

West's Weekly MAY 3, 2017 Wednesday Newsletter

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Message from Principal Vroman...

I hope everyone had a restful break. I had the privilege of taking a group of our Eighth Grade scholars to Paris



and Barcelona. Having lived abroad and taken numerous groups of students abroad, I know the experience of being immersed in a new culture is something that will affect scholars for the rest of their lives. We enjoyed visiting the Palace of Versailles, the Louvre, the Picasso and Dali museums, and much more. Students practiced their Spanish and made new friends with others who were on the tour with us. (View photos from our trip at www.westschool.org/news-and-events.)

With only six weeks left of school, we have a busy time ahead of us. We are in re-enrollment season, as well as PARCC and end-of-year testing, and lots of student and family activities. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and we hope you will join us in celebrating our phenomenal group of teachers who do so much for our school community. Personal notes are encouraged. You also can take photos with the "I [Heart] My DCPS Teacher" sign found at www.westschool.org.

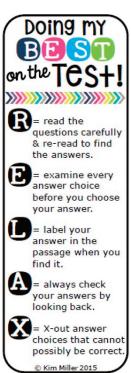
Thank you, again, for your partnership and trust. We look forward to a wonderful last two months of the 2016-2017 school year!

PARCC Testing Has Begun

PARCC testing began last week for our students in Third Grade through Eighth Grade and will continue through May 26. The PARCC test is a way to measure how much our students have learned this year, and it is important that the test be taken seriously. However, we know that there are many other measures of success and growth than what can be determined from a single test. We are very proud of all our West scholars and how much they have grown!

During this testing period, it is important to encourage your child. Here are some tips to help:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before a test.
- Arrive at school early or on time. All testing occurs in the morning, so it is very important that your child is ON TIME.
- Wish your child good luck each morning, and tell your child that you believe in him or her.
- Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher and to read the directions and each question carefully.
- Explain the importance of using time wisely.
 If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
- If your child is disappointed after taking a test, then reassure him or her that there will be plenty of opportunities to improve and succeed.



If your child is not in a grade that is undergoing testing right now, there are ways you can support those who are. In particular, having all students report to school on time can minimize distractions resulting from tardy arrivals.

Please reach out to your child's teacher for any concerns or questions (such as, knowing on which days your child will test) that you may have about PARCC.

Check out the PARCC practice tests at https://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/.









Re-enrollment for 2017-2018

Stop by the Main Office between 8 AM and 4 PM on school days to re-enroll your child or children for the 2017-2018 school year. Bring proof of residency with you, such as a driver's license, automobile registration or a pay stub.

Registration forms may be downloaded from www.westschool.org in advance.

Please note: Aftercare enrollment opened on May 1. School-year enrollment must be completed before you can enroll your child in aftercare. **Contact our registrar, Mr. Pinkard, at (202) 576-6226 with questions.**

FanCloth...Sale Extended!

The FanCloth sale of West spirit gear has been extended to **Friday, May 19.**We need at least 39 items to place an order. We are almost there...we just need about 15 more items. **Please see Ms. Sears in the Main Office to place an order.**

Calling all Munchkins! Saturday, May 6 • 2:30 PM

The West artistic community is getting ready to "ease on down the road" on May 12 and May 13! But first, we will add our Pre-K3 through First Grade scholars into the cast. If your child wants to participate as a Munchkin or Citizen of Oz, then please attend our special rehearsal this coming weekend. Students must be able to participate in all three performances. We are excited about this wonderful opportunity and appreciate all the support from our school community.

PSCO Elections Tuesday, May 9 • 6 PM

Don't miss our final Parent, Staff and Community Organization (PSCO) meeting of the 2016-2017 school year! We will meet at Las Placitas, 4724 14th Street NW, for great food and the election of officers. Children and newly admitted families are welcome! Childcare will be available. View our slate of candidates at www.westschool.org/executive-board.

Super Schoolwide Spring Dance Wednesday, May 17 • 5:30 PM to 7:30 PMCalling all West super-scholars and families to assemble and report for dance duty!

Charge: \$5 for dinner, DJ and fun activities.

Important Dates to Remember Thursday, May 11 • 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Final dress rehearsal for "Wiz" cast

Thursday. May 18 • 12:15 pm dismissal

Professional Development Day

Friday, May 19 • No school for students

Parent-Teacher Conference Day

Monday, May 22 • 6 PM

Chat'n Chew with Principal Vroman

Monday, May 29 • No school for students

Memorial Day