



Westview



Wildcat Pause

Issue 7

April 2011

Westview Staff

Paul Holland
Principal

Cathy Krajny
Secretary

PTA Executive Board

Kristen Masa
President

Vicky Riley
1st Vice President

Kim Walters
2nd Vice President

Linda Below
Treasurer

Deborah Ludwig
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Stacey Green
Elizabeth Gedeon
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155 Moore Road
Avon Lake, OH
44012
440-933-8131

“Principal” Matters

Dear Westview Family,

We are heading towards Easter vacation at full speed. It's hard to believe we are in the middle of April, spring break is ahead, and OAA testing takes place when we get back in May. Is it too early to ask, "Where has the year gone?"

Our staff is working hard to finalize preparations for the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA). The state, in their infinite wisdom, scheduled the testing window around our Easter vacation. So we will be testing the 3rd and 4th graders when we return from vacation (May 3 for Reading and May 5th for Math). It is not the best testing scenario, but we have to deal with it.

This is where you can greatly help your child do their best on the test. Please consider putting on your calendars the date of testing. Then plan to have your child well rested on Saturday and Sunday nights in preparation for the testing on the 3rd and 5th. I know it's vacation, but we really need well-rested students to be able to focus on the test. Your help is greatly appreciated by our staff and me.

Also, to help us during the testing time, please do the following:

Give your child a **good breakfast** in the morning before school; **Encourage your child** to try their best and take their time on the test; Be sure they **attend school** both days of the test.

While I'm asking for help, one more request. I have been noticing an increase in student behaviors related to poor choices. Things like mean words, rudeness, unsportsmanlike behaviors at recess, taking something that doesn't belong to them, and

general lack of courtesy. Please take a moment to go over your expectations for good behavior, work ethic, and positive social interactions. It will make a difference.

Don't forget our Westview Choir Concert on April 14th at 7:00. All families are welcome. Our last school day before Easter is Thursday, April 21st. We return to school on Monday, May 2nd. Which reminds me, if I don't see you before break, may your family have the best of vacations and please be safe.

Lastly, let's continue to work together to educate your child. It is a Family, Student, and School partnership that makes a difference for your child. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Holland



Happy Spring!



Spirit Day

Our April Spirit day will be on Friday, **April 15th.**

Don't forget to wear your Wildcat color and bring in non-perishable food or paper items for CRS! Specifically, CRS is in need of supplies to get ready for summer, such as peanut butter and jelly, snack foods, canned lunches, sandwich bags, napkins, etc.

Thank you!! All donations can be placed in the bin in the hallway outside the office.

Thanks for your generosity!!

Go Wildcats!

PTA Meeting Reminder



The April PTA meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 13th at 9:30 AM.** Please note that the remaining meetings of the school year will be held in the new Westview cafeteria at 9:30 AM!

Save the Date!

The annual Special Olympics event will be held on May 20, 2011 at Ely Stadium in Elyria Ohio. Students in Mrs. Rutherford's and Mrs. Smith's class will be attending.



Note from the President



Westview PTA is joining thousands of communities across the nation in celebrating Staff Appreciation Week, May 2-6. This special week honors the dedicated people who lend their passion and skills to educating children. PTA expanded on Eleanor Roosevelt's idea of National Teacher Day and dedicated a whole week to celebrate the accomplishments of educators. Please join us thanking the entire staff at Westview during this week for their dedication to our children.

Thank you to all of PTA's hardworking volunteers: Krissy Hart for Market Day; Meg Zuern for a fabulous Book Fair and all the volunteers who worked during the fair; Cindee Jereb and her volunteers for their work with Reflections; Leslie Knox for

helping with Kindergarten registration; Kim Walters and Elizabeth Gedeon for Conference Dinners; Linda Below and Melanie Bowers (and their volunteers) for their work the yearbook; and Carolyn Rose for all her work with the newsletters each month.

There are still volunteer positions open for PTA Committee Chairs for the 2011-2012 school year. Available positions are: Board of Education, Fun Fair, Hospitality, Jr. Great Books, Legislation, Public Relations, and Reflections. If you are interested in a position or would like more information, please contact me at kmasa@oh.rr.com.

Have a wonderful, safe Spring Break!
Kristen Masa

Staff Appreciation Week May 2 - 6th

This year's theme for Staff Appreciation Week will be Wild, Wild Westview! Our week will include a breakfast, luncheon and other events with western flair to thank our teachers and support staff for their excellent work with our children every day. If you or someone you know would like to donate a prize (gift, basket, gift card, event tickets, etc.) for our daily raffle drawings, please contact Alessia Lloyd. If you have already volunteered to help during this week long celebration of appreciation, Cindy and Alessia will contact you soon. If you have not yet volunteered, there is still time. Just call or e-mail Alessia or Cindy and they can plug you in several capacities during that week. We will need bakers, hands on volunteers, cooks and decorators throughout the week to make the celebration a success.



Alessia Lloyd #933-0973
lloydmomof2@yahoo.com

Cindy Simons #933-3720
rugsimons@oh.rr.com



Westview Families Find There Are Even More Than 1,897 Reasons to Spend More Time at School

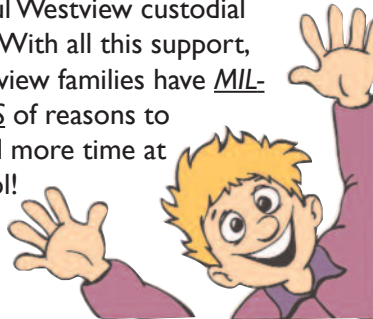
The Westview PTA's *fantastic* tradition of Family Fun Fair was extended to a weeklong celebration of family fun with the help of a \$1,897 grant provided by National PTA to fund activities that meet their mission of promoting family engagement and supporting student achievement. The activities took place during National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week, February 13-19.

Westview's Family Fun Week kicked off on Tuesday, February 15th with a free breakfast in the newly renovated cafeteria. The Wildcat Family Breakfast was a huge success with attendance of approximately 250 parents, students and siblings who all enjoyed a feast of bagels, doughnuts, fruit, yogurt and beverages. What a great way for Westview students, family and staff to start their day! There was also a visit by the Lake Erie Crushers mascot Stomper and a giveaway for 4 tickets to a Crusher's game this season, won by the Nieschwitz family.

On Thursday, February 17th, radKids speaker/trainer Ruthann Schmenk spoke to parents about child safety while adult PTA volunteers provided childcare. The one hour presentation, for adult's ears only was filled with eye-opening facts about strangers, internet predators, bullying, and more.

The grand finale of family events, Westview's Family Fun Fair, was on Saturday, February 19th. In addition to the usual carnival-style games, entertainment, food and crafts, this year's fair started out FREE to every student as they each received five complimentary tickets to start off their fun. In addition, raffle tickets were available for purchase and winners walked away with great prizes such as lunch with Mr. Holland, front row seats to school programs, and gift certificates/merchandise donated by local businesses. It took a committee of 10 and nearly 100 volunteers to make Fun Fair a great success!

The PTA's Family Fun Fair Committee thanks all who donated, volunteered, and attended any or all of these wonderful family events. Much appreciation is extended toward all the parent volunteers, St. Joseph, Holy Spirit, KeyClub, Learwood /ALHS student volunteers, and the helpful Westview custodial staff. With all this support, Westview families have MIL-LIONS of reasons to spend more time at school!



All of the hours that you volunteer at Westview are greatly appreciated! These hours are kept track of and reported to the Ohio PTA. There are many things that count as volunteer hours, such as: baking for a party or event, VIE, working the Book Fair, etc. Please fill out this form with your name and estimate of your volunteer hours. Please return it to school with your child. ***If you have already reported your hours on the attendance sheet at the PTA meeting, then you do not have to turn this in.** Thanks for your help!

Name: _____ Hours: _____

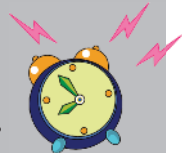


Happy Birthday to You!

April

Daniel Sarraino	April 1
Jamie Usher	April 1
Andrew Nieding	April 3
McKenna Kordish	April 5
Alexander Lloyd	April 5
Adrian Salco	April 5
Kevin Clark	April 12
Parker Foley	April 12
Sophia Koren	April 14
Kyle Kress	April 15
Sarah Zaber	April 15
Kailyn Schleicher	April 17
Cameron Salco	April 18
Esther VanGuilder	April 19
Scott Smith	April 21
Ilyana VanGuilder	April 22
Dylan Marsh	April 23
Daniel Sabath	April 24
Ava Rodrigues	April 27
Gabrielle Mirka	April 28
Evan Koren	April 30

May/June Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for the May/June issue of the Westview Wildcat Pause is **Friday, April 15**. Please submit your articles in a Word document via email to: carolynwrose@oh.rr.com.



The best things you can give children, next to good habits, are good memories.

- Sydney J. Harris



Market Day News

Thank you to everyone who participated in our April sale...our last sale resulted in a profit of \$253.11 for Westview!! This brings the school's total profits to \$1963.06! Thank you, thank you, and thank you!!

Stock up & Save!!!

May is our last sale of the school year, so make sure to stock up for summer!! There are 77 selections on sale, PLUS 150+ items under \$2 per serving!

It's Reward Time — Spring Frequent Buyer

Redemption month is here! With one more purchase of \$40 you can redeem your 3 Drawer Storage Cube at the May pick up; another purchase of \$40 or more will be needed to redeem in May. For more information on Market Day's Frequent Buyer program, please see the May order guide or marketday.com

Two Free Offers

In May customers can get a 1 lb. box of French Toast Sticks - every kid's favorite – Free with a \$50 purchase!

Plus, get a Free 4 pack of Teriyaki ChicNSteaks with a \$90 online purchase using promo code MAY-BONUS.

Buy More-Save More

Keep your cookie jar full + save!!

Stock up and save on cookie dough just in time for spring!

Buy 2, Save \$1

Buy 3, Save \$3

Buy 4+, Save \$5

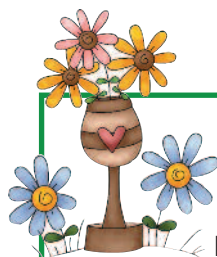
Again, we would like to thank you for all your support this year!!

Don't forget to check out market day on the web at www.marketday.com and register your e-mail address to receive reminders to order and special offers for online customers. There are also rewards for "frequent flyers" and access to clearance items. Be sure to look through the order sheet sent home with your student or on the website for more information.

Please give Market Day a try! They are a trusted company and with every purchase you are helping our organization. We appreciate your support!!

Pick up dates: May 10th

Any questions or concerns, please contact Krissy Hart 933-7312.



Plant Sale Fundraiser

Notice to all green thumbs! The due date for all plant sale orders is Tuesday, April 19th. Plants will arrive on Thursday, May 5th.

Extra order forms are available in the office or can be found online on the Westview website at www.avonlakecityschools.org/westview.



Calling All Photos for Fourth Grade Recognition!

Now is the time to submit photos of your
Fabulous Fourth Graders!

Thursday, May 26th is Westview's Class of 2019 Recognition Night.
Your photos are needed for the slide presentation for the event.

We would like every fourth grader to be included in the presentation.

Please send me FIVE (5) photos of your child - no later than May 6, 2011:

- * One photo from each year, (K, 1, 2, 3, 4)
- * Photos should be school related (first day of school, classroom activities, school events, school pictures) - no vacation, home, etc. photos. (If your child did not attend Westview all 5 years, please send in photos from the previous school.)
- * Photos can be individual or have groups of kids in them, as long as you identify your child when you send it. (ie: "Joe Smith at the bus stop. Joe is 3rd from the right.")
- * It is preferred that you submit photos via EMAIL to carolynwrose@oh.rr.com. If your photos cannot be emailed, please send print photos to school in a sealed envelope labeled "4th Grade Recognition Photos, Attn: Carolyn Rose." Include your name, phone number and your child's teacher on the outside of the envelope. **CLEARLY** write your child's name and grade at the time the photo was taken on the back of each photo. I will scan your photos and return them to you.
- * If you would like a copy of the slide show, please submit your request at the time that you send your photos to me. Copies will only be made for those who request them. There is no charge for a copy of the slide show.

If you have any questions, let me know.

Thank you for your help in making this a great presentation for your kids!

Carolyn Rose
H) 440-933-0606, C) 216-374-6973
carolynwrose@oh.rr.com



Avon Lake PTA Member Benefits

The Avon Lake PTA Council Benefit Program is available to any PTA card carrying member of Avon Lake. All PTA members **must** show their **current membership card at the time of purchase** to the participating business to obtain the benefit/discount.

Here is a current list of the businesses offering a benefit.

RESTAURANTS:

Avon Lake Dairy Queen -
33720 Walker Rd. Avon Lake
\$2.00 off any Dairy Queen cake 8
inch or larger.

Donato's Pizzeria - 32950
Walker Rd. Avon Lake - 15% off bill.
Not valid with any other coupon or
discount. Valid only at Avon Lake lo-
cation and must present PTA card
upon ordering.
(Valid on dine-in or pick-up only.)

AUTOMOTIVE:

Ed Tomko Chrysler/Jeep -
33725 Walker Rd. Avon Lake 933-
3500 Lube, oil & filter \$17.95. Lube,
oil & filter & rotate tires \$24.95.
Please call ahead for appointment.

Hartsel's Automotive -
149 Lear Rd. Avon Lake
930-2886
Free Tire Rotation & safety inspec-
tion with \$19.95 oil change
special.

Standring Auto Service, Inc. -
646 Moore Road Avon Lake. Call
933-8444. \$14.95 Oil, lube & filter

HOME BASED BUSINESSES:

Arbonne (All Natural Product
Line) - Lisa Taylor -15% off. Call 440-
315-5063 for more information.

AVON – Kimberlee Cartwright –
440-933-7668. You will receive 20%
off your first order.

**Christy's Dance & Fitness
with Zumba, Hip Hop & Car-
dio-Kickboxing** - 440-666-3734
or Christinelichko@hotmail.com. Six
week pass for \$45 and can attend as
many classes as possible. Call for
more information.

Celebrating Home (Formerly
Home & Garden Party & Home Inter-
iors)
Sherry Rafn - 930-2118
rrafn@oh.rr.com
Beautiful home decor, candles, food
and garden decor. 20% off your first
order. An extra \$20.00 free when you
host your own show.

**Independent Beauty
Consultant** – Kristi Cline
Receive \$75.00 worth of product for
\$35.00 when you Host a skin care
class. Call 933-3452 for further infor-
mation.

**Independent Beauty
Consultant**– Kira Stringer
20% off first purchase. Call 930-5783
for further information.

Joy's Personal Chef Service
Joy Meeker 440-915-7409
10% off weekly chef service.
15% off any occasion cake.

Kroll Kreations
– Melanie Kroll - 440-289-0709
20% off labor only. Murals, mosaics &
more. See www.krollkreations.com
for more information.

Popschickel Designs

440-930-2121 fax: 440-930-2154
www.popschickel.com Logo's, web
design, business cards, marketing &
promotional materials, hosting &
more! Benefit: Complete website (up
to 10 pages) with Flash only \$275.00
and free logo! (First time customers
only! Does not include hosting fees.)
Use code: PTA when ordering.

Premier Designs

Crista Partridge – 440-937-9236 or
440-258-2964 [cristapartridge@road-
runner.com](mailto:cristapartridge@road-runner.com). *25% off any order.
*\$25.00 extra in free jewelry when
you have a jewelry show. Call Crista
Partridge for further information.

S.O.S. – Sharb Organizing Solutions

– Andrea Sharb, Accred-
ited Staging Professional.
agsharb@mac.com
440-429-0010
Simplifying, Organizing and Staging
Your Home For Sale or For Living.
You never get a second chance to
make a great first impression.
Mention this offer for 10% off a
home staging or organizing
consultation.

Silpada Designs

Julia Caputo 933-6622
20% off first piece of jewelry.

Squirreled Away

Sarah Marsh, owner. Organizing/de-
cluttering business.
Squirreledaway@yahoo.com
912-308-5408 930-9054
Free initial consultation, 20% off serv-
ices.



Avon Lake PTA Member Benefits

Cont'd

OTHER:

360 Rehab & Remodeling

4640 Dover Center Rd. N. Olmsted
440-667-7786.

5% off any home repair or improvement. (i.e. Kitchens, baths, siding, windows, roof and repairs too!) They also have a cash reward for referrals.

Attractive Flooring

Steve Krajny 327-2380 or cell-440-315-4975 Minimum 10% off; free design consultation and measure.

Caputo Painting

Julia Caputo 933-6622
10% off painting services

Cleaning/J.V. Janitorial Services, Inc. Jay Vocaire

216-276-1948

www.jvjanitorial.com. Call Jay for a free estimate on any of your cleaning needs! Will take 10% off your total bill.

Curves for Women

375C Lear Rd. Avon Lake - 10% off
Curves protein shake.

EMH Center for Health &

Fitness 1997 Healthway Dr. Avon
440-988-6800 Show your PTA membership card to member services to sign up for the corporate rate. Enrollment - \$100.00 for individual member and monthly rate is \$57.00 for individual member. 1st additional family member is \$100.00 for enrollment and \$44.00 monthly rate for 1st additional family member.

Fifth Third Bank

Fifth Third Bank is offering a unique and exciting benefit available exclusively to PTAs & PTA members. They are offering a no monthly service fee checking account with unlimited check writing, unlimited check writing, unlimited free Jeanie ATM transactions, no minimum balance and your first order of checks FREE! To participate visit Fifth Third Banking Center 32844 Walker Rd. Avon Lake. If you already have a Fifth Third Checking Account, please stop by your banking center and have them upgrade your account to Employee Benefit Banking. You will need this number to take advantage of the offer: EBB #5698 Ohio PTA.

Financial Services, Prudential

John Wirtz 440-268-9050 X- 26
Free financial plan – a \$500.00 value.

Fine Bella Salon

33382 Walker Rd. Avon Lake 440-930-8919.

15% off any nail service when booked with Patti Washburn. Not transferable to any other stylist.

15% off any aesthetician service including facials and waxing when booked with Melanie Norton only. Non-transferable.

15% off any massage with Marlana Sugerik. Not transferable to any other stylist.

Five Stars Adult Care Home

32980 Webber Road Avon Lake
440-396-3548 Cindy Cogar Website:
FiveStarsAdultcarehome.com
\$500.00 off 1st month's rent

Friendly Computer

33485 Lake Rd. Avon Lake 930-4748
(by the Avon Lake movie theater)
\$75.00 off any complete new computer system purchase, and 15% off all labor & service.

Jazzercise—Avon

1502 Lear Industrial Pkwy, Suite 1B,
Avon. Contact Janna Shelton at 440-308-7246. No joining fee. (\$50 value.)

Krause Interiors

Contact Lynn Krause at 440-930-5235 or her cell at 216-570-5891.
15% off interior design services - not including window treatments or accessory purchases.

Kirby Service Center

2017 North Ridge Rd. Lorain
440-233-5471
10% off parts.

Ladies Workout Express

2100 Center Rd. Suite B Avon
440-937-7237
75% off the registration fee.

Maids To Order

33684 Walker Road Avon Lake
440-933-6000
\$10.00 off first time clean; \$25.00 off a deep clean or "spring clean."

Massage Therapy

Karen Wirtz – 440-930-4396.
\$10.00 off a one hour massage.



Avon Lake PTA Member Benefits

Cont'd

Pam Lemke, Realty One Sales Associate

Office – 933-6195

Voice Mail – 1-800-416-0988 For any referral on the purchase or sale of a home (house, condo, townhouse, etc.), that results in a completed transaction, she will donate \$100.00 to the PTA of your choice.

Pine Knoll Gardens

Kelly Eisaman, manager.

900 Lear Nagle Rd. Avon, OH 44011
440-937-5468

10% off of purchase on Pine Knoll Gardens merchandise.

(Does NOT include The Rock Pile's merchandise.)

Must present PTA card at time of plant selection to a Pine Knoll Gardens employee.

Spevock's Nautical Lanes

184 Miller Rd. Avon Lake
933-7008

2-games pay for one get one free per visit – maximum of 2 free games per Avon Lake PTA card per family each visit. Not valid with any other offer.

The Sherwin Williams Company

32803 Walker Road Avon Lake
(440) 933-8622 Web: www.sherwin-williams.com

20% off all list prices, 5% off sale prices (3% of these sales go back to the Avon Lake PTA Council one time a year). Avon Lake PTA Council/Sherwin-Williams Neighbor-to-Neighbor Account Number = 9061-3869-8. This number (PLUS your PTA card) MUST be PRESENTED to obtain the discount and for tracking purposes of the 3% cash back.

Sue Sews

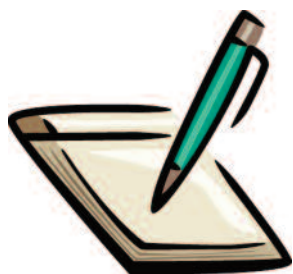
934-5370 – Ask for Sue Marquard.

20% off labor only. She does window treatments, bedding, pillows, cushions, clothing alterations.

The UPS Store (Formerly known as Mailboxes, Etc.)

32818 Walker Rd., Avon Lake and
30628 Detroit Rd., Westlake - 5 cents per copy. 8-1/2 x 11 unlimited copies. You will be issued a VIP card (at no charge) upon showing your PTA membership card.

The Avon Lake PTA Council thanks these fine businesses for their voluntary participation in this program. The above businesses are NOT endorsed or recommended by the Avon Lake PTA Council. If you know of a business that is interested in participating, please call Sherri Tober at 933-2670.



PTA Minutes

March 9, 2011

Call to order 9:33 a.m.

Superintendent Bob Scott –

The district has created a facebook page to increase communication with the community. Two levies are up for renewal in the April election. The first is a permanent improvement levy which will not create new taxes. The second is an emergency levy and will not create new taxes either. “Emergency” is a state term meaning it is a fixed dollar levy. The original 4.5 mil levy that was passed in 2006 will continue to be available if passed this election.

Only the school levies and the library levy are on the ballot so we need to make sure school district supporters get to the polls to vote. These renewals are important to pass because the state budget for education will be reduced significantly for next year resulting in the need to keep our district funds healthy. More detailed information is available on the district website.

Mr. Holland – Principal’s Report –

Thank you to all those who helped with Fun Fair, the family breakfast, the information night, COSI, and Family Movie Night. Thank you in advance to all who will help with conference dinners for the staff and the Scholastic book fair. The students will be released early on Tuesday and Wednesday for conferences.

The choir festival is March 1 for all the elementary choirs. Kudos to our outstanding music department here in Avon Lake.

Discovery Works Assessments will be administered in the next few weeks.

They are the third round of assessments this year. The students should be growing more comfortable with them now.

The OAA state testing will May 3rd and 5th, the week we return from spring break, for the 3rd and 4th grade students. Please make sure your students are well fed and rested before testing.

Construction Update – The cafeteria flooring is half installed. The new portion of the floor needs to cure well before the floor can be added on top. The two new classrooms are scheduled to be ready for use at the end of the month.

Mr. Bob slipped on ice outside at school and broke his femur. He had surgery to repair the leg. Students have been sending get well cards. He will have a brief stay at a rehabilitation center before returning home to heal. Don Tomanic is filling in during his absence.

The student numbers have been given to Mr. Scott as to those who are returning and signed up for Kindergarten next year. We do not yet know what staffing changes will occur next year.

Cheryl Higley – President,

Troy PTA – There are open committee chair positions next year at Troy. Please consider helping.

Nominating Committee –

Leslie Knox – The nominating committee has nominated Cindy Jereb for Treasurer and Valerie Baker for 2nd Vice President in charge of Fundraising for next year.

Treasurer – Linda Below – February beginning balance was \$11,232.10. Disbursements were

\$1,370.68. Deposits were \$4,513.25. Ending balance was \$14,374.67.

President’s Report – Kristen

Masa – Amanda Clancy will send out an e-mail regarding how to help out Mr. Bob. Volunteer hours from last month were 153.5 and 1,266 year-to-date. Potts award nominations need to be in by March 11.

PTA will provide a bag for each student taking the OAA test containing tissues, mints, etc. One coffee urn was donated because parts were missing from the one we currently have. Elizabeth Gedeon presented a motion to purchase a second urn solely for hot water for \$38.25. Tru pace seconded the motion. The motion carried.

We received an after-Prom donation request. Vicky Riley presented a motion to donate \$50 to the ALHS After-Prom committee. Erin Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2nd Vice President – Kim Wal-

ters – The Dean’s flower sale is approaching. Flyers will be sent home with the students soon. There will not be a mulch sale this year.

Council Delegate – The district received \$100,000 from the Race to the Top campaign to be used for teacher in-service training. The Council spring luncheon will be May 19 at the Library. Potts awards winners and scholarship winners will be honored at the luncheon.

Book Fair –Meg Zuern – The fair is next week. Volunteers are needed so please sign up on the clipboard. A committee chair is needed for next year. Please consider serving.



Market Day – Krissy Hart – We earned \$270 yesterday. There are 2 more sales left in the year. Next month's pick up will be on April 5th.

Reflections – Cindy Jereb – This Sunday is the Reflections Art Festival at the Performing Arts Center at the high school beginning at 12:00. The awards program will begin at 1:00. Ten Westview students placed.

Staff Appreciation – Alessia Lloyd – Staff appreciation week is late in the school year this year. It is May 2-6. The breakfast will be Monday and luncheon on Friday. OAA testing is on Tuesday and Thursday of that week so no activities will take place on those days. If you sign up to send items for the breakfast, please make sure they are delivered before 8:00. Help is needed to decorate on Thursday, April 21 before the break. Wild Wild Westview is the theme.

Conference Dinners – Elizabeth Gedeon – There will be soup and salad for Thursday and pizza (provided by the school) and salad on Wednesday.



Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

Westview Elementary School
Paul Holland, Principal

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System*

Ms. Frizzle blasts her class into the solar system for some out-of-this-world science lessons. One of the Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Doctor De Soto Goes to Africa*

In this tale by William Steig, the famous mouse dentist travels to



Africa. But before he can repair the tooth of Mudambo the elephant, an unhappy monkey kidnaps him!



■ *The Whingdingdilly*

Scamp is bored with his life as a dog. Then Zildy the witch changes him into a Whingdingdilly. Life is anything but boring now—but is Scamp happy? Read this story by Bill Peet to find out.

■ *Babushka's Doll*

"It wasn't that Natasha was a truly naughty child." So begins the story of a little girl who needs some practice learning patience. The lesson begins when Natasha picks up her grandmother's doll. A magical story by Patricia Polacco.



Story time

Want to spend time with your youngster, build her reading skills, and help her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud to her. Here are some suggestions.



Read regularly. Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10–15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Tuck read-alouds into the time when dinner is in the oven. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

Take turns choosing books. Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry).

Let her participate. Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words she knows. Go slowly so she has

time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. She'll enjoy read-aloud time more if she plays an active role.

Be playful. You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a chicken or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Substitute your youngster's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters. *Note:* You don't have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it's *you*. ♥

A language-rich home

Good news: Strong language skills can make your youngster a better reader, writer, and all-around student. Great news: You can build those skills just by talking to your child. Try these ideas:

- Narrate everyday activities like driving or cooking. Hearing unfamiliar words in conversation will help your youngster understand words in books ("Please hand me the *colander* so I can drain the spaghetti"). *Tip:* If he doesn't know the word, explain: "This is a colander. Water drains through the holes."
- Encourage your child to join family conversations. Ask him questions to help him expand on his answers. ("Why do you think so?" "What else happened?") He will learn to talk about events and give his opinions. ♥



Use what you know

Reading new words

Your child probably can't read a word like "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." But he can use words he already knows to read new words. Here's how:

■ Start with your youngster's name. Troy, for example, might have an easier time learning "tr" words such as "train." You can use the "tr" consonant blend at the beginning of his name to teach



him other blends as well, such as "cr," "pl," and "st."

■ Point out patterns in sight words your child recognizes. *Example:* If your youngster knows "they," he can learn "then," "this," and "that." "Could," "would," and "should" are three common sight words that also share a pattern.

■ Break down syllables in a longer word, such as "yesterday." Cover the entire word with a small slip of paper. Then, slowly slide the paper to the right to show each syllable one at a time (yes-ter-day). This works especially well for words with several syllables, such as "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"!♥

Fun with Words Newspaper learning

With thousands of words in every issue, newspapers are a great way to build your youngster's skills. Grab a paper, and try these activities.

Matching game

Have your child cut out several photographs and their captions separately. Mix them up. Matching the captions and the photos will improve her reading comprehension.



Scavenger hunt

List items in the newspaper (car ad, crossword puzzle, weather forecast), and ask your youngster to find and circle each one. She'll build research skills as she looks through the pages.

ABC order

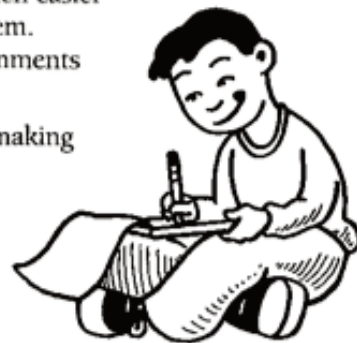
Together, find the names of 5–10 countries, states, and cities in headlines or stories. Let your child copy each one onto an index card and arrange the cards in alphabetical order. This will help her practice spelling and learn about geography.♥

Q&A Real writing

Q My son doesn't enjoy writing. He will write a few words, such as his spelling lists. But when it's time to write a paragraph or a story, he complains. Any ideas?

A Have your son try a few "real" writing tasks. It's often easier for kids to write about things that have meaning for them. Encourage your child to give those longer writing assignments a try with ideas like these:

- Have him write what he remembers about the day (making a new friend, playing kickball, having pizza for lunch).
- Let him choose a cherished toy or animal and write a few sentences describing it. *Example:* "The bunny is soft. He hops fast."
- Ask him to write lists of favorite songs, favorite characters in a movie, or ideas for his birthday.♥



Parent to Parent Simple reading practice

I've found a way to give my children reading practice—and improve their behavior at the same time. I write short notes to my kids and leave them around the house.

Sometimes I'll mention my youngsters' good behavior ("Thanks for helping with the dishes!") or write reminders ("Please hang me up. Signed, Your towel"). Sometimes the notes are about

not-so-good behavior. ("I was disappointed when you yelled at me. Can we talk about it?") I make sure to leave notes for treats, too ("Let's go fly your kite this afternoon!").

I look for unique places to put the notes, such as on their pillows, in front of the dog's water bowl, or pinned to the shower curtain. The kids enjoy discovering the notes and reading them aloud.♥



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Math+Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

Premier Issue

Westview Elementary School
Paul Holland, Principal



INFO BITS

Multiplication tip

Help your youngster understand multiplication by having him think of "x" as "groups of" (example: 3×2 means "3 groups of 2"). Then, have him practice with an empty egg carton and beads. He can put 2 beads in each of 3 sections and count by groups (2, 4, 6) to get the answer: $3 \times 2 = 6$.

Using ramps

Show your child how ramps help us move objects. A ramp is a kind of *simple machine*—an *inclined plane* that has no moving parts and makes work easier. Together, brainstorm examples (roller-coaster track, wheelchair ramp, slide). Then, ask her to build her own ramp (she might stack five books and slant a sixth book against them).

Book picks

1 *Sir Cumference and the First Round Table* (Cindy Neuschwander) is a clever look at geometry. Cute names—the king's son is Radius—and clear diagrams will teach your youngster about shapes and geometric relationships.

2 Learning about the solar system is fun when planets tell the story themselves. Dan Green's *Astronomy: Out of This World!* contains fascinating facts and details along with cartoon illustrations your child is sure to love.

Worth quoting

"The power of imagination makes us infinite." John Muir

Just for fun

Q: What happened to the plant in math class?

A: It grew square roots!



Fraction games

Does your child realize that fractions are everywhere? Next time you see a sale price ($\frac{1}{2}$ off), tell time (quarter after 9), follow a recipe ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup), or read a road sign ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile ahead), tell her, "There's another fraction!"

Playing card games is a great way to help your youngster practice comparing and adding fractions. Have her make fraction cards (see instructions in box at right), and then use them to play these games together.

Fraction War. Shuffle and deal the cards into a stack for each person. Players turn over their top cards at the same time, and whoever has the highest card takes the cards in that round. If there is a tie, each person turns over another card. Keep playing until one person has captured all the cards.

Fraction Race. Deal each player five cards. On the count of three, each person races to put her fractions in order from smallest to largest. Have your child check the results by comparing the fraction pictures on her cards.

Fraction One. The object of this game is to get as close to 1 as possible without going over. Deal everyone a card. On each turn, a player must decide if she's going to draw another card—depending on whether adding another fraction is likely to put her over 1. When all players are happy with their hands, they turn over their cards. The person who comes closest to 1 (or equals 1) wins that round. 1



Make fraction cards

Making a set of fraction cards will help your youngster understand how fractions represent parts of a whole.

Gather index cards, a pencil, and crayons. On each card, have your child write a fraction and draw a circle to represent it. He could make cards for $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and so on through 5ths, 6ths, 8ths, 10ths, and 12ths.

To draw the fractions, have him trace around a round object (a jar lid, a large button) so the circles are the same size. Then, he can divide each circle into an equal number of slices based

on the bottom number (the *denominator*) and color the number of slices in the top number (the *numerator*). Example: Write $\frac{2}{6}$, divide the circle into 6 slices, and color 3 slices. 1



Fun with clouds

Children love to gaze at the changing shapes of clouds and watch them go by overhead. But does your youngster know how clouds are formed? He can learn with these two activities:

1. Have him stand close to a mirror, take a deep breath, and exhale. A circle of steam will appear on the mirror. Explain that his breath contains *water vapor*, and when it hits the cold mirror, tiny droplets of water form—causing



condensation. Clouds contain billions of droplets that are formed when water vapor rises into the atmosphere and condenses.

2. Next, he can make a “condensation chamber.” Have him put 2 tsp. water in a small plastic cup and place a second plastic cup, upside down, on top. He should tape the two cups together and set the chamber by a sunny window. What does he see in 1–3 hours? (Condensation will begin to form.) In 24 hours? He might notice more condensation in daytime or more drops on the side closest to the window (*the reason*: warm air holds more water vapor than cool air). ☐

MATH CORNER Let's estimate



Estimating is more than guessing—it's a logical way of reasoning and reaching a likely answer. Here are ways for your child to practice.

● **Figure the cost.** Have her estimate the price of filling the gas tank. When you pull into a station, ask her to look at the fuel gauge, check the gas price, and make an estimate. Over time, your youngster will get better at figuring out the cost. Or while grocery shopping, let her keep a running total of the bill. She can round off the price of each item and add as you go.



● **How many seeds?** Put out a watermelon, and ask everyone to predict how many seeds are inside. Then, slice it evenly, and have each person count the seeds in her piece. Use that number to estimate the total seeds (round the number in your piece and multiply it by the number of slices). Check the estimates by adding up the seeds when you finish the watermelon. ☐

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Q & A Calculators for homework?

Q: My child wants to use a calculator for math homework. Should he do the problems on paper instead?



A: Your youngster will use a calculator throughout life, so it's good for him to be comfortable with the tool. But he should know how to do basic math operations—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division—on paper and in his head.

He might use a calculator as a time-saver for doing simple steps of a math problem. Then, he can focus on the more complex parts of the homework. Another idea is to ask him how he solved a problem, including how he used the calculator. Explaining the steps to you will help him develop mathematical thinking.

Your child's teacher will usually say when it's okay to use a calculator. Ask your youngster what the instructions were, or check with the teacher on her policy. ☐

SCIENCE LAB What a reaction!

Let your youngster make a “foam machine,” and she'll see chemistry in action.

You'll need: 2 glasses, 1 tsp. powdered laundry detergent, vinegar, 2 spoons, 1 tsp. baking soda, water

Here's how: Have your child put 1 tsp. powdered laundry detergent in one glass, fill it half full with vinegar, and stir. In the second glass, she can add 1 tsp. baking soda, fill it half full with water, and stir with the

second spoon. In a sink or dishpan, have her pour the mixture from the second glass into the first glass.

What happens? Foam will ooze out of the glass. ☐

Why? The acidic vinegar and the alkaline baking soda combine for a chemical reaction that produces carbon dioxide gas. When the carbon dioxide mixes with the soap, foam bubbles up and spills out of the glass. ☐



April 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Looking ahead to May...

May 2-School Resumes

May 2-5 Staff Appreciation Week

May 2-13 3rd & 4th Gr. OAA Test

May 10 Market Day

May 11 PTA Breakfast Mtg.

May 18 Kindergarten Screening

Senior Reception

May 20 Special Olympics

May 26 4th Gr. Recognition

May 27 Spirit Day

Memorial Day-

No School

Field Day

3

4

5 Report Cards Home

3-4 Market Day Pick-up



11

12

13 9:30 PTA Mtg.

14

7 Assembly:
National Children's
Theatre "Show Down at
Cash Canyon"
1:00 gr. K-2 1:40 gr. 3-4
3:20-4:10 Choir

8

15 Spirit Day
Wear your Westview Wildlife
sportswear or Maroon &
Gold!

16

Don't forget your
canned food or paper
item for CRS and your
Box Tops.

17

19 Passover Begins

20

21

Golden Paw Lunch

10:40-2:30 Mrs. Ruth-
erford's 4th gr. Students
to Troy

22 Good Friday

Spring Break Begins
No School

23

24 Happy Easter!

25 Passover Ends

26

27

28

29

30

Jump Rope for Heart

Spring Break — School Resumes Monday, May 2nd

