



# West's Weekly MAY 17, 2017

## Wednesday Newsletter

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### Calling all Superheroes!

The West gymnasium will be transformed into Superhero Headquarters tonight **(Wednesday, May 17 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM)** for our **Super-Schoolwide Spring Dance**. Take superhero photos/selfies; make personalized capes and masks; enjoy delicious treats; and, of course, dance! **A \$5 admission fee covers food, DJ dance tunes, crafts and more.**

### Early Dismissal/ No School for Students

Reminder...Students will be dismissed at **12:15 PM** on **Thursday, May 18** because of a Professional Development Day for our staff. And, there will be no school for students on **Friday, May 19** so that we may conclude Parent-Teacher conferences.

### Fan Cloth Sale Deadline

Our sale of West spirit gear through Fan Cloth ends this week. Please see Ms. Sears in the Main Office to place an order.

### Time to Order a Yearbook

Yearbooks for the 2016-2017 school year are now on sale for **\$20**. See Mr. Pinkard in the Main Office to pre-order your copy. Don't wait and be too late!



### Growing Our Minds

*An update from Ms. Ballou's Pre-K4 class...*



We have been investigating plants in Pre-K4 this past month. Our inquiries began a few months ago when Mrs. Roberts, Ellie's mom, started to help us make compost. We fed the worms shredded paper and food scraps every week and watched it turn into great plant food! When the compost was done, Mrs. Roberts helped us plant bulbs to take care of in our classroom.

Next, we started to dive deeper into our questions about plants in general so that we could better care for our classroom plants. What do plants need to survive and thrive? What is harmful to a plant? What do plants give to people? We read stories about plants to guide our inquiries, such as *The Tiny Seed* and *The Ugly Vegetables*. Now we are exploring the plants around our school and looking for more living things that depend upon plants.



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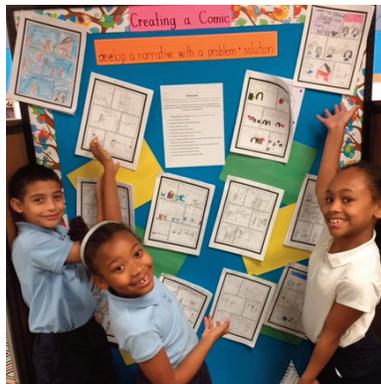
## Masters of Magnetism

An update from Ms. Coles' Third Grade class...



Third Grade scholars are studying the forces in physical science through research, reading and writing about magnetism and electricity. This unit provides an opportunity for scholars to connect their literacy, science and art skills. In class, we explored the structure of comic books by reading *The Attractive Story of Magnetism with Max Axiom, Super Scientist*.

Then, scholars showcased their understanding by developing a comic strip. Scholars used point of view to write their comics from the perspective of a character whose life is affected by the lack of electricity or magnetism. Student-created comics infused the use of narrative elements, panels for organization, dialogue/thought bubbles and sound effects. At the end of this unit, we plan to be MASTERS of MAGNETISM!



## A Job Well Done

Congratulations to all of our scholars and staff who made our school production of *The Wizard of Oz/The Wiz* such a huge success! We hope you were able to join us this past weekend for one of the shows. We will hold a final performance for our students and staff during school hours. Stay tuned for more information!

## Message from Principal Vroman...

A few weeks ago, we sent home a letter about the phased opening of MacFarland Middle School and, thus, the phase out of Middle School at West. **On Monday, May 22 from 6 PM to 7 PM, I will host a Chat-n-Chew with families. At this event, the DCPS School Planning Team will join us to speak about MacFarland and answer any questions related to the transition.** I hope you will join me for a bite to eat and to hear more about the effect on our school community, as well as to learn more about the vision for our soon-to-be neighborhood Middle School. This meeting is especially relevant for families currently in Fifth Grade through Seventh Grade, as this transition directly affects your children. To clarify: All current Fifth Grade scholars will have the right to finish their Middle School years with us at West. Current Fourth Grade scholars will transition to MacFarland for their Sixth grade year. I look forward to seeing you on Monday!

## We the Girls: Young Women's Leadership Conference & Pep Rally

Saturday, June 3 • 9 AM to 3:30 PM

Young women of color in DCPS grades 5 through 12 and DCPS educators are invited to gather for a day of celebration, enrichment and inspiration. Spend the day exploring such topics as identity, stress management, healthy relationships, community advocacy, self-care, leadership, entrepreneurship, STEM and applying to college.

**Location: Howard University  
Armour J. Blackburn University Center  
2397 Sixth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20059**

Registration is required. Attendance is FREE.  
**Register at [bit.ly/WeTheGirlsConference](http://bit.ly/WeTheGirlsConference).**