency is the *ELPA* (English Language Proficiency Assessment). This test, administered in February and March, evaluates students in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Parents receive the scores at the end of the school year. These scores help determine if a student is ready to exit the ELL program (you may hear this referred to as "proficient in English"). Other factors considered include classroom performance and reading/writing levels.

Students who complete the ELL screening are categorized into one of four groups:

- ELL
- Former EL
- Monitored EL
- Did Not Qualify (for students already proficient in English)

All ELL teachers are required to complete coursework for ELL certification.

ELL in ICCSD (Iowa City Community School District):

- There are 2,157 ELL students in the district, representing 71 different language backgrounds.
- Alexander Elementary has the highest percentage of ELL students in the district (33%).
- The district employs 93 ELL teachers (62 in elementary schools, 15 in middle schools, and 15 in high schools).
- The most common home languages are Spanish, Arabic, French, and Swahili, with over 99 countries represented.

ELL at Alexander Elementary:

- Approximately 145 ELL students attend Alexander.
- ELL instruction occurs daily for 30–40 minutes, grouped by grade level for grades 3–8.
- Newcomer students meet for 60 minutes daily in smaller groups of 1–4.
- Teachers collaborate with classroom teachers to ensure ELL students don't miss core classroom content. They also work to get to know each student individually to provide tailored support.

Materials and Resources:

- Instruction is guided by English Language Standards, with materials selected based on grade level and whether students are new to the U.S.
- A computer-based software program is available for students who need additional support.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

- Conferences are held twice a year, in fall and spring. These meetings include the classroom teacher, ELL teacher, and parents/guardians to discuss student progress, successes, and any concerns.
- The school can assist parents in signing up for conferences.

Interpretation Services:

AlexanderelementaryPTO@gmail.com

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- The district offers free interpretation services for many languages.
 - Our office staff – Melissa and Oscar– can help arrange for interpreters—simply call the school and specify the needed language.
- For conferences, in-person interpreters are available. Additionally, a phone service called *Language Line* can provide interpretation support.

These services ensure that families can communicate effectively in their preferred language.