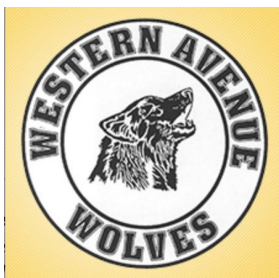
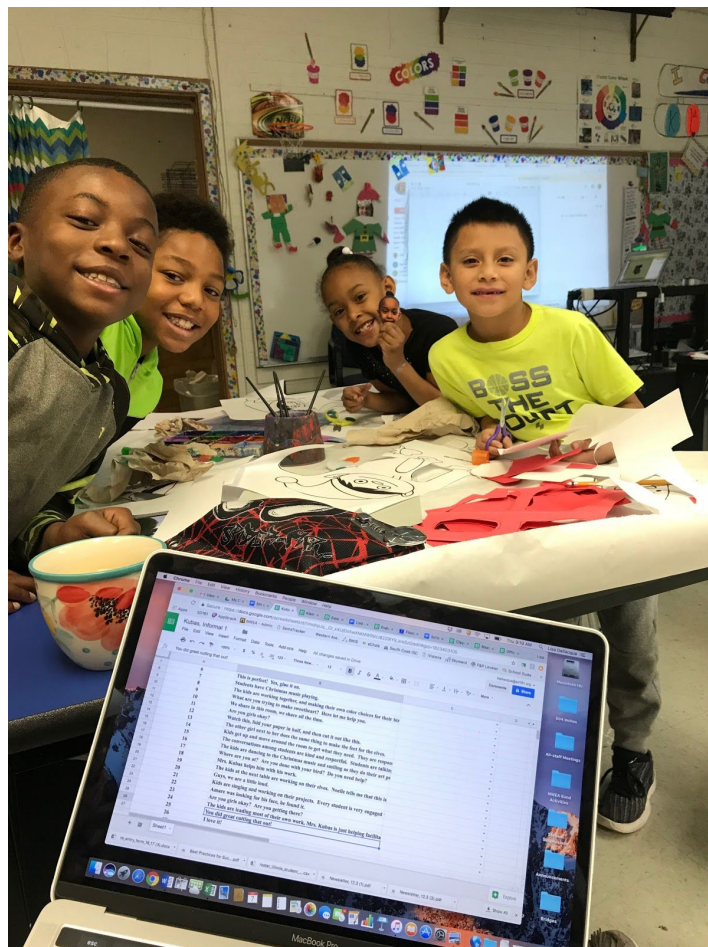


The Western Weekly, Issue 16

December 10th, 2017



Western Avenue Prepares for the Holiday Season



The children have been busy making preparations for the holiday season! In art class, students have been working on creating their own elves and ornaments for holiday decorating. At Western Avenue, we like to encourage diversity in our holiday celebrations. Therefore, you will see a Christmas Tree, a Hanukkah Banner, and Kwanzaa decorations all along our Main Foyer. We are still looking for anyone who would be willing to donate a tree skirt and some extra ornaments to help us move into the holiday spirit. Our theme is "Winter Wonderland," and we love to engage in holiday activities with the children. It brings a little extra joy to the school day as we begin our countdown to Winter Break!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

The Week of December 11th

Monday, 12.11	Tuesday, 12.12	Wednesday, 12.13	Thursday, 12.14	Friday, 12.15
Lunch: Chicken Fries	Lunch: Chicken Parmesan & Pasta	Lunch: Corn Dog	Lunch: Pizza Dippers	Lunch: Pepperoni Pizza
Basketball @ 6:00, 7:00 pm	Chess Club @ 3:15	Basketball Games @ 6:00, 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts @ 3:15	
School Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm	Basketball @ 6:00, 7:00 pm		Study Buddies @ 3:15	
			Basketball @ 6:00, 7:00 pm	
<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -December 19th: Western Avenue Spelling Bee, 9:00-11:00 am -December 21st: 5th Grade Choir Caroling Field Trip -December 21st: Holiday Parties, Sing-Along and Cookie Dough Pick-Up Day from Western Avenue, 3:00-6:00 pm -December 22nd: Winter Break Begins (No School) 				



TOP STORIES

5 Essentials Survey-Parent Participation Needed!

District 161 will join the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) in the sixth statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions. The survey provides a unique opportunity for students, teachers and parents to have a voice in improving their schools. Students in grades four through eight, teachers and parents will be asked to take a 25 minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment. This survey will serve as an opportunity for schools to reflect on progress in the district. We encourage parents and guardians to complete the survey to provide feedback to impact change in the district. *All District 161 parents and guardians should have received the link to the survey on December 5th. You are able to complete the survey on any device.* Please contact the Main Office with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Smencil Sales Next Week!

The P.T.O. will have its official Smencil Sale next week, December 12th and 13th, during lunch time. Smencils will be sold for \$1 each. There will also be new scented keychains on sale for \$2 each! Please support your P.T.O. through the Smencil Sale. The pencils and keychains do smell spectacular, and the kids love them! Thank you for your support :)

Girls on the Run Interest Survey

Every year, Western Avenue has wonderful participation in Girls on the Run. We are trying to get an accurate number of girls who are interested in participating this year for Girls on the Run. We have embedded a link to the survey on our school's website because we know that there were many issues last week with parents being able to access the link that was sent from our Western Weekly. Please visit our website at <http://westernavenue.sd161.org/> in order to access the survey form. Thank you!

Musical Practice Schedule

Our practices for the Spring Musical, "101 Dalmatians," started this past week. There are two different casts, so practices will either be on Wednesdays or Fridays after school from 3:05-4:15 pm, depending on which cast your child has been placed. The start dates are as follows:

- Friday, December 8th, from 3:05-4:15 pm and every following Friday unless you hear from Mrs. Pasqua
- Wednesday, December 13th, from 3:05-4:15 pm and every following Wednesday unless you hear from Mrs. Pasqua.

Brownie Troop to Recycle Crayons!

The Brownie Troop at Western Avenue will officially kick off Crayon Recycling beginning next week! The crayons can be placed in the marker bins that are located in our classrooms. We will take used whole or broken crayons from school, home, grandparents (anyone)!

The crayons will be recycled through SCARCE. Whole usable crayons will be divided into sets for underprivileged kids of school age. Broken crayons will be melted into Super Crayons of a variety of sizes and shapes for students with special needs. If you have any old/unused crayons at home, please feel free to send them with your child to school in order to be recycled. Thank you for supporting our Brownie Troop at Western Avenue!

Traffic Flow at Arrival and Dismissal Times

Parents, we understand that everyone is rushing to get their days started in the morning. However, we need to do a better job driving safely in the drop-off and pick-up lines. We have three staff members directing traffic at the front lot, two staff members posted at door I, and multiple people posted at the playgrounds and blacktop area between the playgrounds. We also have one person directing traffic in the North parking lot. Please remember that there is a traffic flow. Students must be dropped off in the designated car lines. Please do not drop off your children on any other street or sidewalk other than the designated lines. Please do not wait in line to make sure your child walks to the door because that stops the flow for other parents behind you. And please be very mindful when you are pulling away from the car line. There should only be one priority for morning drop off and afternoon pick up--and that priority is the safety of all our kids at Western Avenue. If we all work together, we can ensure the safety of all students. Thank you!

Thank you for reading, and have a wonderful week!

we ♥ school !

