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PAC NEWSLETTER

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DROP-OFF ETIQUETTE

As we start the new year, let's all take a moment to focus on the proper drop off and pick up procedures at Western Avenue. Pick-up especially is a chaotic time at the school. We all arrive at one time, and everyone is in a hurry.

We are all focused on getting our children and getting out. Perhaps you only drive if it's raining or snowing in which case the pick-up line might be daunting. As fellow parents in this daily adventure, we kindly remind you to be considerate of all the other parents who are getting their children.

Here are a few reminders that Dr. Prosen and the PAC would like to share:

- **Keep the line moving.** If your child isn't ready at the crosswalk, please exit the parking lot and get back into line. Cars at the front of the line should not be parked and waiting.
- **Kindergarten parents should park their car in a designated parking spot.** Many of us see parents throw the car into park while in line and think they have enough time to get back and keep the line moving. This is very disruptive to the flow of traffic.
- **Observe the parking signs on Vardon Place, Brassie Avenue and on other side streets.** The

pick-up and drop-off procedures have been formulated with the police department to ensure an orderly process occurs and traffic is not impeded on public streets.

- **Share the procedure with the other drivers in your household, especially occasional drivers.** While we may all get off to a great start and good habits, it always seems like the first rain or snow throws us off. Mid-year reminders, especially with an occasional driver, will help maintain these good habits.
- **Be respectful of the staff and crossing guard.** Directing traffic is not an easy job and for the school staff, it's not their primary job. We need to all show good character and citizenship, showing respect for the adults who are managing the traffic. Whether we have good behaviors or not, we will be role models for our children.
- **Unsure about what to do? Please ask.** The front office welcomes questions. It's better to confirm that you are following the right procedure than to find out that you are unintentionally creating chaos.

"HOW WAS SCHOOL?"

"What happened today at school?"

When your child replies with "nothing."

A common conversation around the dinner table. Parents asking what happened at school today and the reply is "nothing." It can be difficult to engage your child in recounting their day; they are tired and/or they cannot easily remember the day's activities.

Try this approach instead: tell us "x" number of *positive* events that happened today. Ask specific questions that require a specific answer. What did you do in math today? Who did you eat lunch with? Did you enjoy circle time? Be sure to focus on the positive events. It's easy to share what went wrong. By focusing on sharing positive stories, you are helping frame your children to be positive people. We parents can use this advice too!

WESTERN AVENUE PAC

The purpose of the Principal's Advisory Committee is to increase communication, further develop a home school partnership, and maintain a collaborative environment that places student centered 21st Century learning at the heart of our school.

The PAC addresses issues brought to its attention with the role of reviewing, making recommendations and disseminating information and clarifications.

The PAC operates as an advisory body within the governance structure of District 161, and does not have authority to supersede board, district or school policy and procedure.

The Principal's Advisory Committee is composed of teachers and parents of Western Ave. The members are as follows:

Faculty

- Dr. Prosen, cprosen@sd161.org
- Staci Klein, SKlein@sd161.org
- Kathy Seidel, kseidel@sd161.org
- Pamela Panozzo, PPanozzo@sd161.org

Parents

- Dana Dolan, dolan.dana@gmail.com
- Katrina Crawford, katrinas Crawford@mac.com
- Kimberly Mitchell, kmitchell825@gmail.com
- Natalie McGathey, nataliemcgathey@gmail.com
- Carolyn Griggs, drmom1972@yahoo.com
- Bridget Wachtel, bawkcw@sbcglobal.net



YOUR ROLE AS PARENT/GUARDIAN

The work of the Principal's Advisory Committee is formulated by the Western Avenue Community; so all parents and guardians are encouraged to talk with any PAC member and share questions or concerns so they can be addressed at upcoming meetings. Information collected by the PAC will be placed on the Western Avenue website for accessibility by all, with the goal of getting information into the hands of parents.

PARENT SUPPORT

New to the district? Encountering a problem you've never experienced before? Contact a PAC member to connect with a parent buddy. In addition to the school resources, sometimes talking through a problem with another parent is helpful.

**REMEMBER TO CHECK THE
WESTERN WEEKLY FOR
IMPORTANT DATES**