

WESTMERE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2018

Mrs. Beth Bini
Principal

Dear Westmere Families,

Welcome to January! With the start of the new year come some new changes with our Westmere staff. Mrs. Hilton has resigned to take a new job working at the Berne Knox Westerlo High School. Westmere wishes Mrs. Hilton good luck with her new position. I am pleased to announce Ms. Joanne McGuirk will be filling this role as our new secretary. Ms. McGuirk transitioned with Mrs. Hilton prior to the holiday vacation and is quickly learning our school routines and procedures. Please introduce yourself and say hello when you see her at the window or at dismissal! Parents picking up at dismissal time, please be prepared to show your ID until Ms. McGuirk gets to know you. Thank you for your patience during this transition process.

In addition, Mrs. Polino is returning to the classroom from her maternity leave of absence. Westmere also thanks Miss Day for her time and commitment to her students in third grade.

Please join us on Friday January 26 for the PTA PE Family Fun Night. Students can take part in many active games from 6-8 pm in both the front and back gyms. A small fee will be collected to support our PE program. Hope to see you there!

From all of us at Westmere, we wish you a very happy and healthy 2018!

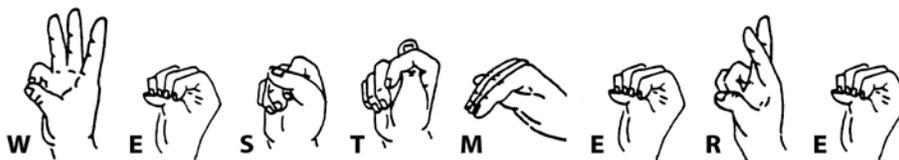
Warmly,

Beth Bini
Principal

OFFICE HOURS

7:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.
Telephone: 456-3771
Secretaries:
Mrs. Marie Wark
Ms. Joanne McGuirk

SCHOOL





IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 2 School Resumes
- January 4 PTA Meeting 6 PM Library
- January 8 Bldg. Cabinet 2:15 PM Conf. Room
- January 9 BOE Meeting 7 PM HS LGI
- January 12 Lockdown Drill
- January 15 **NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- January 18 2018 Kindergarten Information Night 6:30 PM
- January 23 BOE Meeting 7 PM HS LGI
- January 26 PE Family Fun Night 6-8 PM
- January 31 2018-2019 Kindergarten Registration

- February 1 2018-2019 Kindergarten Registration
PTA Meeting 6 PM
Report Cards available on School Tool
- February 5 Bldg. Cabinet t2:15 Conference Room
- February 7 Lockdown Drill
- February 13 BOE Meeting 7 PM HS LGI
- February 19-23 **NO SCHOOL President's Week/Winter Recess**

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.



FROM THE NURSE



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!

The start of a new year is a great time to help children adopt healthy habits and resolutions. The following list is adopted from American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to get the New Year started right.

10 Healthy Resolutions for Kids to start the New Year!

1. I will clean up my toys and keep my room in good order.
2. I will brush my teeth twice a day and wash my hands before eating and after the bathroom.
3. I won't tease dogs, even friendly ones – and keep my hands and face away from their mouths.
4. I will drink more milk and water and limit soda and fruity drinks.
5. I will apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
6. I will find a sport or activity that I like and do it at least three times a week.
7. I will always wear a helmet when bicycling or boarding.
8. I will wear my seat belt every time I get in the car.



SCHOOL SAFETY

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

9. I'll be nice to others and friendly to kids who need friends – like someone shy or new to school.
10. I will talk with my parent or trusted adult if I need help or am scared.

Make Health a Resolution for the whole family!

Healthy Family: Plan to eat more meals together as a family, include fruits and vegetables. Stay hydrated and encourage and support physical activity, parents are the role model for their children's physical health. Keep pets vaccinated and healthy. Spend more time together. Be kind and practice good manners.

Healthy Home: Go green. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level. Have a winter weather emergency plan and stock your home and car with necessary supplies. Keep cleaning products and medications away from children.

Healthy Community: Volunteer at your church, school, or one of the many community centers that need an extra hand. If you have received help from others, try to repeat the gesture and pay it forward. Extend a common courtesy wherever you are – they are always appreciated.

Healthy Workplace: Stay home if you are sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Participate in healthy workplace programs or start one. Take steps to prevent job stress and reduce work injuries by practicing good body mechanics.



Janeen Javoroski, BSN RN
Westmere School Nurse



**FROM THE MICKI
NEVETT LIBRARY**

The Micki Nevett Library
Westmere Elementary School



Greetings from the Westmere Elementary Library! Oh what fun we have been having during our time in the Library. Children continue to become familiar with 21st Century Skills as they enjoy all we have to offer them at Westmere.

Our friends in Kindergarten will be spending some time noticing the differences between fiction and nonfiction as we explore squirrels. They have also become very familiar with the parts of a book and will move on to how books are organized in a library; picture books vs. information books.

Students in Grade 1 will begin exploring Nonfiction more in depth during our time in the Library. In the Library, we will be sharing information books about people and perhaps even do a little research.

Second Grade friends will begin to explore Nonfiction as well. In the Library, I am excited to explore this with them. We will share books about Martin Luther King, Jr. and notice what information books can help us learn. We might even explore some information online using our school's databases.

Students in Grade 3 will be exploring "biographies" before beginning to focus on the theme of a book; or what it

offers by way of lesson, moral, or message. After that, we will move on to author's purpose. January will certainly be busy for us as we share great books too!

Grade 4 will explore historical fiction as we try something new during our time together in the Library.

Complimenting what the students will be learning in the classroom, we will continue to share great books and learn how to be great library users through the read aloud of "Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson.

Grade 5, will learn about, create, and share book trailers!

This will be new to them as well as myself; wish us luck! I am sure we will have a great time! Finally, as always, we constantly share wonderful titles that we have read and think others should as well.



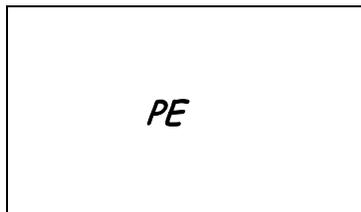
Happy New Year!

Chorus, Band, and Orchestra rehearsals are beginning again. Time to prepare for our Spring concert! Any students who were not in the first concert may join at this time. See Mrs. Russo for the permission slip.

Reminder:

In order to increase our musical skills, 4th and 5th grade instrumental students should be practicing a minimum of 4-5 days each week for 15-20 minutes. Please encourage your child to regularly practice.

Mrs. Russo
Mr. Herchenroder
Mrs. Close



Happy New Year!! Hope your holiday was healthy and active. As we begin the New Year our first unit will be gymnastics. Please make sure your children remember to wear loose fitting clothing and appropriate attire for tumbling. If they are going to wear a skirt or

dress please have them wear leggings or shorts underneath on PE days.

Our tentative plan is to start our outdoor unit in late January depending on snowfall. 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 and hats ready. If you have any of these items that your children have out grown, we would appreciate donations.

Thank you for all your help and support. The students love this unit and it is great outdoor exercise.

Our 5th grade district wide ski club starts on January 3, 2018. If you have any questions call Mrs. Reed-Best or Mr. Schwan at school (456-3771).

Our Family Fun Night which is co-sponsored by the PTA and PE departments will be held on Friday, January 26, 2018 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Mark your calendars for an enjoyable night out with the kids! Weather permitting you could use the cross country skis and snow shoes with your sons and daughters.

Thank you for your support.

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



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.



