



West's Weekly

MARCH 1, 2017

Wednesday Newsletter

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Read Across America Week

Reminder...Our celebration culminates with **Pajama Day** on **Thursday, March 2** and **Family Reading Night** that evening, from **5:30 PM to 7 PM**. We are asking for families/classes to donate fruits and toppings for the IHOP pancake bar:

- Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 – blueberries
- Kindergarten and First Grade – strawberries
- Second and Third grades – bananas
- Fourth through Eighth grades – whipped cream or chocolate chips

Also, our Drop Everything and Read-a-thon pledges and forms are due on Thursday. Online pledges may be made at www.westschool.org/fundraisers.

Money raised will be used to purchase much-needed books and technology enhancements for our school library. We appreciate all your support this week!

Parent-Teacher Meetings

The last day for Parent-Teacher conferences is **Friday, March 3. There is no school for students on this day.**

Parent Meeting for "Wiz" Cast Members

All parents of students cast in our school production of *The Wiz/Wizard of Oz* are asked to attend a meeting on **Saturday, March 4** at **10 AM** in the Learning Center to discuss expectations and rehearsals for the play.

(continued)

Summer Options for Students

From Ms. Pender...

It's unbelievable that we have fewer than 80 days of school left! (But who's counting, right?) This means that many of us already are starting to plan our summer activities. While making plans, you may want to consider including summer camps. Camp can be one of the most rewarding and unforgettable experiences in a child's life. It can provide great learning opportunities, by allowing children to:

1. Try new things. Camp pushes children out of their comfort zones and exposes them to new activities and experiences with which they may not be familiar. By exploring various types of activities, children have a greater chance of finding something at which they excel or that makes them happy.

2. Develop social skills. Camp teaches children to communicate, to work together as part of a team and to be a leader.

3. Face challenges and learn the value of hard work. Because they feel safe at camp, youngsters are comfortable taking healthy risks, setting personal goals and realizing their dreams.

4. Build character. In addition to making new friends, campers also develop an appreciation for the qualities required to cultivate and strengthen these relationships.

5. Foster independence. At camp, children learn the responsibility of making their own decisions with the safety net of insightful counselors and staff in a safe environment. The camp environment provides peer support that allows children to overcome quickly their need for constant parental dependency. *(continued)*



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Summer Camp Resources

The cost of summer camps can be expensive. However, many camps are income sensitive, with sliding rates based upon the number of children that you enroll. Also, many camps offer scholarships, but in most cases, you must ask about them. **Summer camps usually start taking applications for scholarships in January or February.** Be aware that the best camps usually fill up fast. So, when you find that special camp, go ahead and put your name on the list to hold your spot.

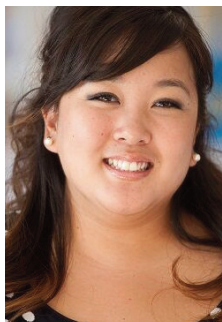
As you search for summer camps, do not forget to contact your neighborhood rec centers, public libraries and churches. Many local churches give scholarships for community-based summer camps. Below are links that have lists of summer camps with detailed information in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area:

- www.dpr.dc.gov/service/kids-camps-co-op
- www.kidscamps.com/summer_camps/washington_dc-summer-camps.html
- www.dcsummercamps.org/
- www.thebestcamps.com/best-washington-dc-camps.html
- www.bestspecialneedscamps.com/best-washington-dc-special-needs-camps.html*
- <https://smithsonianassociates.org/camp/>

* A list of camps specifically tailored for students with special needs

Message from Principal Vroman

I hope you've been enjoying the warmer weather! Can you believe it's March? This school year is flying by. But, March is a long month, and we are determined to make it a joyful one. To that end, we are excited to launch our own version of a "March Madness" bracket to create some healthy and friendly competition between classes and to reward and recognize our scholars' behavior, academic achievements and work habits. Stay tuned for details.



In addition, in Grades 3 through 8, we are piloting a new small-group enrichment and intervention structure called **Boost Block**. This means that we are assigning extra staff to support small-group instruction in both ELA and math for these grade levels. For Grades 4 and 5, Boost Block will take place from 8:30 AM to 9:15 AM, so we are strongly encouraging scholars in this grade block to arrive to school promptly at 8:30 AM—the very beginning of our arrival window. I will be teaching Fifth Grade math for Boost Block, and I am thrilled to spend more time with our Fifth Graders. However, teaching Boost Block means that I won't be at the front door greeting each day. While I will miss my morning time with all our scholars, I am very excited to support math instruction in the morning.

Congratulations to those who have been cast!

Dorothy—

Nicole Ramirez
(4th Grade),

Laetitia Bani Gueti
(4th Grade)

Scarecrow—

Avontae (3rd Grade),

Kirsten Browner (3rd Grade)

Tin Man—Jason Roberts (2nd Grade)

Lion—Darren Gillespie (2nd Grade)

The Royal Gate Keeper—Marshall Platt (5th)

The Wiz—Eldad Berhanu (5th Grade)

Evilene, the Wicked Witch of the West—

Taylor Harvey (6th Grade), Jaylin Russ (4th),
Janeice Silver (4th Grade)

Evilene's Messenger—Delasia Millhouse,
Myelle Porter, Kennedy Winkler

Lord High Underling—Autumn Winkler

Adapearl, the Witch of Munchkin Land—

Viyah Spence Plater, Victoria Evans

Glenda, the Good Witch—Lauren Bani Gueti
(2nd Grade), Janyce Holder

Aunt Em—Ms. Cleveland, Ms. Ballou

The Wiz's Secretary—Iyauna Ferrell
(2nd Grade), Janeice Silver (4th Grade)

Chim, the Head Flying Monkey—

Campbell Tiller (3rd Grade),
Matthew Mehr (2nd Grade)



Also...Auditions for Pre-K through

First Grade speaking parts will be held on Wednesday, March 15, during school hours.

Audition materials will be given to those teachers.

Important Dates to Remember...

- **March 3**—No school for students
- **March 16**—Chat-n-Chew with Principal Vroman (5 PM), followed by our monthly PSCO Meeting (6 PM)
- **March 31**—End of Term/No school