

SEPTEMBER  
2021

## Letter from the Principal

## September at a Glance

- 6<sup>th</sup> Labor Day Holiday  
 15<sup>th</sup> International Dot Day  
 14<sup>th</sup> WWE General Meeting  
 on Zoom (Title One  
 Info. , State of Schools  
 Address and PTA  
 Info.)  
 16<sup>th</sup> K-5<sup>th</sup> Open House  
 A-L 4:45 - 5:30pm  
 M-Z 5:45 - 6:30pm  
 17<sup>th</sup> Constitution Day  
 20<sup>th</sup> CIT Meeting  
 After school Tutorial  
 Programs Begin  
 21<sup>st</sup> School Night for  
 Scouting at WWE  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Monthly Parent Meeting  
 24<sup>th</sup> Progress Reports

Dear Westwood Family,

This year we had a strong start of the year beginning with our Meet the Teacher event. We had a large turnout of WWE Families. We also had our Boys and Girls Club provide information about their programming this year. They already are at the goal of over 100 students participating in their program. This year we also had YMCA do a donation drive that supported our campus with backpacks and supplies. We also had Communities in Schools provide vouchers for new uniforms. They are both wonderful community partners. We thank them for all they do and have done to support our school and community.

On behalf of our entire Westwood staff, I would like to welcome you back and look forward to an exciting year of learning discoveries with your child. Our Westwood motto "**One Team, One Goal, No Limits**" reflects what we truly believe, when we work together our students are able to find rewarding success in anything they put their minds in doing. We are very excited as we start another year together to continue to instill a love of learning throughout our learning community.

At Westwood our mission is to allow our students to take ownership of their learning through opportunities for our students to utilize technology as a tool to support their learning. This year we will continue to utilize our district's platform *It's Learning* that allows our students to work on devices in our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. We know when we set high expectations for our students and have them take an active role in their education, they will set the stage for their future.

As a learning community, we can have a tremendous impact on empowering our children and allow them to set the direction that reaps great rewards and brings out the best in them. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning that maximizes their abilities and provides them a promising future for your child/ren that allows them to meet our District's T-2-4 goal.

Sincerely,

Kay Kennard

**Very Important Info.**  
**12:00 pm Early Release Day**  
**Thursday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## Important Parent Information

If you have access to technology, please make sure to complete your child's Skyward Information related to **School Café**. Our district has also moved to an online process to update your child's information. We sent the form home on the first day that is titled **Family Access**. This is a big piece of how we allow students to go home or be contacted when there is an emergency. It also helps us when a parent/Guardian has a situation and can't pick up their child at the end of the day. If you do not have access to technology or have any questions or need, help in this process please contact Sandra Garcia at 713-251-2100.

This month we will be sending a notice about our **Online WWE Parent ABC's Information Guide**. Please make sure to read through it and sign the receipt page and return it to your child's classroom teacher. Most of our policies stayed the same, except for birthday celebrations. Due to the current health issues, we will not be celebrating birthdays with treats unless they are store bought and individually wrapped. We also have several students on dietary plans that this has become an issue in which little ones get very upset when they can't eat what is provided by parents. We really appreciate and have been amazed by your creativity to provide healthy snacks instead of cupcakes. It allows all our students to participate and celebrate their birthdays. As a reminder from our Information Guide, we will be celebrating birthdays the last 30 minutes of the instructional hour on the first Friday of every month.

As many of you have read in our Parent Information Guide are start time has changed by 5 minutes. This was a change on all campuses in SBISD. We will be beginning school 5 minutes earlier. So our instructional day is from **7:50 am to 3:05 pm**. By state requirements we have a specific number of instructional minutes. For SBISD to have a week off at Thanksgiving and finish school before June we had to make this 5-minute adjustment. Please make sure to have your child at Westwood by 7:50 am. Breakfast has also been adjusted to beginning 5 minutes earlier at 7:20 am. We appreciate your support in our efforts to meet your child's academic and health needs.

## Library News

## September Sora

Students can checkout digital books through Sora! They read and listen to digital and audio books in any devices online or by downloading the Sora by Overdrive app on Google Play or App Store. They can highlight, look for word definitions, and add notes as they read. It will even track the number of books and number of minutes they spent reading. Students can even access public library digital books for even more titles. This will be a great way to hook your child to read!

## Reading Challenge

Fourth and fifth graders will participate in the Beanstack Reading Challenge. For the first semester, 4th graders' challenge is to read 3,000 minutes while 5th graders challenge is 5,500 minutes. The names of the top ten readers from each grade level will be posted outside the library.

An article from Scholastic written by Benjamin Bergen listed five benefits of reading: 1. **They help kids "see"**. Kids can visualize the story in their heads. 2. **Books sharpen the senses**. Reading may give kids a richer, deeper experience of the story and possibly even the world. 3. **They get kids moving**. Running through actions in your mind improves your ability to do the same thing. 4. **Books grow brain cells**. A study found that after six months of daily reading, the weak spots beefed up so much that the struggling readers' brains looked the same as those of kids with stronger reading skills. 5. **They make the heart bigger**. Preschoolers who hear more stories get a head start on becoming more empathetic. Make sure to encourage your child to read at home by being a role model to them!

Sources: Benjamin Bergen, University of California, San Diego; Raymond Mar, York University, Toronto; Krish Sathian, Emory University, Atlanta

## Counselor's Corner

This fall our school is very excited to begin the third year of our journey as A Leader in Me school. The program is based on Stephen Covey's book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. All students have the capacity to lead in their own lives and affect those around them by making positive, effective and responsible choices. The Leader in Me provides students with activities that will help them learn practical character and life skills that will lead to those positive choices. We believe implementing the Leader in Me principals will have a profound impact of our staff, students, and community. Look for upcoming information on the program and ways you can help your child become the LEADER they were meant to be.

## Parent Center News

Welcome to 2021-2022 !

CIS hopes that each of you are doing well and had a fun and safe summer! We trust that you are staying healthy and being kind to yourself and others. If you know about CIS, please help us by spreading the word to your friends. If you don't know about CIS, then you should know that we are a safe, private, and confidential space where you can talk to a caring adult that will motivate, guide and support you on your journey with your child/ren.

September will be full of fun and exciting parent classes, I hope you can join us.

- September 10<sup>th</sup> we will start the ESL Classes Level 1 at 9:00 a.m. and Level 2 will be at 10:30 a.m.
- September 14<sup>th</sup> we will start our Leader In Me book study at 9:00 a.m.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have our monthly coffee with the Principal at 9:00 a.m. in English and at 5:00 pm. In Spanish. We will also host it through Zoom. The link will be sent by Class Dojo in our flyer the week before our meeting.

## Nurse's News

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a restful and wonderful summer break. As we return to school, please review the Strong Start Health and Safety plan.

<https://www.springbranchisd.com/studentsfamilies/back-to-school/health-safety>

We also ask that you read the Westwood ABC's Information Guide that is on our WWE Website at: <https://www.springbranchisd.com/> by clicking on the menu for Students and Families.

It has listed the procedures we have in place to keep your children and our community safe.

Please keep your emergency phone numbers current in Skyward. If an emergency arises, this is how you will be notified. As always if you have any questions feel free to contact us.