



THE WESTWOOD EXPRESS

April 2024

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hello Spring

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IMPORTANT DATES

- April 4 - Summer School Registration **OPENS @2:30**
- April 12 - Second Grade Music Concert @1:45, doors open at 1:30
- April 18 - Summer School Registration **ENDS @3:00**
- April 19 - Fourth Grade Career Day
- April 22 - Westwood Family Night - Student Extravaganza from 4:30-6:00
More information coming soon!
- April 30 - Second Grade Field Trip to Fallen Timbers - Broekman & Radtke
- May 1 - Second Grade Field Trip to Fallen Timbers - Baumann, LeMere & Schmitting (Schmidt)
- May 3 - Fourth Grade Music Concert @9:45, doors open at 9:30
- May 3 - Early Dismissal @11:50
NO 4K & NO LUNCH
- May 7 - PTO Meeting @6:00,
FREE childcare provided!

This Month's featured Reader



Janessa recommends Amelia Bedelia by Herman Parish

A few reminders from the office

School Fees
FEES CAN BE PAID ONLINE OR IN OUR OFFICE

Drop-Off

SUPERVISION BEGINS AT 8:25AM. **DO NOT DROP OFF PRIOR TO 8:25AM.** ALL STUDENTS WILL ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT OFFICE DOORS

School Hours

SCHOOL BEGINS AT 8:40AM
DISMISSAL IS AT 3:30PM

Pick-Up

ALL STUDENTS THAT ARE PICKED UP AT THE END OF THE DAY WILL EXIT THROUGH THE FRONT DOORS

Parent Request for 2024-2025 Class Placement

If you are a parent looking to request class placement for the 2024-2025 school year for both Westwood and Intermediate School, please read the following requirements. Full consideration will be given to all requests if all the conditions have been met. However, the always-present potential for a high number of parent requests prevents us from guaranteeing any requests.

1. Requests must be communicated in writing (an email is sufficient) to the principal no later than April 5, 2024.
2. Requests must be based on a specific educational need.
3. Requests should not reference an individual teacher by name. Rather, the request could reference a teaching style, a classroom, or some other special need.

If you are a parent of a student at Westwood who is in grades 4K-4th, please email Jason Lau at jlau@wdpsd.com no later than April 5th, 2024.

If you are a parent of a student entering 5th grade next year, please email Scott Marsden at smarsden@wdpsd.com no later than May 1st, 2024.



A message from your Principal



Welcome Back, Westwood! I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing Spring Break. While it is good to get away, it is always good to be back at Westwood and have the building return to life.

As the weather gets warmer and there is more opportunity for kids to go outside and play, I decided to take a risk this month. I decided to write about technology, devices, and the impact that may be having on our kids. I will preface my article by saying I'm not an expert, I'm not judging, nor am I lecturing about parenting. Instead, I hope to offer some ideas that may create an opportunity for reflection and discussion.

My wife and I hosted our family gathering for Easter. We had a full house that spanned generations. We had 80-year-olds to 2-year-olds and everything in between. During the day I was struck by how often people disengaged with each other and instead focused on their phones. The age of the person didn't matter. At some point, everyone spent time with their face buried in their phone scrolling Facebook, Instagram, X, or Snapchat. Now, maybe this is more a reflection of the quality of relationships and conversations my family had during the day rather than an indication of a societal change. Still, I'd like to think my family is fairly typical. As I went to bed, I began to think about how the phones and devices took away from our interactions.

Over the break, I began reading a book by author Johnathan Haidt titled *The Anxious Generation*. I'm not finished reading it, but I can share a brief synopsis of the book's content. The book explores the shift from a play-based childhood in the 1980s to the phone-based childhood of the present day. Specifically, he explores how phones and social media have resulted in a re-wiring of children's neurological systems and at the same time increased the number of children who are exhibiting symptoms of anxiety, depression, and social isolation. While many people have thought COVID was the sole reason for changes in our children's mental health, it's important to recognize that COVID had an impact, but the changes were beginning before 2019-2020.

The experience with my family and reading the book left me thinking about the opportunity that spring and summer have to help us break free from phone-based childhoods. It's a time in which we can tell kids to put their devices, video games, and phones away. Tell them to go outside, get dirty, explore, and grow their curiosity. It's also an opportunity to play with their siblings and neighbors. The amount of time kids get to play in their life is short. There will be plenty of time for devices when they are older. Right now, let them play.

Have a great April.

Dr. Lau





A note from your Associate Principal

Hello Westwood Families!

Spring break is done and hopefully we are all feeling refreshed and ready to kick it into gear for only 2 more quick months! I am sure you found ways to integrate your students into different learning opportunities whether it be by traveling, reading, playing, or even engaging in conversations! All of these components are super important to the growth and development of your student.

Our fourth grade students have been working SOOOO hard on their FORWARD exams! Please continue to ensure that your student gets a good night's rest, a filling breakfast, and an extra snack in their bag so they can truly focus to the best of their ability! Student test scores are so extremely important for us and them! We utilize their scores so that we can best inform the instruction and strategies we utilize with them. It also helps us evaluate how successful our curriculum is at meeting the needs of our students. Their scores also are utilized for our school report card that is released each fall. At home you can celebrate all of their hard work and learning that they've accomplished. Student scores also help as we move forward into the intermediate level to help determine appropriate course placement and support that students may need. So this data is extremely valuable to all of us! I'm so proud of the 4th graders and their incredible efforts so far. Third grade is waiting patiently to impress us during the week of April 15th!

School year need to know: Summer School registration also begins April 4th at 2:30 pm; We are using the same program as last year, but with some upgrades to hopefully make last year's process even better!!! Do know that we appreciate your patience if we have some hiccups :) If you have any questions about summer school you can call 920-337-1087 ext 3100 or email summerschool@wdpsd.com; Please make sure your registration is complete on or before April 18th; Due to staffing and planning, we cannot accept late registrations. We thank you for your understanding.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns at any time!

Mrs. Kristin Krahn
Associate Principal



Summer School 2024
June 10th-28th

The Elementary, Intermediate & Middle School Summer School course booklet is available to view on the district website.

Registration occurs online April 4th-18th. We recommend you register at your earliest convenience during the registration period to have the best choice of classes.

To view the booklet and for additional information, go to www.wdpsd.com, click on "About the District" and "Summer School".

Registration will occur on this same page - the link will be posted on April 4th at 2:30 pm.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Summer School office by email, summerschool@wdpsd.com or at 920-425-1900 x3100.



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

Westwood
PTO

GOLF

Outing

Cart
18 Holes
Drink Tickets

50/50

Raffles

Dinner

Registration

\$100
PER PLAYER



FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH AT 12:00PM

Registration starts at 11:00 am, 12:00 Shotgun Start

Mid Vallee Golf Course
3850 Mid Vallee Drive, De Pere, 54115

[wdpwestwoodpto@gmail](mailto:wdpwestwoodpto@gmail.com)