



Principal Karen Zwolenski

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December 2018/January 2019

Important Dates:

- Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 - Toys for Tots Drop Off
- **Dec. 17 - Dress Like a Lumberjack!**
- **Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 - NO SCHOOL Winter Break**
- Jan. 3 - Classes Resume
- Jan. 8 - WW PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- **Jan. 10 - SAGE Academy 2018-19 Parent Info Night, 6:00pm, WW Media**
- Jan. 7-11 - CogAT Test Screening for 2nd Grade
- Jan. 8 - 1:30pm, WestWood Geography Bee 4th/5th Grade, Kids' Co. Area
- Jan. 17 - 2019-20 Online Kindergarten Enrollment Opens
- Jan. 17 - WW/LODL Gr. 4/5 Choir Concert 7:00pm; WW Gym
- **Jan. 21 - NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Staff In-service**
- **Jan. 24 - 2 Hour Early Release (1:50pm)**
- **Jan. 25 - NO SCHOOL Grade K-12, Grading Day**
- Jan. 31 - 1:45pm, SAGE Geography Bee 4th/5th Grade, Kids' Co. Area
- Jan. 31 - ESTEM Night; 6:30pm

A Letter from Mrs. Zwolenski, Principal

Dear WestWood Families,

Can you believe it's December already? The school year seems to pick up momentum as we go through the year. With Parent-Teacher Conferences, Thanksgiving Break and the 5th Grade Wolf Ridge Trip behind us, we are looking forward to many learning experiences ahead. In addition to your child's daily schedule of math, reading, writing and science, our school has several events and celebrations during December and January. We will have our monthly all school meeting on December 14 and winter celebrations on December 21. In January we will conclude second quarter on January 24. Throughout the first month of 2019 we have many events including a Geography Bee for 4th/5th grade students, WW/LODL 4th/5th Grade Choir Concert, Kindergarten Registration Information meeting for the class of 2032 and an all-school ESTEM Night on January 31.

I wish you a great winter! It continues to be my privilege to serve WestWood students. Thank you for your support!

~Karen Zwolenski, Principal

Clothing Donations

Needed in Health Office

- Boys/girls lightly worn adjustable or elastic waist pants (sizes 4 - 10)
- New underwear and socks
- Winter gloves/mittens/hats - various youth sizes.

Also, please launder and return any borrowed clothes. ~ Thank you!



Look Inside For:

- SAGE Info Night 2
- Kindergarten Registration 2
- Teacher of the Year 2
- Geography Bee 2
- WestWood Choir Concert 3



November 26 - December 14

Sponsored by
PLHS Jr. Optimist Club

Donate Unwrapped Toys
at WestWood in the Main Hallway

Family Fun Night

SAVE the DATE!

February 22, 2019

6:00-8:00 pm

Sponsored by PTC



SAGE Academy Info Night

An Informational Meeting for those interested in learning more about SAGE Academy will be held on Thursday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. Principal Karen Zwolenski and SAGE Academy teaching staff will discuss the program format and curriculum and answer any questions parents may have. Tours of SAGE Academy and WestWood will also be available.

All second grade students who currently attend Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools will be screened to take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) during the week of January 7-11, 2019. CogAT results will be available to parents mid February. Parents of PLSAS second grade students will be notified of SAGE qualifications by February 22, 2019 (pending district receipt of results). At the parent informa-

tional meeting, interested parents whose children do not currently attend Prior Lake – Savage Area Schools will also have the opportunity to sign up for CogAT testing on Friday, January 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Please refer to the SAGE Academy website for additional information and forms. For specific questions call Karen Zwolenski, Program Coordinator and WestWood Principal. Another Parent and Student Informational Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7 for parents of second graders who meet the qualifications for SAGE Academy.

WestWood & SAGE Geography Bees



All fourth and fifth graders at WestWood & SAGE Academy will take a qualifying test to determine the top contestants who will participate in the final round of the WestWood and SAGE Academy Geography Bees.

The qualifying students receive the highest scores on the Geography Bee preliminary round test. Qualifying students will receive a letter notifying them of their status as a participant in the Geography Bee before Winter Break. The WestWood and SAGE Academy winners will take a written test and have the opportunity to advance to the Minnesota state competition in April based on her/his score.

The WestWood Geography Bee will be on January 8 at 1:45 p.m. in the Kids' Co. gym

The SAGE Academy Geography Bee will be on January 31 at 1:45 p.m. in the Kids' Co. gym

Parents and guests are invited to attend the SAGE and WestWood Geography Bees!

Early Childhood Screening for Kindergarten 2019-20

Do you have a child that will be entering kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year? Start preparing for this now! The state of Minnesota, as well as District 719, requires that early childhood screening be completed prior to entry into kindergarten. Appointments are required for the screenings that take place on selected Tuesdays and Fridays. If your child has not been screened, call (952) 226-0975 to make an appointment. Children can be screened as early as age 3. Please feel free to leave a voice message and the early childhood screening scheduler will return your call to assist you in making an appointment. Or you may email the screening office at: ecscreening@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us.

Early childhood screening is a comprehensive review of children in three developmental areas as well as a review of their health, immunizations, hearing, vision, speech, and height and weight. The actual screening process takes place at Edgewood School, 5304 WestWood Drive in Prior Lake. The early childhood screening phone number may also be called for exemption information if you are conscientiously opposed to screening.

Call or email Early Childhood Screening today.

2019-20 Countdown to Kindergarten Enrollment

Districtwide Kindergarten Information Session is January 7, 2019

All parents of incoming 2019-20 kindergarten students are welcome to attend the Kindergarten Information Session on January 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Grainwood Elementary, 5061 Minnesota Street SE, Prior Lake. Parents will learn about our traditional kindergarten program and our La ola del lago Spanish immersion option, along with curriculum and enrollment information.

Online enrollment opens January 17, 2019

Beginning January 17, PLSAS will offer online enrollment for all new families, including incoming 2019-20 kindergarten students. At that time, families can visit the district's [enrollment page](#) to begin the student registration process.

To help prepare for online enrollment, please have your child's most recent immunization record ready to upload, along with your student's birth certificate or passport.

For the 2019-20 school year, paper enrollment packets will not be mailed and enrollment will only be available online or by visiting the District Services Center, 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday.

We look forward to being able to offer this new enrollment feature to incoming families

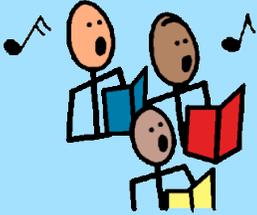


Jessica Erickson, 2nd Grade Teacher, 2019-20 Teacher of the Year

Jessica Erickson is a second grade teacher at WestWood Elementary School. She holds an Elementary Education K-8 degree as well as a Master's in Literacy and Reading Licensure. In her sixth year at WestWood, Jessica is a learning team leader, a representative on the building leadership team and a member of the 'I Love to Read' committee. She serves on the district curriculum committee and math leadership team. Her energy and passion for students and learning is evident throughout her classroom, on the committees/teams that she serves, and in the entire WestWood community. Her nominator states, "(Jessica) is always willing to talk through ideas and truly loves and cares for her students." Jessica is a leader in promoting positive school culture and is renowned at WestWood for her role as "flash mob and carpool karaoke coordinator!"

WestWood/LODL Choir Concert

The performance for family members and friends will be **Thursday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the WestWood Gym.**



Dress rehearsal is at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, January 17. Our WestWood & LODL students and family members that cannot make the Thursday evening performance are invited to attend.

Remember Winter Outdoor Clothing

As winter approaches, please be aware of the cold temperatures your child will face. Waiting at the school bus stop can be very cold for our students. Please dress your children appropriately for the outside weather. A warm coat, hat, gloves or mittens, scarf, and boots, along with snow pants when there is snow on the ground, allows your child to have a fun filled recess time while keeping warm and dry.

Students will have outdoor recess preceding lunch unless the “feels like” temperature is -5° F. All district elementary schools use the KARE11 website for the “feels like” temperature. Once there is snow on the ground, students without boots are limited to playing on the blacktop area. Please send boots to school so students can enjoy winter in Minnesota!

Keeping track of hats, gloves, boots, and even coats can be challenging for our students. **Please write your child’s name in their outdoor clothing.**

Emergency School Closings

The wintry weather is coming our way, but hopefully not too soon! Please be reminded that school closings for the Prior Lake-Savage area Schools will be announced on the following stations: WCCO Radio (830) and KCHK Radio. Television stations WCCO, KSTP, KARE11, and KMSP-FOX.

You can also sign up for the School Alert at www.kare11.com. If the announcement states that Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools are closed, then there will be no school at WestWood for our WestWood students. If the announcement states that District #719 will start two hours late, then grades K-5 at WestWood will start school at 11:20 a.m.



In rare instances, we may need to dismiss students early. If the need should arise, please be sure you have a family plan to cover this situation so children are not left unattended. Sharing this plan with your children is important and will alleviate their fears if WestWood does close early. If Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools are dismissed early, parents will be contacted using the School Connects calling system and Infinite Campus Messenger. **Please keep your phone numbers current and accurate in Infinite Campus, so that you are easily reachable.**



Missing that favorite sweatshirt?

Be sure to have your student look for their lost items before break!

Welcome 2019

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

