

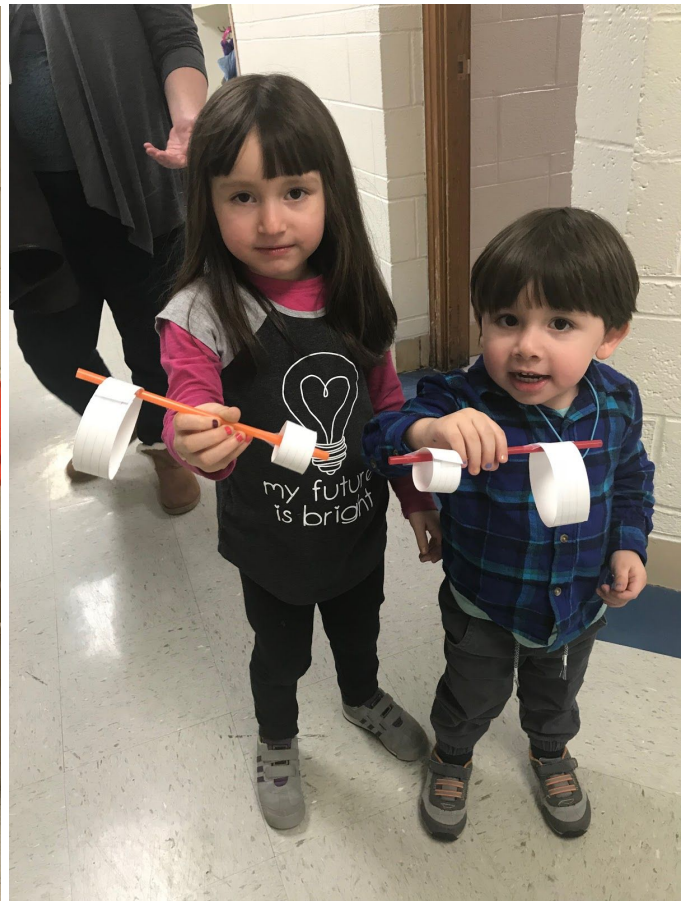
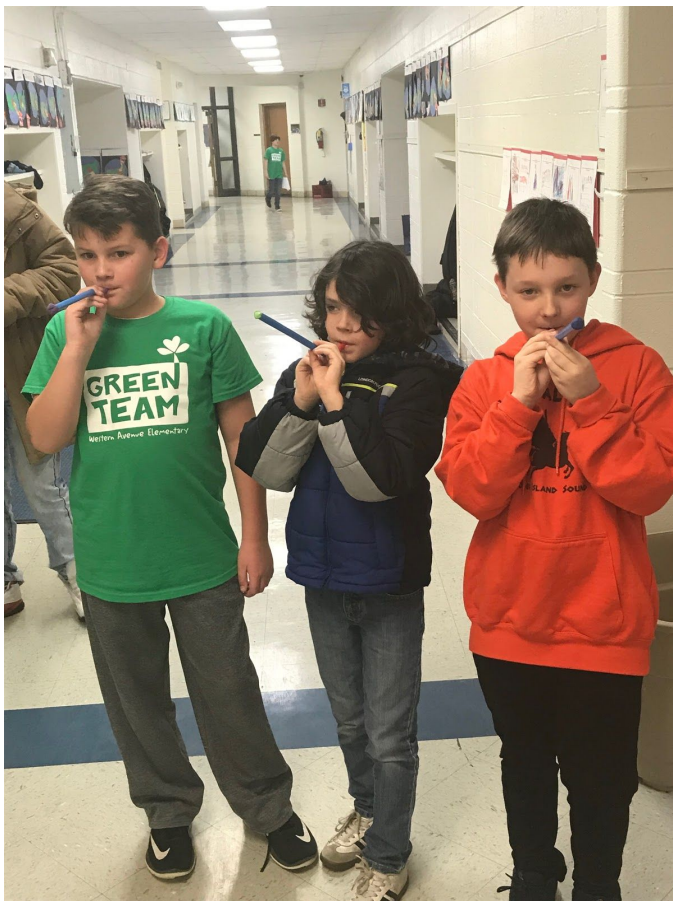
The Western Weekly, Issue 25

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Western Avenue's STEAM Night a Success!



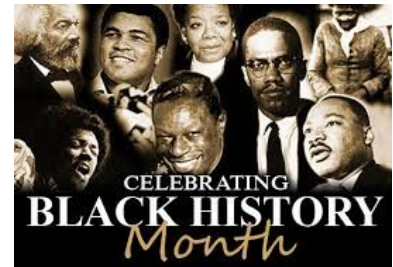
On Thursday, February 15th, Western Avenue held its annual S.T.E.A.M. Night. With the support of our amazing P.T.O., and a committee of super teachers, we were able to make the evening a night to remember. We started with a presentation by Steve Belliveau from "Get Science!" and ended with activities for the whole family in various classrooms. Our kids had a blast making harmonicas, straw rockets, hoop gliders, and drag devices! A special thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to run our activities, to Mrs. Seidel for leading our committee through the planning of this evening, and to all of our teachers who helped organize this night. What was a great way to spend the evening at Western Avenue Elementary!

The Week of February 19th - February 23rd

Monday, 2.19	Tuesday, 2.20	Wednesday, 2.21	Thursday, 2.22	Friday, 2.23
<p>Happy President's Day!</p>  <p>No School</p>	<p>Lunch: Chicken Tacos w/Cheese</p> <p>Black History Month In-Class Activities!</p> <p>Chess Club @ 3:15 pm</p>	<p>Lunch: Beef Hot Dog</p> <p>Black History Month In-Class Activities!</p> <p>STEM Club @ 4:15 pm</p>	<p>Lunch: Breaded Chicken Sandwich</p> <p>Girl Scouts @ 3:15 pm</p>	<p>Lunch: Cheese Pizza</p> <p>Black History Month Showcase: "It's Showtime at Western!"</p>

Upcoming Events:

- March 5th: Casimir Pulaski Day (No School)
- March 7th: School Improvement Day (11:15 am dismissal)
- March 7th: End of Second Trimester (59 school days)
- March 8th: Spring Pictures
- March 14th & 15th: Musical at Western



TOP STORIES

Black History Month: Volunteers Needed!



The Black History Month Committee has an in-class activity planned for each grade on **February 20th and 21st**, and needs volunteers! Please click on the Google Doc below to sign up for a time.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1O8A6g-ktybqybQq40sLu6yYw-yd8Mh4udC0SYfvKPPE/edit?usp=sharing>

K-2: Jazz Coloring Exercise- Students will create a four quadrant abstract art piece influenced by music. Instructions for this exercise, including the jazz playlist, will be emailed to volunteers.

3-5: Parent volunteers will facilitate the in-class presentations that the students have prepared. The acts will be limited to 2 minutes for individuals or 4 minutes for group acts. Two acts will be selected to represent each class for the final assembly. Parent volunteers and teachers will vote for the acts to represent each class and report back to the BHM Committee. Thank you!

Western Avenue Box Tops Challenge Starts February 19th!



It's a blizzard of Box Tops at Western Avenue! Time to "shovel" your clipped Box Tops into bags and send them to school with your child to turn into their teacher beginning the week of February 19th. The classroom that collects the most Box Tops by the end of the drive on February 28th will receive a special surprise.

Western Avenue earned over \$1,000 during last year's Box Tops drives that helped fund classroom supplies and improvements. This year, we are hoping to earn even more money and we need your help to collect over 6,000 Box Tops during the winter drive to meet our goal. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Thank you!

Green Team Plastic Bag Challenge!

The Western Avenue Green Team is hosting a Plastic Shopping Bag Drive February 20th-March 2nd. Bring clean, dry plastic shopping bags to school and place them in the tote outside your classroom. Each week the bags will be counted and prizes will be awarded to the 2 classes that collect the most bags. Plastic shopping bags are 100% recyclable but NOT in our curbside recycling bins. These bags can be repurposed at Recycle Right, or you can recycle at other locations including Walt's, Target, Kohl's, Jewel, and Food4Less. Thank you for your support of the Green Team in this important initiative to reduce the plastic bag waste on our planet.



Support our Girl Scouts in Water Filling Stations for Western Avenue!

The Girl Scout Troops of Western Avenue will host a cookie booth on the steps of Flossmoor Station on Saturday, February 24th from 12:00-4:00 pm. Proceeds from the cookie booth are to support the Girl Scouts initiative to install water bottle filling stations at Western Avenue. These water bottle filling stations will deliver cool, filtered water to your children, so come on out and support the Girl Scouts!

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 opened on **Monday, January 15 at 9:00 am**. You may register online* by visiting 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 with any questions.

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

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!

