



Westdale News

October 2014

From the Principal

Volume 1, Issue 1

Dear Westdale Families,

Time is flying by this school year and we are already into October. We have a lot going on in the next couple of weeks. The most important event is Parent Teacher Conferences which are scheduled for October 15th & 16th from 4-8 p.m. You should have received a note from your child's teacher indicating a date and time for your conference. If you are unable to make your assigned time, please re-schedule with your child's teacher.

On Wednesday, October 22nd we will be hosting a Parent University for Reading and Math. The purpose of this evening is to provide you tips and strategies to support your child's learning at home, based on the information you received at parent teacher conferences. Free childcare will be provided. Sign up sheets will be available at Parent Teacher Conferences.

Our Halloween Walk Through is scheduled for Thursday, October 30th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This event will provide a chance for students to wear their Halloween costumes to school and trick or treat from classroom to classroom in a safe environment. All students must be accompanied by a parent or adult who is at least 18 years old. For this evening we need lots of candy donations. Please send those donations into the school office as soon as possible. There will be no other Halloween activities at the school.

On the afternoon of October 10th and the full day of October 13th, I will be out of the office. I am running the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 12th to raise money for the American Brain Tumor Association. Mrs. Neiderquill, Director of Special Education will be covering Westdale for me.

We have had a great start to our school year. Students are working hard to follow their Wolf Ways. Our Wolf Way Winners for the month of September were drawn at our monthly assembly on the 26th. If you have a moment stop in the hallway outside the office and take a look at their pictures on our bulletin board. Our winners were Landynn Kramer, Autumn Stevenson, Brayln Stroup, Guiliana Wasney, Sean Sundquist, Nawin Blair, Anna Brasseur, Emmie James, Patrick Schmiegel, Mia Gonzales, and Landon Davis.

Important Dates:

- October 15th & 16th Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.
- October 21st Cookie Dough Pick Up
- October 21st PTO 6 p.m.
- October 22nd Parent University Reading and Math Night 6 p.m.
- October 30th Halloween Walk Through 6 p.m.
- November 7th School Dismissed at 10:55
- November 7th Arrowwood Fun Fair

Karen M. Volk


Westdale Elementary Principal



Young Fives

During September, the students in Young Fives have been very busy learning about Westdale. We have learned about many people and places at Westdale. The students have also been practicing how to be safe, responsible, and respectful. We have also been working on getting along with our new friends in Young Fives. Keep up the great work Young Fives students!

Kindergarten




Our Kindergarten reading program includes one story each week. We learn 5 “Amazing Words” that enrich our vocabulary, 2 word wall words, and phonics skills. Students are also learning to retell the stories we read. You can help your child at home by reading stories to them for 20 minutes each night then talking about the books. These should be books that they pick out and enjoy. In math you can help your child by counting any time you can. They can count toys and snacks. Play a game asking them “How Many?” and “Which is more or less?” This will build basic number sense. Don’t forget it has gotten chilly...please pack your jackets!!

First Grade

First grade is off to a great start! We are continuing to work on our routines and Wolf Ways Expectations. We are currently working on short vowels and story elements in reading. Also, we have begun reading groups as well as independent work stations. In math we are practicing addition. Ask your student to show you what a number bond is! We look forward to seeing you at conferences on October 15-16th and Math University on October 22!

Music News



Hello from the music room. The children have been happily making music for four weeks now, and it gets better each day! In kindergarten, the students learned about the different voices that we use in music class and in school. We then went on to study how music is made, and discovered our own found sounds! Keep singing your color songs, kindergarteners! The first graders have been working on keeping the steady beat, playing instruments on the beat, and finding the strong beat in music. We’ve been doing a lot of movement activities and have learned songs from other countries. In second grade we are beginning to read music, noticing where the treble clef is, what a staff is, and how notes are placed on the staff. Finally, we’ve been talking about where to find the title and the composer of music we are reading. ~Mrs. Casler

Second Grade

We are having a “Math”tastic time in Second Grade, but we could use some extra practice at home in order to be prepared and successful with future math skills. **Speed and accuracy** (“Fluency”, truly knowing the facts) is essential to future success. Daily practice can be fun and easy.

Suggestions: -Rocket Math

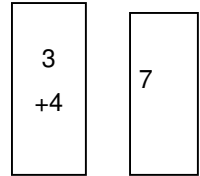
Encourage students to use the unused portion of their Rocket Math for 1 min. timed “point and practice”, 1 min. timed oral read and answer, 1 min. timed write in answer.

-Fast Fact Flashcards

(This is a go anywhere, alone or with someone activity.)

Make basic fact (0-20) flashcards on notecards. Flip through the cards as quickly as possible, check the answers. Works

Toward increasing speed and accuracy with every attempt. Make a graph to show progress.



Helpful Websites/Games on-line for Math Fact Fluency:

Go to www.arcademicskillbuilders.com Scroll down and you will see games for addition and subtraction.

Go to Google and type in “Math Magician” in the search box. Click on the first link that come up (Oswego City School District).

****We hope to see you at our upcoming Parent University-Math Night on October 22nd.***

From the Gym



Physical Education News

October is a great month to get outside and get active. This month in Physical Education, students will be working on a soccer unit. We will be working on fundamental skills such as dribbling, passing, kicking, and goaltending. The skills they work on during P.E. will benefit them whether they are playing on an organized team or in their own back yard!

We also continue to work on our cardiovascular fitness with daily jogs during P.E. Class. Running is a great life time fitness activity to keep our bodies healthy and fit!



Fall into a Good Book

Mrs. Vauhkonen and Mrs. Sprague

Literacy/Numeracy Specialist

As you set up after school routines this fall, please remember to make time to read at home every day. Reading every day or you reading aloud to your child will help your child succeed in school.

Establish a regular time and place to read.

Reading every day for at least 20 minutes is more beneficial than reading for longer periods of time on a less frequent basis.

Encourage your child to pick their own books; don't forget to visit the public library.

Read favorite books over and over.

Be an expressive reader and encourage your child to do the same.

Read a variety of material: books, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Ask questions about the story as you read.

Make predictions about what will happen next.

Discuss books after you read them; this will help your child think about their reading.

Most of all, ENJOY the time spent together reading with your child!



From the Parking Lot:

Nice job to all the kids who are getting out of vehicles quickly every morning! This helps eliminate traffic sitting on Center Road and allows for buses to get into the parking lot. Some students need assistance getting out of the vehicle, but if your child is able to quickly and independently exit your vehicle, that works best! Please remember to have your child wait until your vehicle completely stops before opening the door. Your kids are amazing. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

Team Parking Lot

