

NOVEMBER 2021

THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

Updates for the Westview Elementary Community



Principal's Corner

Dear Families,

We are looking forward to connecting with you during our conferences on November 3rd (4PM-8PM) and 4th (12PM-8PM). If you haven't reserved your spot with the classroom teacher yet, please visit our website (wv.district196.org) and click the sign-up link or call our office at 952-431-8380 for assistance. This is such a valuable time to share information and just check in with each other. We will also have literary pumpkins on display, the Scholastic Book Fair for browsing and purchasing and other information to gather or complete. We will be asking families to apply for the Educational Benefits Program if you qualify as it supports critical funding for our school in a variety of situations. You can find this information on our website, too.

Working in education is such an important job, many refer to it as a calling or vocation. It takes continuous learning and shifting to meet the needs of the 20-30 students in each classroom. Our staff values the planning days we have during the year to review data, share ideas, look at resources and just have time to think.

We also feel the ongoing stressors of the pandemic and know it impacts our staff, students and families. As we have honest conversations with each other, be aware of these and work together on solutions to create the best school experience. District 196 and Westview Elementary are wonderful environments to work in. Please consider looking at our employment opportunities to see if subbing, part-time or full-time positions might work for you. There are clerical, para professional and teaching opportunities available. Is it your calling and you've just been waiting...?

Sincerely,
Tami



Westview is in need of caring adults to work as paraprofessionals directly supporting students throughout the school day.

Why you should consider becoming a Paraprofessional in ISD 196 (Specifically at Westview)?

- Opportunities to work with excellent students and teachers
- Attend work while your kids are at school
- Enjoy a flexible schedule to accommodate work-life balance
- Give back to District 196 and your school community
- Receive a great benefits package

We are looking for full-time, part-time and substitute paraprofessionals.

Visit
<https://www.applitrack.com/district196/OnlineApp/default.aspx?Category=Secretarial%2fClerical&subcategory=Special+Education+Paraprofessional> to explore open paraprofessional positions.

Westview Rocked Socktober!

By Molly Andersen

The Westview Student Council Rocked Socktober! Our goal was 650 pairs of socks and we ended up with 1,456. They were dropped off at Mobile Loaves Twin Cities to be distributed to those in need. Thanks to everyone who donated them!



A Word from Westview's Social Worker

By Lily Ferreira

Dear Westview Families,

Westview is collecting gently used snow gear (snow pants, boots, coats, gloves, etc.). If your student has outgrown their winter clothes, consider putting them in a bag and dropping them off at the main office. The items you drop off will be shared with a student in need of winter clothing.

On another note, your student council and school community are thrilled to support Gobble Gobble Give this year! If you are interested in receiving a box of non-perishable food for your family, please fill out this survey:

<https://forms.gle/rkLQXcRd5nTQ37eJ9>.

If you have questions about signing up to receive a food box or to participate in our weekend food program, please let me know by calling 952-431-8386 or by email at Lily.Ferreira@District196.org

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up Time

By Gwen Krueger

The morning student drop off and afterschool student pick up lines are running well.

However, to make things even better, please...

- Pull up as far as possible to either drop off or pick up your child
- Have your child exit or enter your vehicle anywhere along the yellow curb (especially in the morning)
- Have your child exit your vehicle without your assistance. We understand car seat help, though!
- Do not block the neighbors' driveways along Gardenvue Drive.
- Help the school patrols by watching when flags are out and children are crossing.
- Do not park your car in the lot to drop off or pick up your child. It is not safe to cross the traffic lane and slows it down too.

Thank you for your patience. We want to make this safe for all children and adults. If you ever need a new Household # for your car window, call the office and we'll get you a new one!

October Staff Appreciation

If you are interested in leading a staff appreciation month to let our WV staff know how much we care reach out to

mruckmar@yahoo.com or emilyherman10@gmail.com





Save the Date PTO Meeting:
January 24, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Butter Braid Fundraiser

By Mary Rowan

Get your butter braids orders gathered and turned in by November 1st! This fundraiser helps provide so many opportunities for our Westview kiddos! Pickup will be November 12th with drive-through at the front of the building and we will bring your orders out to your vehicle. Thank you and your children for the work to support Westview and enjoy the delicious butter braids! Questions? Contact Mary Rowan at mary-rowan@hotmail.com.

Gobble Gobble Give

By Lily Ferreira

Your student council and school community are thrilled to sponsor Gobble Gobble Give this year! If you are interested in volunteering at Westview to pack up or distribute the food during one (or more) of the following dates and times, please contact Lily Ferreira at Lily.Ferreira@district196.org or at 952-431-8386.

Volunteer Schedule:

- Friday, November 19; 12-4 p.m. *Organize and box up donations*
- Monday, November 22; 8-10 a.m. *Help families pick up their box*
- Monday, November 22; 2-4 p.m. *Help families pick up their box*

2021 Fall Scholastic Book Fair

By Lindsey Theirl

Our Scholastic Book Fair will take place in our Westview Library and will be open during fall conferences for both students and families to browse and purchase. Come check out the great selection of new releases and beloved favorites!

Book Fair Open Times:

Wednesday, Nov. 3rd from 4-8 p.m. and
Thursday, Nov. 4th from 12-8 p.m.

Our "All for Books Coin Drive" begins on Wednesday, Oct. 27th through Thursday, Nov 4th.

The battle between book characters will be fierce!

- Dog Man (author Dave Pilkey)
- Pete the Cat (author James Dean)
- Pig the Pug (author Aaron Blabey)
- Pigeon (author Mo Willems)

Students are encouraged to bring in their spare change to vote for their favorite book character. The character that receives the most change will win the battle, and all proceeds will be used to buy new books for the Westview Library.

See you at the fair!

Destination Imagination

By Molly Andersen

Westview is planning on offering Destination Imagination. Watch for an email from Mrs. Andersen with more information!

Attendance Matters!

By Lisa Kissell

We want your child to be at school, but also know kids get sick, appointments are scheduled and vacations happen.

Please let us know if your child will not be at school. There is a new way to input your child's absence! Beginning November 1st there will be a link on Westview's website and you just click on that link and an email goes straight to the office. It will ask you questions about your child's absence, and that includes days you may be gone for vacation, or early pick-ups, etc. You can still call 952-431-8380 or email vv.attendance@district196.org

Be sure to include your child's name, teacher and reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence is considered Unexcused. Your child is considered Tardy if they arrive after 9:40 a.m.

Excused Absences:

- Illness
- Quarantine/waiting for test results
- Dr. and dentist appts
- Religious holidays
- Family emergency
- Funeral
- Extreme cold temperatures

Unexcused Absences:

- Oversleeping
- Don't feel like going to school
- Child isn't up to date on immunizations
- Babysitting a sibling or relative
- Don't have transportation to school
- Car trouble
- No one called to report absence

PTO UPDATES

Thanks to those who participated in our first Takeout-Tuesday fundraiser with Mason Jar in Eagan. We raised over 100\$ to support our PTO, and look forward to partnering with them again in the Spring!

With the change in weather, we are putting a pause on the Outdoor Classrooms until the Spring. There are many exciting things happening behind the scenes, including landscaping bids, mural ideas, and collecting needed supplies. MANY thanks to Melissa Wikstrom for leading this initiative. Reach out to mwikstrom@gmail.com with any interest to help!

Last year the PTO sent out a survey to parents and we heard that you wanted more information on how to help and be involved at Westview. So, there are two upcoming opportunities to help with the Scholastic Book Fair and the Staff Appreciation Meal during Teacher/Staff Conferences. Check your email for the links to sign-up and help!

Finally, a BIG thank you for the attendance and involvement at the October PTO meeting! It's so nice to have such eager parents and new faces to support our wonderful Westview school and community! We don't meet as a group again until January - see you then if not before :)