



# West's Weekly APRIL 12, 2017

## Wednesday Newsletter

WEST EDUCATION CAMPUS • (202) 576-6226 • WWW.WESTSCHOOL.ORG

### Re-enrollment for 2017-2018

Enrollment season has begun at West! Stop by the Main Office between 8 AM and 4 PM on school days to re-enroll your scholars for the 2017-2018 school year. Please bring proof of residency with you, such as a driver's license, automobile registration or a pay stub. Forms may be downloaded from the school website, if you would like to pre-fill the forms before coming in.

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

### April PSCO Meeting

Please join us this **Thursday, April 13,** at **6 PM** for our monthly PSCO meeting.

We will be discussing plans for the spring dance, Teacher Appreciation Week, officer elections and more.

### Flag Football for Grades K-2

We will be offering afterschool flag football for boys and girls in Kindergarten through Second Grade, starting the week after spring break. **Sessions will meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, April 26 through June 7. Fee is \$95 per student. Register at [www.flagstarfootball.com/west](http://www.flagstarfootball.com/west).** Scholarship money is available for students in need. Contact Ms. Sears in the Main Office for more information. ([kathleen.sears@dc.gov](mailto:kathleen.sears@dc.gov))



*Building animal houses together*

care of pets, what pets and other animals eat, and how pets make us feel. We will be wrapping up our study in the next few weeks with a gallery and celebration of learning. Please feel free to stop by to see what we have learned!

### Lions and Tigers, as Pets...Oh, My!

The students in Ms. Schooler's and Ms. Smith's Pre-K3 class have been hard at work learning about pets and animals. Our study began from a natural curiosity about the pets and animals we saw during our community walk and on the playground. We began with the question, "What animals make good pets?" From there we talked about where pets and other animals live, how to take

### Healthy Choices, Healthy Living

In Ms. Bocar's Pre-K3 class, students have started a new unit about exercise. We have been reading books, such as *The Happiest Tree: A Yoga Story* and *We Go on a Safari*, that discuss the importance of exercising. The dramatic play area has been transformed into an exercise gym, where students get to use balls, scarfs, ribbons and hula hoops to explore exercising. We also have posted yoga cards to demonstrate different ways we can stretch and relax. Soon, each student will have the opportunity to come up with his or her very own yoga pose! As we discuss healthy living, students also have been learning about the differences between healthy and unhealthy foods. Hands-on activities have included smoothie-making and making our own recipe books.



*Fun times in our exercise gym*



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## E-Learning at West

West families, grab your learning passports and creative caps! We are thrilled to introduce you to two online platforms that are taking our students on adventures around the world and providing them with new ways to express themselves. Both programs extend and reinforce skills our scholars are learning at school, and both programs can be used at home in a browser on Windows, Mac and Chromebooks, as well as through an app on iPads and Android tablets.

### **LEXIA CORE 5: <http://www.lexialearning.com/products/core5>**

Lexia addresses core areas of literacy development, including phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension and fluency. All students have their own personal Lexia account, and the program adjusts its level of difficulty to a student's individual success at mastering the skills presented.

Instruction through Lexia is different from regular classroom instruction in that it allows students to work independently first. But, when a student reaches a point in the lesson where he or she cannot move on, the teacher receives an alert, and the student is given independent work to support the development of this skill through activities called Skill Builders. If a student continues to need support, the teacher is alerted again, and he or she works with the child in a small group with targeted instruction to strengthen the skill.

Lexia engages and motivates students in a game-like environment that makes learning more fun. Each level of the program unlocks a new, exciting setting (such as a Japanese Garden, the Great Barrier Reef or the Swiss Alps) and introduces new characters that are representative of each region. Each time a student moves to a new level, he or she receives a certificate listing what skills were accomplished and offers suggestions for what families can do at home. At this week's community circle, we awarded more than 65 certificates to our Lexia Superstars!

### **WIXIE: <http://www.wixie.com>**

Wixie is a publishing and creativity platform that enables students to share what they are learning through art, graphics, writing and their own recorded voices, making it an ideal canvas for our digital-savvy scholars! Ms. Coles' Third Graders recently completed their first Wixie projects with the theme, "Kids Who Make a Difference." Each student selected a nonfiction story about an extraordinary child and transferred his or her learning from the reading into his or her own Wixie project and presented it to the class.

Everything created in Wixie is stored in the cloud and can be shared by sending URLs in an email.



## What Do Our Scholars THINK?

### **From our Second Graders:**

"I'm learning with Lexia, and I'm getting smarter. I just passed levels 3 and 4!"

"With Lexia, I'm starting to find out which words go with actions and which words go with things."

"In Lexia, I'm working on spelling rules, syllable division, and [letter sounds like] hard and soft C and G. I like Lexia because once you finish and pass the level, they congratulate you!"

### **From our Third Graders:**

"Wixie is a fun app. You can design and be as creative as you want; you can experiment and create your own projects!"

"What I like about Wixie is that you can create your own projects, and other people can learn about it, too!"

"I like Wixie because you can give details about your project, and you can write a story!"

## Spring Break Reminder

There will be no classes next week **(April 17 through 21)**. Enjoy the break! We look forward to seeing you on **Monday, April 24.**