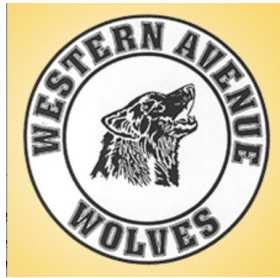


The Western Weekly, Issue 23

February 4th, 2017

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# Making Memories: Black History Month Kick-Off Assembly



On Friday, our students participated in a kick-off assembly in honor of Black History Month. The theme that our committee has chosen for this month is the “Soundtrack of Black History,” and we have various activities tied to student learning of Black History throughout this month.

After ending MAP testing, the transition into Black History Month with a focus on music and the arts is a beautiful transition for our students. We were so excited to be able to host a live DJ, break dancers, and an informational presentation to help students ignite their curiosity as they begin their own research projects for Black History Month at home.

More information will be communicated through your homeroom teachers as to what specific activities are happening at each grade level for Black History Month. We have also included important information in our Weekly Stories for this newsletter if your child is in grades 3-5. Our culminating assembly will take place on February 23rd, and we are excited to celebrate this entire month together as a school community. Go Western!

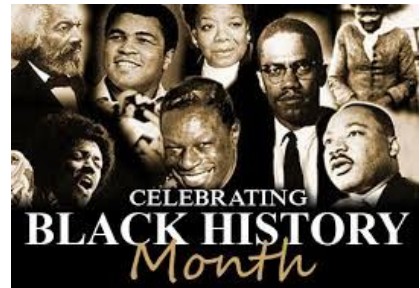


**The Week of February 5th - February 9th**

Monday, 2.5	Tuesday, 2.6	Wednesday, 2.7	Thursday, 2.8	Friday, 2.9
<b>Candid Yearbook Photos!</b>	<b>Bridges Teacher PD: 1st/2nd Grade</b>	<b>Bridges Teacher PD: 4th/5th Grade</b>	<b>Bridges Teacher PD: K/3rd Grade</b>	
Lunch: Beef Burrito	Lunch: Rotisserie Chicken w/Rice	Lunch: Grilled Cheese Sandwich	Lunch: Grilled Chicken Wrap	Lunch: Cheese Pizza
	Chess Club @ 3:15 pm	STEM Club @ 4:15 pm	Girl Scouts @ 3:15 pm	

**Upcoming Events:**

- February 14th: Happy Valentine's Day!
- February 15th: STEAM Night @ Western Avenue, 5:30-7:00 pm
- February 19th: President's Day (No School)



TOP STORIES

**Black History Month: The Soundtrack of Black History at Western Avenue!**



For Black History Month, 3rd-5th graders at Western Avenue Elementary are invited to use their voice to make a statement about something historical, something they hope will happen in the future or a topic or moment that deeply moves them. It could be in the form of a poem, spoken word, a musical piece that they create (for those that play instruments), an original song, an important speech that they would like to recite or other form of musical expression (rap, dance, etc). Students are also welcome to work as a group.

All creative pieces need to be completed by February 19th. Students will have the opportunity to share their creations in class on



February 20th or 21st, depending what is arranged between the homeroom teacher and parent volunteers. Parent volunteers will be needed on those days so please look out for an email from your room parents. On February 23rd there will be an assembly to conclude our celebration of Black History Month, called "It's Showtime at Western." We look forward to hearing our students use their creative voices! If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Kimberly M. Mitchell or Dr. Daria Terrell. Thank you!

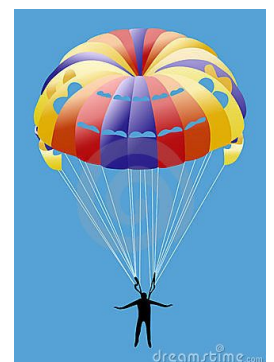
## **PBIS End-of-Month Assembly a Huge Success**

Our students had a blast competing in our Tic-Tac-Toe game for our end-of-month PBIS Celebration at Western Avenue. Students have been working hard to follow our school-wide expectations of being safe, respectful, and responsible during the the school day. We want to give a huge thank you to Mrs. Kubas and Mr. Hood for organizing this assembly for our children. When we bring the school community together to celebrate the wonderful things that are happening in our building, it creates a culture of positivity and happiness that is unique to Western Avenue Elementary!



## **STEAM Night at Western Avenue Elementary!**

Western Avenue will host a STEAM Night for families on Thursday, February 15th from 5:30-7:00 pm. What is STEAM?! STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) is an educational approach that brings science technology engineering and art to life. Families work together as they problem solve, experiment, and discover. You may design, build and test a straw rocket, a parachute for a Gummy Bear or a Hoop Glider. The activities are designed to promote engineering to our students and expose them to a variety of fun real world examples of engineering that affects the world around us. It is active, fun, challenging, and exciting! Please see attached flyer for more information. **We are still looking for parent volunteers to help run STEAM activities. If you are**



*interested, please complete the bottom portion of the flyer that has been sent home in your child's backpack. There is still plenty of time to turn this form in, and the more parent help, the better!* Thank you!

## **Full Court Basketball to Begin Its Second Session!**

Due to the high popularity of our basketball program, Full Court Basketball will be coming back to Western Avenue for a second session beginning on Friday, February 16th. 3rd and 4th grade Open Gym will be held at Parker Junior Middle School from 6:00-7:00 pm, and 5th and 6th grade Open Gym will follow from 7:00-8:00 pm. If you have any questions, please see the attached flyer for more information!

## **Flossmoor Baseball and Softball Registration is Open!**

Registration for Flossmoor Baseball and Softball is now open, and will remain opened until March 1st. Registration in the program includes free winter workouts at HF High School's Field House beginning this Sunday, January 21st. For more details, please see the attached flyer.

## **Girls on the Run Registration Still Open**

Registration for the 2018 Girls on the Run Season opens **Monday, January 15 at 9:00 am**. You may register online\* by visiting [www.gotrchicago.org](http://www.gotrchicago.org) or via the bilingual (English and Spanish) call center at (312) 313-0280. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm.

This season, Western Avenue is capable of allowing 45 girls to participate in Girls on the Run. Participation is granted on a first come, first serve basis of registration either online or through the call center. There are no exceptions! Girls will be accepted in the order that their registrations are received. If more spaces become available, girls will be taken in the order they registered from the waitlist.

Please contact Jana Budz [jbudz@sd161.org](mailto:jbudz@sd161.org) with any questions.

*\*Online registrations must be submitted via a laptop or desktop computer. Cell phones and tablets are not compatible for online registrations.*

## **Student Files**

Our secretary is currently updating all student files in the Main Office so that we have all required documentation for our students on file. We sent out a robocall for two days this past week to alert parents that there may be a letter from the school requesting certain documentation. This may be a copy of your child's birth certificate, or something like a home language survey (HLS) form that we need completed. If your child is missing something from their file, you should have received a letter in your child's backpack. All documentation should be turned into the Main Office. We want to thank you in advance for your help and support with updating our student files!

## **Classroom Visits from Parents**

At Western Avenue Elementary, we welcome visits from our parents into classrooms! However, please remember to contact your teacher directly via email or phone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange a date and time for your visit. Especially now that testing has started, it is important that if a visit is arranged, that it is done around the testing windows. Thank you in advance for your support!

## 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!

