

STCS



Westdale News

February, 2015

From the Principal

Volume 1, Issue 1

Dear Westdale Families,

Happy February! From February 4th-8th, I will be out of the office. I will be attending the National Title I Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah to accept our Nationally Distinguished School Award. While I am away, Louanne Neiderquill (Director of Special Services) will be taking care of Westdale for me.

On February 13th, we will be hosting our Valentine's Day Read In from 1-2 p.m. A sign up sheet will come home at the beginning of next week for this. Space is limited so we ask that only one adult per child attend. On February 26th we will be hosting our second Math Parent University. The evening is designed to show parents at each grade level what we are covering in math and ways to help at home. Free childcare will be provided. More information will be sent home closer to the event.

Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for March 2nd and 3rd from 4-6 p.m. A letter will go home at the end of February for you to sign up for a conference. Please return these as soon as possible so we can schedule your conference. Report cards will be sent home on March 2nd.

This past Friday students enjoyed their HOWL day. Students at each grade level participated in exciting activities to extend on our Science and Social Studies curriculum. You will see pictures in this news letter of students and their activities on this day.

Our PTO will not be meeting February but will be meeting in March on Wednesday, March 18th at 6 p.m. We will begin planning our field day and our end of the year activities.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Volk

Westdale Elementary Principal

Important Dates:

- February 6th: 100s Day
- February 11th: School Store
- February 13th: Popcorn Sale
- February 13th: Valentine's Day Read In
- February 17th: No school-PD Day
- February 20th: Early Dismissal 10:55 a.m.
- February 26th: Parent Math University
- February 27th: Popcorn Sale
- March 2nd & 3rd: Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 9th-12th: Book Fair

Young Fives

During January, the Young Fives students had a great time joining the Kindergarten students for HOWL Day. We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and how he had a dream. We thought about our dreams for our future and created a quilt about our dreams. The children learned about Abraham Lincoln and made a log cabin. The children were also very excited to learn about George Washington. The Young Fives students are looking forward to the activities that we have planned for HOWL Day in February!

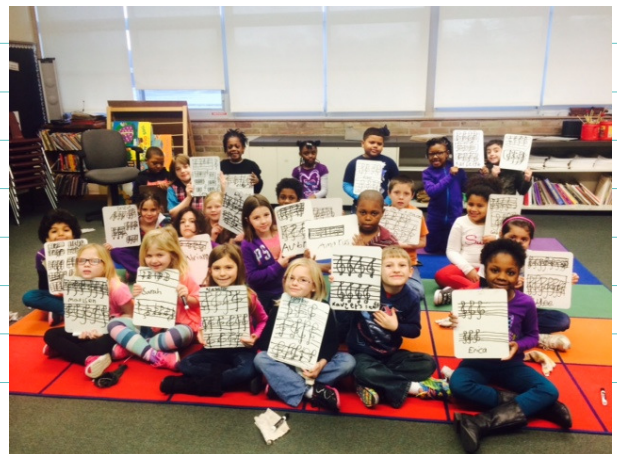
Kindergarten

Kindergarten HOWL Day

Westdale Kindergartners are having a HOWLing good time with our monthly HOWL days! This month we focused on Martin Luther King Jr, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Did you know that Martin Luther King was born Michael Luther King and changed his name at the age of 8 while on a trip to Germany? During the month of January we learned about justice and equality and how Martin peacefully to achieve his dream. After our students learned about Martin's dream, we explored our dreams and goals for our future. Ask your child what his/her dream is!

Music News

Hello from the music room. This month in music the kindergartners learned about how the tempos of music can vary and change. We moved, played instruments, listened to music and sang along to different songs with various tempos to discover this. In first grade we have been talking about how important it is to have good posture and to breathe well while singing. We are learning new music this month for our music program, "Swamped" which will be held on Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. More information will come as that date approaches. Second graders did a study on the Star Spangled Banner this past month. We learned about the history of when it was written and how it became our national anthem. We are presently learning about how notes are written on the staff, and have been practicing writing them our-



Second Grade

HOWL Day

Today for our HOWL day the students went through three different science experiments that focused on the topic of the states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. Students wrote their hypothesis before each experiment began with a picture of what they think would happen. At the end, students wrote their conclusion with a picture of what really happened.

Experiment one was identifying the three states of matter in a root beer float! Ice cream was the solid, root beer was the liquid, and the foam that was made was the gas. Students could choose to put the ice cream or the root beer in first to see what created the most fizz.

Experiment two was melting two solids: butter and chocolate. Students were to predict which solid would melt faster into a liquid. The class also watched the liquids turn to gas as the liquids melted even further.

Experiment three happened outside. We started with a solid, Mentos, and a liquid, diet Coke. Once we dropped the Mentos into the soda we watched a gas form and shoot out of the two liter.

We hope your students had fun and we look forward to our next HOWL day in February!

PE NEWS

During the month of January, Westdale students practiced the skill of Jump Roping. Students were able to practice with single ropes, long ropes, and Chinese Jump Ropes. We were also able to discuss the many benefits of jumping rope with number one being that is a great cardiovascular fitness exercise. The students did a wonderful job learning their jump roping skills this month.

I hope our Westdale students will keep jumping outside of gym class, especially this month since February is Healthy Heart month! During Physical Education class time, we will continue to take the time to talk about the importance of a healthy life style, and what we can do to keep our own hearts healthy. Please take the time with your child to work on learning more on keeping physically active; making healthy eating choices; and taking care of our bodies! Encourage

your student to show you the fun skills that they learn during Physical Education.



Fluency Strategies



Students should reread familiar and easier texts when practicing to become a more fluent and phrased reader.

Read aloud to your child and have them repeat the same passage. Start out with phrases; work up to sentences, then to paragraphs.

Emphasize expression and phrasing in your voice as you read. Have your child copy that expression.

Attend to punctuation – (stop at periods, adjust tone at question marks, etc.) Show the difference in punctuation. (Cows moo. Cows moo? Cows moo!)

Practice working on phrases – (Scoop the phrases) – The cat sat in the sun. Read sentences as phrases. Discuss how your voice changes after each phrase. Continue to reread the sentence phrase by phrase, not word by word.



Practice placing stress on different words.

Ex. – I am sad. I am sad. I am sad.

Have fun reading with your child. Play with the language in books. Enjoy your time together. Practice, practice practice!!!!



