Dear WestWood Families,

Where are you finding your "sunshine" these days? Along with the milder temperatures we have had record-breaking cloud cover for the month of January. Here at WestWood we are doing one of the best things we can for kids (and adults): Getting outdoors! Students are outside every day during recess and many teachers plan an extra time outside so that students can reap the benefits of exercise and social time. So, get outside and play!

Between now and spring break, we have many opportunities for students and families alike. Check out the calendar for details. We hope you can join us at one of our school events. Enjoy the last weeks of winter!

Karen

Students Celebrate “I Love to Read Month”

Our month of activities began with a kick-off event on Friday, January 31 at WestWood’s all school meeting. WestWood students will receive a challenge to work together to collectively read 275,000 minutes at home during the month of February. We would appreciate your assistance in this effort by encouraging your child to read and reading to your child at home throughout the month. Please see the reading logs your child is bringing home to help your child keep track of his/her reading minutes. Students in each grade level have a “target number” of minutes that they are encouraged to read each week.

The minutes are as follows:
Kindergarten: 50 minutes per week
1st Grade: 75 minutes per week
2nd Grade: 100 minutes per week
3rd Grade: 125 minutes per week
4th & 5th Grades: 150 minutes per week

WestWood Family Fun Carnival, Friday, April 3 (a no school day)

Mark your calendars for the WestWood Family Fun Carnival. All WestWood families are invited to join us for activities and games: Face Painting, Cake Walk and plenty of carnival games.

Silent Auction (cash, check and credit card accepted)
Dinner, snacks and other food items available for purchase
Check out the WestWood Facebook page for updates!

When: Friday, April 3; 6-8 p.m.
Where: WestWood Elementary School

Look Inside For:

- SAGE Academy Info Night 2
- MCA Testing Days 2
- Report Cards 3
- February is Heart Month 3
WestWood Express

March 19 is
Spring Picture Day!
Watch for Picture Day
Information to Come Home
with Your Child

MCA Testing – Mark Your Calendars
WestWood third, fourth and fifth grade students will be taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA III) tests following Spring Break.

Please schedule appointments and vacations around these dates. It is most important that all of our third, fourth and fifth graders are present for the state tests.

All MCA testing for Reading, Math and Science will be completed online in our computer lab or on Chromebooks. A detailed MCA schedule will be posted on the WestWood Webpage early March.

March 30 – May 1: MCA Reading & Math Tests
Grades 3, 4 & 5

May 4 - 8: MCA Science Tests – Grade 5

Why State Testing?
Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college. The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academic standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our children with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens (from the Minnesota Department of Education).

Please contact the WestWood office for information about statewide testing and to access the parent/guardian opt out form. This form must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the main office of your child’s school.

SPAN Meeting
SPAN (Prior Lake/Savage chapter of the MN Council for the Gifted and Talented) will have their next formal meeting on Thursday February 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the WestWood Elementary Art Room (5370 WestWood Dr. SE; Prior Lake, MN 55372), not the library. The meeting will feature a panel of high-ability high school and middle school students and parents of high-ability high school and middle school students who will answer questions about what they have learned along the way in the school district. Meeting attendees can ask questions related to scheduling, extracurricular activities, balance, what they wish they might have done differently earlier on, etc.

Please contact us if you would like to find out more information about joining our Board next year. We can provide you with more details of what involvement on the Board might look like.
span.priorlake@gmail.com

WW Pride - Social/Emotional Learning
During February we will concentrate on the skill of emotional management and problem solving. Teachers focus on activities that help students understand and share the feelings of others.

Essential Skills for February and March include:
- Apologize by saying I’m sorry
- Use appropriate body language.
- Walk around two people talking.
- Practice patience.
- Transition quickly and quietly.
- Take turns and share materials.
- Compromise.
- Always be honest no matter what the circumstance.

SAGE Academy Qualified Student Parent Curriculum Night
2020-21 Grades 3 - 5
March 12, 6:00 p.m.
WestWood Media Center

Come to learn more about SAGE Academy
School for the Advancement of Gifted Education
WestWood Elementary, 5370 WestWood Drive
Some heart attacks are sudden and intense where there is no doubt what's happening. But most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

**Chest discomfort:** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

**Discomfort in other areas of the upper body:** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

**Shortness of breath:** with or without chest discomfort.

**Other signs:** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

**Warning signs for women may differ from men:** “Although men and women can experience chest pressure that feels like an elephant sitting across the chest, women can experience a heart attack without chest pressure,” said Nieca Goldberg, M.D., medical director for the Joan H. Tisch Center for Women’s Health at NYU’s Langone Medical Center and an American Heart Association volunteer. Instead they may experience the symptoms below.

- shortness of breath
- pressure or pain in the lower chest or upper abdomen
- dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting
- upper back pressure or extreme fatigue.”

http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/HeartAttack/WarningSignsofaHeartAttack/Warning-Signs-of-a-Heart-Attack_UCM_002039_Article.jsp

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**Early Entrance into Kindergarten**

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools has a policy for early entrance into kindergarten for those students who turn five years of age between September 1 and October 15. In order for a student to be considered for early entrance into kindergarten, parents must inform the elementary principal on or before June 1. If you are considering early entrance for your child, please be mindful of the cut-off date. Parents are required to pay for the cost of the testing for early entrance which is approximately $300.

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**Kids’ Company Registration**

Kids’ Company registration for Summer 2020 and the 2020–21 school year will be available online beginning February 28. If you have questions call 952-226-0090 or visit www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.ce.

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**Summer School 2020**

Summer school for 2020 is in the planning process. Stay tuned for more information on dates and locations. Teachers will recommend students based on learning needs in the area of reading, math and writing. If you have questions about this program, please contact your child’s teacher. Applications will be sent home by classroom teachers in April.

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**Student Placement Forms Due May 1**

Student Placement forms are now available in the office for parents wishing to give further input into the classroom placement of their child(ren) for the 2020-21 school year. Please fill the form out completely and return to the school office by May 1. Most parents leave classroom placement decisions up to the judgment of their child’s teachers and principal who know them best in the school setting. Under certain circumstances, it may be advantageous to offer input. When giving this input, it is important to refer to particular teacher characteristics (i.e. firm, gentle), specific educational interest areas (hands on learner, loves theater), or other special concerns, **but not specific teacher names.**
February 2020

Adult Classes

January 27 - Dance Lessons
   Mystery Quilt
January 28 - Instant Guitar
   Intro to Wood Burning
   Military Pay and Benefits 101
January 29 - Downsizing in the Current Market
   Modernizing Traditional Indian Recipes
January 30 - Savvy Social Security for Women
February 3 - Fluid Acrylics with Intent
   Aqua Exercise
February 4 - Basic Soap Making
   How to Cut the Cable Cord
   Glass Mosaics
February 5 - Beginning Cake Decorating
February 6 - Instant Pot Basics
February 8 - Mandala Stone Art Painting
February 11 - De-clutter Photos, Videos & Digital Life
February 18 - Flourless Tortes & Gluten Free Desserts
February 19 - Bob Ross Method of Oil Painting
February 26 - New Construction Home Buying
February 27 - Classic Italian Cuisine
   Computer Basics/Google Apps Basics
February 28 - Estate Planning
   March 2 - Traditional Southern Cooking

Youth Classes

Chess (Gr. K-5)
Career Exploration (Gr. 6-8)
Olaf & Friends (Gr. K-5)
Winter Wonderland (Gr. K-5)
Extreme STEM: Copters & Spy Planes (Gr. K-3)
Wonderful World of Art (Gr. K-5)
Fencing (Gr. 2-12)
Learn to DJ (Gr. 6-8)
STEM Fundamentals (Gr. 4-5)
AAP Babysitting 101 (Ages 11-15)
Will You Be My Sweetheart (Ages 5+ w/Adult)
Spanish (Gr. K-5)
Twilight Trek (Ages 6+ w/Adult)
Tennis (Ages 4-11)
Friday Night In (Gr. 6-8)
Nature Enthusiasts (Gr. K-5)
Natural Leaders (Gr. 4-5)
Services Squad (Gr. 6-8)
Prepare for the ACT (Gr. 11)
Super Tots Basketball (Ages 2-4)
Super Tots Sampler (Ages 2-4)

Plugged in Parent

Join us for an eye opening evening as Common Sense Media Ambassador and Licensed Teacher, Kate Tinguely, leads a discussion on the landscapes, challenges and opportunities of keeping kids safe, happy and healthy in a digital age. Learn statistics, myth busters and effective strategies to help your children navigate this digital world of ours.

Mon, Feb. 3 6:30-8 pm
#2456 1 session FREE
Twin Oaks Middle School Media (708)

DANCE WITH ME Ball
AGES 12 AND UNDER WITH ADULT

Dancing Photos Snacks
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
6:30-9:00PM
PLHS
$45/PAIR
$25/ADDITIONAL PERSON