A Message from Dr. Lau

The end of our first trimester is at hand. That means that within a few days you will be able to review your child’s report card. There are a few important changes to the report card and the process by which you will receive the report cards. The first change is that all report cards will be available online this year. This means we will no longer be sending paper copies of the report cards home. You will be able to access the report cards online through your child’s Power School account. You will be receiving information on how to access the report cards when they become available. If you have trouble opening the report card, please contact the school office and we will be able to assist you in opening the document.

The second change will be the format of the report card. The report card has a new and improved look. We have also added areas for specific comments related to each academic area. One thing that did not change is that the report card remains a standards-based report card. This means that you will note specific standards, or skills, that were taught and practiced during the trimester. For each standard that was presented during the trimester, there will be a corresponding grade.

We hope that these changes make the report card more user friendly and provide you good information about the growth of your child. Student growth is at the core of this report card and all of the assessments your child experiences at school. As a former elementary parent, I liked to see the grades that said my daughters were meeting or exceeding the expectation for the trimester. Meeting and exceeding expectations is great. As a parent I took it as a sign I was doing a good job raising my daughters. But the grades I was most proud of were the ones that started with beginning or developing and ended with meeting or exceeds. That meant that they had worked hard and actually learned new skills. I think those were also the grades they were most proud of as well. It meant that they knew they worked hard. When you receive the report card, celebrate your child’s hard work and growth. Think about it like riding a bike. You start with training wheels; you are at the beginning stage. Then the wheels are removed and you ride with someone running beside you (the developing stage). Then finally, you are able to ride on your own. This is the secure stage. Learning in school is no different. It’s a progression and a journey. Enjoy that journey because that is where the joy for becoming a lifelong learner lives.

Have a joyous and wonderful December!
Dr. Lau
Winter Break – No School

December 24 – January 1

See you back on Wednesday, January 2

Parking Reminders

Over the past few weeks the office has received multiple complaints regarding the traffic in the front parking lot at dismissal. The complaints have included cars not parking in the right spots, cars stopping in the wrong spots, and inattentive driving while children are crossing the parking lot.

We thank you for being patient and following safe driving behaviors at dismissal. We believe that when everyone is patient, the parking lot is cleared within 10 minutes. The safety of our children is more important than the convenience of being the first out of the parking lot.

Other Reminders

• Please notify the office of any changes in address, phone or emergency contacts as soon as possible.
• Please remember to send notes or instruct your children about how they are getting home at the end of the day.
• Please stand to the side of the front walk when waiting for your child after school.
• Attendance is the key to academic success!

Cold Weather Is Here

• With the winter months here, please make sure that your child comes to school with the appropriate outside clothing. Outdoor recess will be held when temperatures or wind chill temperatures are 0 or above. Remind your child to wear boots, hats, gloves and mittens and snow pants this winter!

• Please remember to listen to local radio or television stations for school delays, early closing and cancellations. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency. Calling school hinders our efforts to communicate the news effectively. Parents are asked to have alternate plans for their children’s supervision and care in the event school is closed early due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Remember that busses may run late when the roads are in poor condition.

• A medical excuse is required in order for your child to spend recess inside.
District Resident Request for School Transfer
Policy #5007

Requests to transfer schools within the West De Pere School District for the 2019-20 school year are due by January 31, 2019.

- Only written requests shall be considered.
- Requests by district residents for school transfer shall be accepted during the month of January. Requests received after the January 31, 2019 deadline will only be considered if space allows.
- Applicants should submit their written request by completing the District Resident Request for School Transfer Form, available from the office or online at www.wdpsd.com.
- Written requests should be submitted to the Westwood office.
- Final decisions shall be made by building Principals.
- Parents and guardians have the right to appeal to the District Office regarding decisions.

The complete policy can be found online at www.wdpsd.com (Policy #5007).

Spelling Bee

This year students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Representatives from each classroom will compete in their grade level competition. Two finalists from each grade level will then compete with Hemlock Creek and students in grades 6 - 8 at the Middle School on January 18 to determine one finalist to move forward representing West De Pere.

Lost & Found

Please be sure to label your child’s clothing and other possessions. This makes it so much easier to return lost items to their rightful owner. Please encourage your student to take a look at the many items already in our Lost and Found. They may be surprised to find something that belongs to them!

Remember...
Report Card information will be e-mailed on Tuesday, December 11.

Adopt-a-Family

Westwood’s Student Council will once again be sponsoring families for the annual Adopt-a-Family holiday drive. To purchase a gift for one of our "adopted" families, please visit the Westwood page at www.wdpsd.com. Click on Westwood School, then Students, then Student Council. There you will find links to five Westwood families we are sponsoring. Gifts must be returned UNWRAPPED to school by Friday, December 14, 2018. When returning a gift to school, please include the family name (color.) Student Council thanks you for your generosity this holiday season!
Westwood Breakfast Program

Mornings can be very hectic...the alarm doesn’t go off...the kids don’t want to get up...there’s no time to eat breakfast before the bus comes...or the kids are just not ready to eat. If this sounds like some days at your house, we have good news for you! We offer BREAKFAST to students in grades K-5. Breakfast will be served daily from 8:00 - 8:25am. Students who want to have breakfast will be invited to enter the building as they arrive to school and go to the cafeteria for a nutritious start to their day. When finished, they will be able to go outside until the bell rings at 8:25am. Cost is $1.70 per day. If you qualify for free and reduced price meals, you also qualify for the breakfast program, with no additional paperwork.

Concerts for the 2018-198 School Year:

All concerts take place in the Westwood Elementary Gymnasium

Kindergarten "Holiday Program" - Friday, December 14, 2018 at 1:30 pm *Doors open at 1:10pm as classes are still going on in the gym.

Fifth Grade Band and Choir December Concert - Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm *Please have students here AT 6:15pm to put together their instrument or warm up their voices.

First Grade "Music Around the World" - Friday, January 18, 2019 at 12:30 pm  Doors open at 12:15pm

ALL Fifth Grade Singing and Percussion Concert - Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 9:45am. Doors open at 9:30am as classes are still going on in the gym.

Second Grade Concert - Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 10:45 am *Doors open at 10:30am as classes are still going on in the gym.

Fourth Grade Concert – Friday, May 3, 2019 at 9:00. Doors open at 8:45

Third Grade “I NEED a Vacation” concert - Friday, May 10, 2019 at 10:45 am *Doors open at 10:30am as classes are still going on in the gym. Students will sing fun songs about family road trips, baseball games, summer camp, and amusement parks.

Fifth Grade Band and Choir "Spring and Musical Theatre Program" - Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm *Please have students here AT 6:15pm to put together their instrument or warm up their voices.

Westwood Family Book Club - Charlotte’s Web

Thank you to the over 160 families that participated in our Westwood Family Book Club this fall! Families read the book Charlotte’s Web together and celebrated with the movie at the De Pere Cinema!

Hour of Code Week - December 3-7th:

We live in a world surrounded by technology, and every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path. During the week of December 3-7, Westwood students will have the opportunity to participate in a computer programming activity. For more information about Hour of Code, visit this website https://hourofcode.com/us. If your child is interested in coding and would like to try it at home, the library website has resources as well - https://goo.gl/B2N2Ma

PTO Meeting

Ms. Zurawski will be joining the PTO meeting on December 4th! She will be sharing different learning tools that would great make holiday gifts! If you want to learn more about Beebots, the Dash robot, Spheros, virtual reality, and more...don’t miss this meeting! A list of book resources will also be shared with you! The gift of reading is the best gift!

For more district library updates, follow the Westwood Library Instagram page at https://www.instagram.com/wwlibrary.
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4 Year Old Kindergarten Registration

Thursday, February 21st from 4:30-7:30pm
Registration will be held at the Phantom Knight School of Opportunity

The School District of West De Pere has scheduled a Four-Year-Old Kindergarten registration date for children who would be four years of age before September 1, 2019, and are planning to attend Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in the fall of 2019. Registration will take place on Thursday, February 21st from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The registration will be held at the Phantom Knight School of Opportunity. The address is 400 Reid St, and it is located on the second floor of the building. For registration, you need to bring your child’s birth certificate, their immunization record, and proof of residency such as a utility bill or lease agreement. This is an open-house style registration and being early has no influence on the section or session of 4K your child will have. If you have any questions concerning registration, please call Westwood Elementary at 337-1087 ext. 1322, Hemlock Creek Elementary at 425-1900 ext. 3320, or Scott Marsden, 4K Director at 337-1087 ext. 1323.

Our 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program is half days, five days a week. Depending on space availability at each site, children may be served at a location (either school or partnering child care facility) outside of their home school attendance area. If this occurs, transportation will be provided. Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is a voluntary program and no child will be required to attend. The 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program is developmentally appropriate and may include but is not limited to: readiness skills, language development, social development, emotional development, physical development, and self-help skills.

If you are not enrolled in our 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program, parents with children of kindergarten age (5 years old) will be contacted via our school census report. If you are new to the area and have not completed a census form, please contact the district office at 337-1393 ext. 8010 to have your child counted on the school census. If you know a neighbor with small children, please share this information with them.

5 Year Old Kindergarten Registration

If you are not enrolled in our 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program, parents with children of kindergarten age (5 years old) will be contacted via our school census report. If you are new to the area and have not completed a census form, please contact the district office at 337-1393 ext. 8010 to have your child counted on the school census. If you know a neighbor with small children, please share this information with them.

Student Fees 2018-19

We are still collecting student fees for all students (4K-5) whose parents have not paid, or have not received an approved fee waiver. Please make checks payable to West De Pere School District or you can now pay your fees on line at: http://www.wdpsd.com/SchoolPay.cfm. Thank you.

TWITTER: Follow us at www.twitter.com/WDPWestwood

What is Twitter? - Twitter is a FREE social networking and micro-blogging service that enables users to send and read messages known as "tweets."

Why should I follow? - The Westwood Elementary Twitter account will be providing updates about school closings, PTO meetings, school events, and much more!!!

Getting Started! - Go to www.twitter.com and create an account! Then, just go to WDPWestwood and follow us! If you do not wish to create an account, you can still follow us at the web address listed above!

Westwood Mission Statement

Home, School, Community working together will create a quality educational program for our children. We strive to create a learning environment that is safe, challenging and supportive. Together we empower our students to develop sound academic skills, positive self-esteem, and personal responsibility. In this way we prepare them to become meaningful members of society.