

WESTMERE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

<http://www.guilderlandschools.org/westmere/Westhome.htm>

FEBRUARY 2018

Mrs. Beth Bini
Principal

Dear Westmere Families,

Welcome to February! Westmere is excited to welcome back our C-Cubed Enrichment teacher, Mr. Ben Rudolph from Feb. 4- March 9. Mr. Rudolph will work with all classes in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade, several times during this 4 week period on selected activities that foster curiosity, creativity and collaboration. Be sure to ask your child what they did with Mr. Rudolph!

Student report cards are now available on School Tool. Please be sure to log in through the parent portal to view your child's second quarter report card. If you are having difficulty logging in to School Tool, or need a paper copy, please email your child's teacher or contact the main office.

Please note the school vacation during the week of February 19-23. School will not be in session during this week, and will resume on Monday, February 26. Let's hope for some warm winter weather to enjoy the outdoors!

Happy February Westmere Families,

Sincerely,
Dr. Beth Bini
Principal

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

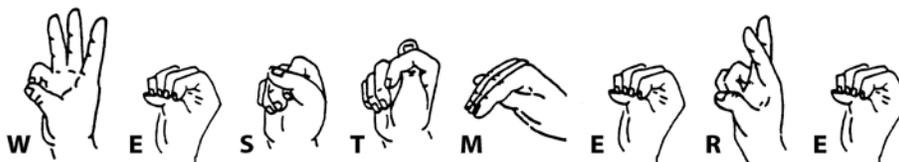
7:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

Telephone: 456-3771

Secretaries:

Mrs. Marie Wark

Mrs. Joanne McGuirk





**IMPORTANT
DATES TO
REMEMBER**



**SCHOOL
SAFETY**

February 1 PTA Mtg. 6 PM Library
Kindergarten Registration (for new Students-Fall 2018)
Report cards released on School Tool

February 5 Building Cabinet 2:15 Conference Rm

February 7 Lockdown Drill

February 13 5th Grade Panoramic Picture
BOE Mtg. 7 PM HS LGI

February 15 Valentine's Day
Building Cabinet 2:15

February 15 Gr. 3 Young People's Concert @ HS
Gr. 4 Colonial Day

February 19-23 **NO SCHOOL President's Week**

February 26 School Resumes!

Please make sure you let friends or family members who may be picking up your child know they will be asked for an ID if they are picking up a child or entering the building. We truly appreciate your understanding as we work to find the most efficient ways to process visitors while keeping our school as secure as possible.

During the day the doors will be locked while students are in school and you will be requested to follow the school rules for visitation. We are going to be asking you to help us expedite the process by "R.S.V.P.ing" to your classroom teacher for class events so we can pre-register you for your visit. This will help us ensure you have a pleasant visit to Westmere so you can enjoy time with your child.

March 1 PTA Mtg. 6 PM Library

March 5 Building Cabinet 2:15 Conference Rm.

March 6 BOE Mtg. 7 PM HS LGI

March 8 Bus Safety Drill/Peaceful School Bus Activity



FROM THE NURSE

February is National Dental Health Month!



Lifelong habits begin at home. Make dental health part of your daily routine and share these reminders with your whole family:

- Brush your teeth at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, especially after breakfast and before bedtime. Drinking water after eating also helps to clear your teeth of food particles.
- Floss every day. An adult should help children under the age of eight to floss. Older children should be ready to floss on their own.
- Limit the number of times you eat snacks, especially the sticky ones and long lasting ones.
- Visit a dentist regularly for a routine check up and a cleaning.



**MORNING
DROP-OFF**

Students may be dropped off **no earlier** than 7:30 AM and then proceed down to the cafeteria where there is supervision until 7:45.

Student drop off is at 7:45 when our school day begins. Please drop off as close to that time as possible. Dropping off children from 7:55 -8:00 already puts your child in a "catch up" mode. Help your child avoid being late. Drop off at 7:45!

- Protect your teeth by wearing a mouthguard when playing sports.
- Don't forget to change your toothbrush regularly, and after an illness like Strep.

Sweet snack facts:

- Eating a lot of snacks with sugar may cause cavities.
- Every time you eat sugar, plaque in your mouth mixes with the sugar to make acid. The acid hurts the teeth and causes decay over time. This can be painful!

The school nurse can help you find a dental home for your family! Please contact me if you need any assistance!



Please do not forget to call the Main office at Westmere (518) 456-3771 to notify the school that your child is home for school for any reason. Please notify me if your child has a contagious illness so we can prevent the spread to other students and faculty.

We are in the middle of cold and flu season. Please do not send your child to school if they are sick. If your child has a temperature of 100.0 or above and/or sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, excessive coughing and nasal discharge, they should stay home to prevent the spread of the illness.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at (518)456-3771 x4142 or email me at javoroskij@guilderlandschools.net

Your School Nurse,
Janeen Javoroski



**FROM
THE
MICKI
NEVETT
LIBRARY**

The Micki Nevett Library
Westmere Elementary School

Once again, the Westmere Library has been a busy and great place to be! Following our vacation, students returned ready and excited.

Kindergarten friends worked very hard in the Library during January as they began to explore the NonFiction section of our library. We talked about how to tell the difference between a Fiction (story) book and a NonFiction (information) book. We began the month with "Squirrel's New Year Resolution". That made us ask A LOT of questions about squirrels so we followed up with a NonFiction book. Did you know that squirrels do not build a door into their nest? They simply push through; it helps protect them. We also shared a silly book about squirrels and finished by celebrating Fiction and NonFiction TOGETHER with a squirrel episode of Wild Kratts. Students have also been practicing selecting a book carefully. First, of course, we find a shelf marker (or save your spot stick); they are located on the counter. Second, we begin browsing for books. After that, we use our shelf marker to hold our spot while deciding whether or not to check out a book. Next, if we decide that we would like to take that book home, we remove the shelf marker and move on. If we do not wish to take the book home, we simply slide the book back in and remove the marker. After deciding, we head to the circulation desk to sign our book(s) out. Finally, we find a chair to sit on and begin enjoying the books. They certainly do enjoy their time in the Library each week!

First grade students have also been very excited!

Following our vacation, students returned to focus on Fiction and NonFiction as we shared BIOGRAPHIES!

We shared Biography books about Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. After reading about them, we began to wonder what other NonFiction books could help us answer questions we might have. We shared “Armadillo Tattletale” and followed up our questions about armadillos by reading an information book about them and exploring what we can find out using the computer.

The excitement continues in Grade 2 as students listened to nonfiction books that had great characters. We couldn’t think of better information books to share than Biographies about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Lincoln. We ended the month beginning to “dig deeper” into information books. We read “Ordinary Oscar” and that prompted A LOT of questions about snails. Students were introduced to and explored our library’s databases and what information they can give. During February, we will continue to share great books before checking out books.

Third grade students have been working on Nonfiction in the classroom, so we have also been doing that in the Library. We explored Nonfiction at Westmere by reading a picture book titled “John, Paul, George and Ben”. This was a great title that prompted students to ask a lot of questions about these historical figures. That discussion prompted us to learn more about the NonFiction section in our Library. From there, we moved on to identifying a book’s theme and author’s purpose. We sure have been busy before checking out books!

Grade 4 spent time in the Library exploring the “historical fiction” genre. This year, we began something new with Grade 4 in the Library. To compliment classroom curriculum and also learn to be AWESOME LIBRARY USERS, Mrs. Johnson began reading the book “Chains” by Laurie Halse Anderson; this book is part of a trilogy about the Revolutionary War. As the book is read aloud, mini lessons about using the Library are used to tie in with the book’s content. This will continue during February.

Students in Grade 5 spent January creating BOOK TRAILERS. Students formed groups, chose a favorite book and used “Adobe Spark” to create a video or slide show. Their goal was to “advertise” the book so that others look forward to reading it. This was a big HIT! The students cannot wait to see them all in February during our “viewing party”.

WOW! That is A LOT of learning. Westmere is certainly a wonderful place to be!



MUSIC

We are back in full swing with chorus, orchestra, and band rehearsals!

Our next concert is on March 28th. The groups performing will be 4th and 5th grade chorus, 4th grade band, 4th grade orchestra, 5th grade band, and 5th grade orchestra. We hope to see you there!

Keep practicing!!!

Judy Russo
Jeff Herchenroder
Karylene Close



PE

Hope you are enjoying the winter season. The kids had a great time with the gymnastics unit. They enjoyed working on their upper body strength, balance, flexibility, timing and independent risk taking. It was fun watching the students improve throughout the unit.

We are now involved with strength, power and leverage units along with counter balance with K-4th. Fifth graders are doing a wrestling unit.

We will do our winter outdoor unit whenever we get enough snow to take them out. We will be sending a notice home with the students to remind parents to send in winter attire for physical education. Be on the lookout for our notice, which will be sent home informing you of when our winter unit will begin. This means get those boots, snow pants, jackets, gloves & hats ready. If you have any of these items that your children have grown out of we would appreciate donations.

If you have any questions call Mrs. Reed-Best or Mr. Schwan at school (456-3771). Thank you for your support.

Your Physical Educators
Mrs. Reed-Best & Mr. Schwan



ART

This month in the art room Kindergarten artists are looking at the jungle paintings of French artist Henri Rousseau.

Using mixed media, including oil pastel, tempera paint, marker, found objects and cut paper, students will create their own personal jungle scenes.

First Graders are studying the art of American artist Winslow Homer. Using Homer's preferred media of watercolor paint, students are creating their own imaginative landscape scenes. They have also been introduced to colored pencil skills such as blending and coloring smoothly and evenly.

Second graders are studying observational drawing and perspective drawing to create varied works including the subjects of realistic animals and interior imaginative rooms.

Fourth graders are studying the artwork of Robert Rauschenberg, an American painter and Graphic artist. Focusing on the subject of a city, students are scraping paint to create buildings and using found objects to print doors, windows and other details.

Third and Fifth graders are looking at the Empire State Modern Art Collection for inspiration in their works. New York State has an extensive collection of mid-century American Modern Art located in the halls and galleries of the Concourse, New York State Museum and surrounding buildings and grounds.

Using media of their choice, students have been asked to create a personal artistic response to a work from this collection that sparks their interest.



LOST & FOUND

Please put your child's name on their clothing and other items. Each year items are donated because they cannot be identified. The Lost and Found is located outside the library in the main lobby.

