

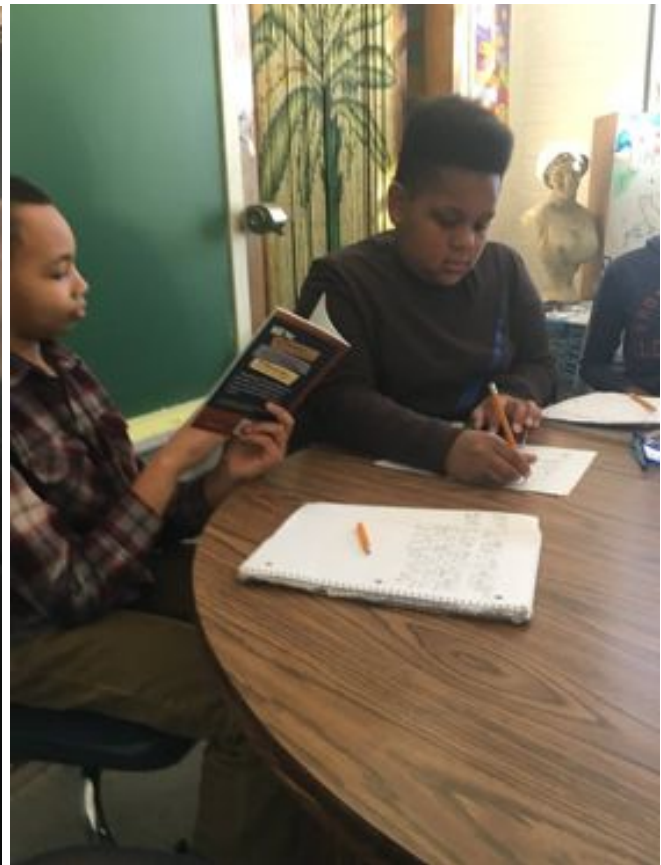
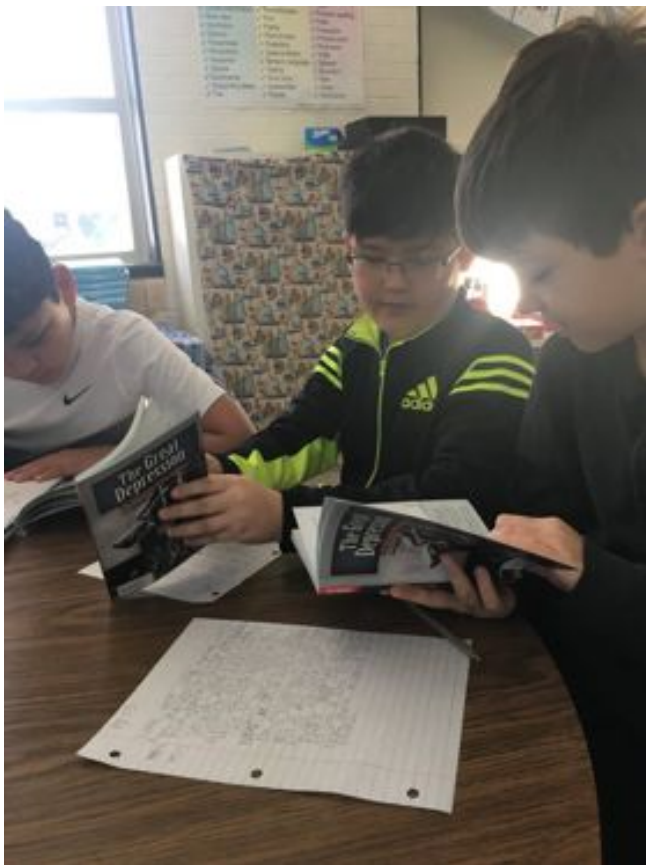
The Western Weekly, Issue 21

January 21st, 2017

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Working on Reading and Writing Responses at Western Avenue!



Western Avenue students are back into their academic routines after returning from a nice, relaxing Winter Break. This month, many teachers are focusing on written responses to what students are reading. If students are asked a question about a passage, they are asked to provide evidence to support their answers within the text. This is an essential skill that will continue to be taught and reinforced throughout middle and high school. If you wish to support your child in this skill, you may want to think about asking similar questions when your child is reading at home. We love that our kids are working hard to find evidence and closely reading texts in class. Go Western!

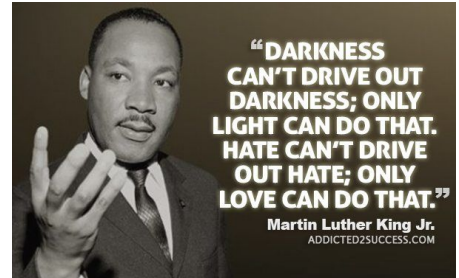
THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

The Week of January 22nd-January 26th

Monday, 1.22	Tuesday, 1.23	Wednesday, 1.24	Thursday, 1.25	Friday, 1.26
<p>NWEA Testing: 1st Grade Math and 5th Grade Reading</p> <p>Lunch: Cheeseburger and French Fries</p> <p>Basketball Practice @ 6:00/7:00 pm</p>	<p>NWEA Testing: 1st/2nd Grade Math and 5th Grade Reading</p> <p>Lunch: Corn Dog and Potato Wedges</p> <p>Chess Club @ 3:15 pm</p> <p>P.T.O. Open Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm, Western Ave Gym</p>	<p>NWEA Testing: 4th Grade Math and 3rd Grade Reading</p> <p>Lunch: Chicken Tacos with Cheese</p> <p>STEM Club @ 4:15 pm</p> <p>Basketball Game @ Parker</p>	<p>NWEA Testing: 4th Grade Math and 4th Grade Reading Makeups</p> <p>Lunch: Mostaccioli with Meat Sauce</p> <p>Girl Scouts @ 3:15 pm</p> <p>Basketball @ 6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>NWEA Testing: 5th Grade Math, Kindergarten and 2nd Grade Reading</p> <p>Lunch: Cheese Pizza</p>

Upcoming Events:

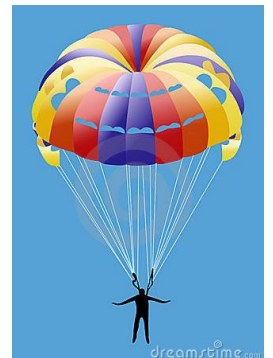
- January 16th-31st: MAP Testing for K-5
- February 5th: Candid Yearbook Pictures
- February 8th: ACCESS Testing (EL Students only)
- February 15th: STEAM Night @ Western Avenue, 5:30-7:00 pm



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 will be sent home in your child's backpack next week. 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.*

STEM Club Resumes at Western Avenue!

Please remember that STEM Club will resume at Western Avenue this Wednesday, January 24th, beginning at 3:05 pm. STEM Club is held in our kindergarten classrooms. Once STEM Club has ended, students may be picked up at the Main Entry to the building. If you have any questions, please contact Keith Poole at illiana@engineeringforkids.com. Please see the attached flyer with more information regarding STEM Club. Thank you!

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 29% participation (127 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!

we ♥ school !

