

Preparing for Black History Month at Western Avenue Elementary!



The month of February begins our celebration of Black History Month at Western Avenue Elementary. This year, the theme for Black History Month is the “Soundtrack of Black History.” Our students will participate in various activities throughout the month to not only educate, but also to expose our children to the amazing accomplishments of African Americans throughout the decades of history. Our committee of parents from Western Avenue have planned a kick-off assembly for this Friday, February 2nd. Mrs. Kubas and Mr. Hood have collaborated with our parents to also create opportunities for students to learn more about Black History in conjunction with our PBIS Celebrations. Each grade level will have different class projects that they are working on for the the mid-month PBIS Celebration. Students will also have the option to create their own projects related to music and the arts for our end-of-the-month Black History Celebration, “It’s Showtime at Western,” on February 23rd. We are grateful for the collaboration and commitment of all the parents and

teachers in our building. It is going to be a month that I know our children will never forget!

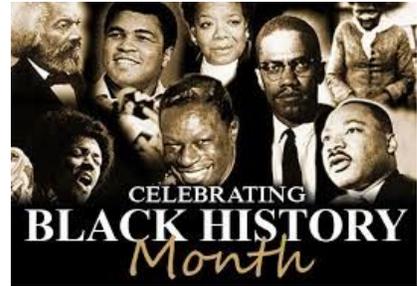
THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

The Week of January 28th-February 2nd

Monday, 1.29	Tuesday, 1.30	Wednesday, 1.31	Thursday, 2.1	Friday, 2.2
<p>NWEA Testing: 5th Grade Math & 2nd Grade Reading</p> <p>Lunch: Grilled Cheese Sandwich</p>	<p>NWEA Testing: Make-up Testing</p> <p>Lunch: Breaded Cheese Sticks and Marinara Sauce</p> <p>Chess Club @ 3:15 pm</p>	<p>NWEA Testing: Make-up Testing</p> <p>Lunch: Chicken Nuggets</p> <p>STEM Club @ 4:15 pm</p>	<p>NWEA Window Closed.</p> <p>Lunch: Surprise!</p> <p><i>PBIS End-of-Month Celebration!</i></p> <p>Girl Scouts @ 3:15 pm</p>	<p>Lunch: Sausage Pizza</p> <p><i>Black History Month Kick-Off Assembly!</i></p>

Upcoming Events:

- January 16th-31st: MAP Testing for K-5
- February 5th: Candid Yearbook Pictures
- February 8th: ACCESS Testing (EL Students only)
- February 15th: STEAM Night @ Western Avenue, 5:30-7:00 pm
- February 19th: President's Day (No School)



TOP STORIES

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 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!

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 Opens

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 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.*

There is still time to complete the 5 Essentials Survey for Western Avenue!

District 161 will join the [Illinois State Board of Education](http://www.isbe.net) (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 10-15 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 30% participation (131 parents in total have responded) for Western Avenue Elementary. This is one of the highest parent participation rates that Western Avenue has seen for this survey! The window closes on January 31st. Let's keep up the awesome work, parents!

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

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!

