



West's Weekly

APRIL 5, 2017

Wednesday Newsletter

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Report Cards/Honors Assemblies

Believe it or not, our final academic term of the school year began this week! **Report cards for Term 3 will be mailed home this Friday, April 7.** Please reach out to your scholar's teacher if you don't receive a copy by April 14. Also, all families are invited to join us in celebrating our scholars' hard work during Term 3. Honors assemblies will be held on **Monday, April 10 at 9 AM** for Pre-K3/Pre-K4 and Kindergarten through Fifth Grade **and at 2:30 PM** for Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade.



Image by Jasmine Aguila, Eighth Grade

Help Us Grow Our West Family!

April launches our enrollment season. We are looking for volunteers to assist at **Admitted Families Day on Tuesday, April 11 at 9 AM.** Help us greet new families and show them what a great place West is for learning! Please email Principal Vroman if you can help. (Megan.Vroman@dc.gov)

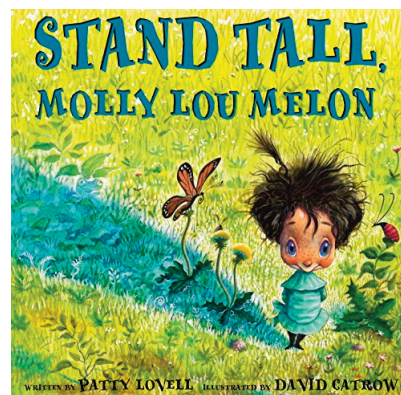
Positive Self Talk

A message from our student support team—

Mrs. Paige (School Counselor), Mrs. Sartin (School Social Worker) and Mrs. Jefferson (School Psychologist)...

In this day and age, there are so many negative messages that our children internalize without us realizing it. Advertisements and social media often create negative thought patterns that result in our children doubting themselves. It is our job as teachers and parents to teach children the skills to feel good about themselves.

For our younger students, we recommend a wonderful book that we will be sharing with them called ***Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon*** by **Patty Lovell**. This story offers an excellent discussion on positive and negative thoughts. **You can view readings of the book through YouTube.** (Search: *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon*.)



For our older students, we recommend creating a **“positive vision” board** where they can post words or images that show how they see themselves and what they love about themselves. This is a great way to help students think and talk positively about themselves.

Following are three techniques parents can implement at home:

- Ask your child daily about the positive things he or she did during the day.
- Have your child write positive statements daily about himself or herself.
- Talk positively about yourself. (Modeling this behavior is the best way to teach children.)

***Stand tall... Have confidence...
Today will be awesome.***



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Growth vs. Proficiency



By Angela Jefferson, School Psychologist

School reform is complex and constantly changing. As state standards, tests and accountability continue to evolve toward higher expectations of student performance, so do methods of evaluating and reporting student performance. Proficiency levels have been the most common means of reporting state test data since the enactment of No Child Left Behind.

Students are grouped into ranges based on their performance on the grade-level state tests. Most states recognize three to five performance levels. PARCC proficiency levels are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5) Exceeded expectations | 2) Partially met expectations |
| 4) Met expectations | 1) Did not yet meet expectations |
| 3) Approached expectations | |

Proficiency is derived most commonly from grade-level tests that only tell us how students performed against the set of standards for their grade. It doesn't provide information for students above or below grade. Proficiency is a single snapshot of learning that doesn't tell us how much learning has occurred.

Growth is derived by administering multiple assessments over time and measuring the amount of learning that takes place. Growth measures help answer such questions such:

- How much academic progress is occurring over time?
- Are individuals or student populations achieving a year's worth of learning each school year?
- Are students that are behind academically catching up or falling further behind?

As we move toward a paradigm where each student is learning at different levels within a skills progression and at his or her own pace, it becomes less meaningful to have one measure. Proficiency can help us understand whether our students are mastering a set of standards at each grade level, but for students that are behind, growth provides a time-based component to help us understand if a student is making the necessary progress to get back on track to mastering the grade-level standards. On the other hand, for students that are advanced, growth data provides information to help us understand whether that student is being appropriately challenged and continuing to excel.

Questions? Email Angela.Jefferson@dc.gov.

New Karate Dates

The start date for K-3 Afterschool Karate has been pushed back one week. Classes now will meet **Tuesday, April 11** through **Tuesday, June 6** from **3:30 PM to 4:30 PM**. There will be no class on April 18, during Spring Break. Charge is \$107 per student; scholarships are available to those who need assistance.

Payments may be made through the school website: www.westschool.org/ before-care-after-care.

Show Your Thanks!

Next week is **"Assistant Principals Appreciation Week."** Please take a minute to send a word of thanks to our wonderful assistant principal, Stephanie Carpenter, either in a card or by email to Stephanie.Carpenter@dc.gov.

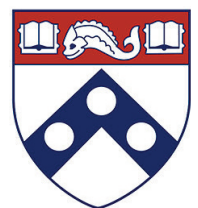
PSCO Elections Coming Soon

It's time to start thinking about Parent, Staff and Community Organization (PSCO) officer positions for the 2017-2018 school year. The PSCO is a great way to get involved in the school and to learn more about what's going on with our students' education.

Learn more at our April meeting... Thursday, April 13 at 6 PM.

March Madness Final

Congratulations to **Penn** for persevering...and to all of our students for working so hard these past few weeks!



Spring Dance...Volunteers Needed!

The West Spring Dance is coming up in mid-May, and we need parents to work with Ms. Ballou and a team of teachers to plan the event. If you're interested in helping, then please email PSCO President Josh Hertzberg at Josh.Hertzberg@WestSchool.org.