

The Western Weekly, Issue 17

December 17th, 2017

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Western Avenue Fifth Grade Holds Their First Ever Winter Sock Hop!



Our fifth graders have been working diligently to earn a Winter Sock Hop for the month of December. Each homeroom received a calendar with snowflakes, and every day since the beginning of December, the children have had to model our school-wide expectations of being safe, respectful, and responsible in order to earn a snowflake for the day. Our teachers worked hard to create homemade decorations with the students, and the children even created their own music playlist. The Winter Sock Hop was SO much fun, and hopefully will become a new tradition at Western Avenue. A huge shout out of gratitude to our fifth grade teachers, Mrs. Santoro, Ms. Hentsch, Mr. Hall, and Mrs. Panozzo for helping to organize this event for our students. Also a huge thank you to all of our parents who donated snacks and board games--and especially to Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Roe, and Mrs. Mazurkiewicz for volunteering to help supervise the dance. What a great way to foster the Holiday Spirit at Western!

The Week of December 18th

December PBIS Holiday Spirit Week!

Monday, 12.18	Tuesday, 12.19	Wednesday, 12.20	Thursday, 12.21	Friday, 12.22
<p><i>Wear your Holiday Bells and Socks!</i></p>	<p><i>Wear your Holiday Pajamas for our Light up Halls with Reading Incentive!</i></p>	<p><i>Wear your ugly sweater and Holiday hats!</i></p>	<p><i>Wear all of your Holiday attire!</i></p>	<p><i>No School!</i></p>
	<p><i>Western Avenue Spelling Bee, 9:00-11:00 am</i></p>		<p><i>5th Grade Choir Caroling Field Trip</i></p>	
<p>Lunch: French Toast</p>	<p>Lunch: Spaghetti and Meatballs</p>	<p>Lunch: Macaroni and Cheese</p>	<p>Lunch: Cheeseburger w/ Baked Beans</p>	
	<p>Chess Club @ 3:15</p>		<p><i>Western Avenue Sing-Along, 1:30-2:00 pm</i></p>	
<p>Basketball @ 6:00, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Basketball @ 6:00, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Basketball Games @ 6:00, 7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>Holiday Parties, 2:00-2:50 pm</i></p>	
			<p><i>Cookie Dough Pick-Up Day from Western Avenue, 3:00-6:00 pm</i></p>	

Upcoming Events:

- December 22nd-January 9th: Winter Break Begins (No School)
- January 8th: Teacher Institute Day (Non-attendance day for children)
- January 15th: Martin Luther King Holiday (No School)



TOP STORIES

Holiday Parties/Winter Sing Along/Cookie Dough Pick Up!

Holiday parties will be held on *Thursday, December 21st from 2:00-2:50 pm*. Parents are invited to enter the building at 1:45 pm to start scanning IDs and assist in setting up rooms for the parties. You may come to the Main office early this week to have your ID scanned for Thursday. The children will be in the gym from 1:30-2:00 for the Winter Sing Along, and then at 2:00 pm, students will be dismissed to classrooms

for party time! There will be a permission slip going home on Monday for the parties. Please make sure to complete the permission slip and return it to the Main Office.

Also, from **3:00-6:00 pm on this day, parents will be able to pick up their orders** for the P.T.O. cookie dough fundraiser. The cookie dough needs to be refrigerated, and we do not have room to store any orders over break, so please make sure to remember to pick up your orders! Thank you!

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. 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. We are currently at 11% participation for all parents at Western Avenue Elementary. The link to this survey is right here:**

<http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>

We really appreciate your help and participation. Thank you!

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!

Brownie Troop to Recycle Crayons!

The Brownie Troop at Western Avenue has officially kicked off its Crayon Recycling program! 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!

