



Principal Karen Zwolenski

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December 2017/January 2018

Important Dates:

- Nov. 27-Dec. 1 - 5th Grade at ELC
- Nov. 27 - Dec. 15 - Toys for Tots Drop Off
- Dec. 5 - WW PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- **Dec. 21 - Jan. 1 - No School, Winter Break**
- Jan. 2 - Classes Resume
- Jan. 2 - WW PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- **Jan. 4 - SAGE Academy 2018-19 Parent Info Night, 6:00pm, WW Media**
- Jan. 8-12 - CogAT Testing for 2nd Grade
- Jan. 9 - 1:30pm, SAGE Geography Bee 4th/5th Grade, Kids' Co. Area
- Jan. 10 - 4th Grade Kindness Retreat
- Jan. 16 - 1:30pm, WestWood Geography Bee. 4th/5th Grade, Kids' Co. Area
- **Jan. 15 - NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Staff In-service**
- Jan. 18 - 2018-19 Kindergarten Registration 6:30pm District Wide
- **Jan. 25 - 2 Hour Early Release (1:50pm)**
- **Jan. 26 - NO SCHOOL Grade K-12, Grading Day**

A Letter from Mrs. Zwolenski, Principal

Dear WestWood Families,

It was a pleasure to greet so many of you during Parent Teacher Conferences on November 14, 16 and 20. As a teacher, conferences were one of my favorite events of the school year. As a principal, I still feel the same way! I always learn from students' parents and gain insight from them about their children. You are your child's first teacher and you provide knowledge and information that helps all of us serve your child, teach your child, and help them to learn and grow at high levels!

In addition to conferences, the November calendar included the Read-a-thon, our All School Meeting, the 5th grade Wolf Ridge Trip, plus more! I highlighted some of our events in the monthly WestWood News flyer: <https://www.smores.com/app/pages/preview/86x9v>

Our next PTC meeting is on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Please join us. I wish you a healthy and happy start to the winter season!

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!



November 27 - December 15

Sponsored by
PLHS Jr. Optimist Club

Donate Unwrapped Toys
at WestWood in the Main Hallway

Family Fun Night

SAVE the DATE!

February 23, 2018

6:00-8:00 pm

Sponsored by PTC

Look Inside For:

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- Kindergarten Registration 2
- SPAN Meeting Info 3
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- WestWood Choir Concert 3



SAGE Academy Info Night

An Informational Meeting for those interested in learning more about SAGE Academy will be held on Thursday, January 4 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 take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) during the week of January 8-12, 2018. CogAT results will be available to parents mid February. Parents of PLSAS second grade students will be notified of SAGE qualifications by February 23, 2018 (pending district receipt of results). At the parent informational 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 12 at 8:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.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 8 for parents of second graders who meet the qualifications for SAGE Academy.

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 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.**

Early Childhood Screening for 2018-19 Kindergarteners Required

Do you have a child that will be entering kindergarten for the 2018-19 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.

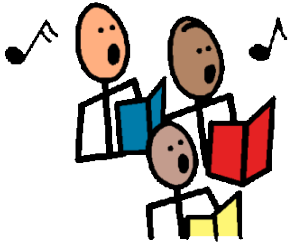
2018-19 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration at WestWood Elementary will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18. Staff will be available for questions. Prior to registration, district families whose children turn 5 on or before September 1 will receive a Kindergarten Registration Packet in the mail in early January. Please notify the WestWood School Office if you are new to our district or if you do not receive a Kindergarten Registration Packet by mid January. Parents requesting early entrance for their child must file a written request to the principal by April 30, 2018. Parents interested in enrolling their child in the Spanish Immersion Kindergarten program should attend Kindergarten Registration at Edgewood School on January 18.



WestWood Choir Concert

The performance for family members and friends will be **Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the WestWood Gym.**



Dress rehearsal is at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, January 18. Our WestWood students and family members that cannot make the Thursday evening performance are invited to attend.

SPAN (Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network)

SPAN is the Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network. We are also known as the Prior Lake-Savage Chapter of the MN Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT). Our mission is to support and advocate for academically advanced students, their parents, and their educators. We will not meet in December. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday Jan. 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the WestWood Elementary Media Center, featuring a panel of parents of high-ability kids who will discuss their kids' experiences moving through the school system. They will give recommendations and take questions. Please email Apryl at span.priorlake@gmail.com with question/concerns.

Also, we are planning to have a couple of coffee meetings toward the end of January where anyone can stop by to talk with SPAN Board members who have "been there" about any questions/

concerns you have related to your child. Middle school and high school scheduling will be coming up around that time frame, and you are welcome to come to talk with SPAN Board members about scheduling questions.

Shana Bates - 2017-18 Teacher of the Year



Shana Bates is a first grade teacher at WestWood Elementary. Shana has been teaching at WestWood for 7 years, however this is her 12th year teaching. She has and is currently serving on many committees within our school and district: ELA, WW Equity Committee, BILT Member, Learning Team Leader, Elementary Rep for Future-Forward Leadership Redesign Institute and Elementary Curriculum. She has also done outside work with Nechama-Jewish Disaster Relief Effort. Shana is kind and patient with her students. She is excellent at communicating and reaching out to learn new ways of supporting her students, especially for those who need it the most. She is always willing to do what is required, and reaches above and beyond to provide what is needed to achieve balance in the classroom. Her attitude is positive and caring, and it is clear that she truly cares about each and every one of her students. Shana has taken on challenges in her teaching that have pushed her to new levels, and has remained positive all along the way. We are very lucky to have her teaching at WestWood!

WestWood & SAGE Geography Bees

All fourth and fifth graders at WestWood 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 **SAGE Academy Geography Bee** will be on **January 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Kids' Co. area**

The **WestWood Geography Bee** will be on **January 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Kids' Co. area**

Parents and guests are invited to attend the SAGE and WestWood Geography Bees and share our pride in the students' successes and their knowledge of geography!



Missing that favorite sweatshirt?

WestWood Lost & Found is overflowing with sweatshirts, lunchboxes, jackets and much more. All unclaimed items will be bagged and donated on December 20.

Welcome 2018

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!