

The Western Weekly, Issue 24

February 11th, 2017

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Showing Kindness in a Time of Need





On Wednesday of this week, we received a late notice from ComEd that Western Avenue would experience possible long-term or intermittent power outages between the hours of 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm. We needed to notify parents that after-school programming would be cancelled, and it needed to be done in less than an hour and fifteen minutes. There was also a special message to send for all our students who participate in Extra Innings. That was a short amount of time to communicate so many messages to a large number of families!

I was reflecting on Friday during our Snow Day. I thought about Wednesday--and how many parents I watched call their neighbors and say, "Hey, STEM is cancelled, I'll take David home, pick him up when you get off of work." The only response when teachers walked into the Main Office after we announced the need to clear our building by 3:30 pm was, "What can I do to help?" On Wednesday, Western Avenue chose to show kindness during a time of need. Our families, teachers, and staff came together so that by 4:00 pm, our building was empty, and ComEd was able to do their work.

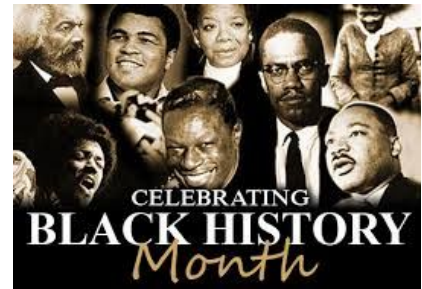
I just wanted to take this time to thank everyone who pitched in Wednesday evening. It is days like the ComEd power outage evening that I remember how grateful I am to be a part of Western Avenue's community. It was a hectic moment, but people chose to show kindness and to work together.

The Week of February 12th - February 16th

Monday, 2.12	Tuesday, 2.13	Wednesday, 2.14	Thursday, 2.15	Friday, 2.16
<p>Lunch: Spaghetti and Meatball</p> <p>School Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm: Honoring Western Avenue Spelling Bee Participants and Winners!</p>	<p>Lunch: Waffle with Turkey Sausage</p> <p>Chess Club @ 3:15 pm</p>	<p>Happy Valentine's Day!</p> <p>Lunch: Chicken Fries</p> <p>STEM Club @ 4:15 pm</p> 	<p>Lunch: Corn Dog</p> <p>Girl Scouts @ 3:15 pm</p> <p>STEAM Night! 5:30-7:00 pm</p> 	<p>Lunch: Cheese Pizza</p>

Upcoming Events:

- February 19th: President's Day (No School)
- 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: The Soundtrack of Black History at Western Avenue!

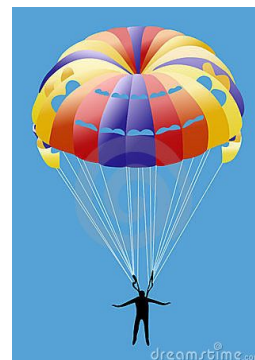


For Black History Month, 3rd-5th graders at Western Avenue Elementary are invited to use their voice to make a statement about something historical, something they hope will happen in the future or a topic or moment that deeply moves them. It could be in the form of a poem, spoken word, a musical piece 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!

STEAM Night at Western Avenue Elementary!

Western Avenue will host a STEAM Night for families this 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. Thank you!



Smencil Sales Coming This Week!

The Western Avenue P.T.O. will hold Smencil Sales this week! The dates are this Tuesday and Wednesday, February 13th and 14th, during lunch time. There are Smencils and Gel Crayons for \$1/each, and there are also Scented Keychains for \$2/each. There is a maximum purchase of \$5 per day. Please see the attached flyer and reach out to Jamie Ford if you have any questions. 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 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.*

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!

