

OCTOBER
2021

Letter from the Principal



OCTOBER at a Glance

- 2nd National Custodial Recognition Day
8th Student Holiday/Teacher Training Day
11th Student Holiday
12th Parent Conf. Week
14/15th Early Dismissal/Parent Conferences
18th Report Cards go home Breast Cancer Awareness Wear Pink CIT Meeting
21st Coffee with the Principal
22nd Deadline for GT Referrals
25th Book Fair Week
28th Library Night
29th Storybook Parade Snapshot Day

Important Reminder

- 8th Student Holiday/Teacher Professional Development Day
11th Student Holiday

No Afterschool Programs

Early release dates
Oct. 14th -15th week of Parent Conferences.

Dear Parents,

At Westwood, our students are growing and learning everyday. It is our mission to give our children the academic, social and emotional skills to succeed.

In September, we studied our students' instructional data from the end of last year and our beginning of the year district assessments to provide additional support for our students before, during and after school. We have already started our Boys and Girls Club and have over 100 students in the program. We have also started our tutorial programs.

Our Westwood staff understands the importance of being an educator and providing their valuable time in these types of programs for our students. Please help us accomplish our goal of ensuring our students meet end of year academic expectations. Work with your child at home, make sure they attend our afterschool programs, attend our scheduled parent conferences on the week of **October 12th** and keep in touch with your child's teacher. Together, we can provide the foundation for your child that will allow him/her to be successful.

Sincerely,
Kay Kennard

Library News

It's a win-win for **Fall Follett Book Fair**. Your child benefits from the book you purchase because book ownership is a sure way to motivate life-long readers and a portion of the proceeds goes to support the library and classroom teachers. The book fair will be on **October 25th to 29th**. It will be open at 7:20 am -7:45 am and 3:05 pm - 3:30 pm for students to shop with their parents from Monday to Friday.

Fourth and fifth grade students are going to lead our **Fall Library Night on October 28th from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm**. Students will teach the families to write stories, jot down their thoughts as they listen to stories and how to code. Students who will attend the library night will receive a free dress pass for Monday, November 1.

Parent/Teacher Conference Week

This year's Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held the week of October 12th. There will also be two half days (October 14th and 15th) for students to allow parents and teachers to conference if parents cannot meet during the day. Our conferences during this week are designed for parents to discuss your child's academic progress.

We are looking forward to meeting you at this special event and learning how we plan on making this year an exciting and enriching learning environment for your child. More information will be sent home the week of October 4th. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Annual Storybook Parade

We will be having our Annual Storybook Parade Friday, October 29th. All primary students (K-2) will be participating. 3rd—5th grade students may participate if they would like, but it is not an expectation. Students in intermediate grades who do not participate will be part of our audience. Students who participate are invited to dress as his/her favorite, friendly storybook character. No scary costumes will be allowed (such as witches, ghosts, monsters, Dracula, etc...). Prizes will be awarded for creativity and uniqueness.

All students who participate must come to school dressed in their costume. We judge costumes throughout the day, and we want to make sure our students are recognized.

Parents/Guardians will not be allowed to bring costumes to school on the day of the parade.

You are invited to view our Parade at 1:30 pm weather permitting. We will be walking **around our playground**, and we would like to have an audience when we go outside. We hope to see you at this wonderful event.

Parent Center News

What is CIS? We provide supportive guidance and counseling and bring community resources to empower success to all students. If you would like to meet Mrs. Island or Mrs. Valdez please call us at 713-251-2103 we would love to meet you.

You will have a hard time escaping the color pink in October, which is breast cancer awareness month. This annual campaign is put on by the National Breast Cancer Foundation to increase awareness of the disease. Free check-ups are done at The Rose www.therose.org/

We would also like to invite you to our next parent meeting on October 21st. Our principal will share important school information with you, and we will also have a community resource to come and speak to you about the resources available to you and your family. We have two meeting times available for you 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Both meetings will be bilingual, in person and through zoom for your convenience. The zoom link will be provided through Class Dojo, and a reminder will be sent home the week of the meeting. By attending you will earn a pass to have a free dress day for your students.

Nurse's Notes

We have received several questions related to guidelines for keeping your child home when they are not feeling well. Below are the **Guidelines for Keeping Sick Students Home from School**: A student who is unable to participate in school in a meaningful way because of illness should be kept home to rest and recover until symptoms resolve. Keeping a sick student home also protects other students and school staff from contracting an illness that can be spread from person to person.

- **Fever:** A student must remain home with a fever of 100° F and may only return after he/she has been fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Motrin.
- **Diarrhea/Vomiting:** A student with diarrhea and/or vomiting must stay home and may return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours.
- **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** Following a diagnosis of pink eye, a student may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of prescribed medication has been administered.
- **Rashes:** Common infectious diseases with rashes are most contagious in the early stages. A student with a suspicious rash must stay at home, may return to school only after a healthcare provider has made a diagnosis, and authorizes the student's return to school, in writing, or symptoms have completely resolved. If you take your student to a healthcare provider for an evaluation of illness or injury, please be sure to request a letter stating when your student may return to school and any accommodations required upon his/her return.

SBISD Student/Parent Handbook H-30 2021-2022

Please call us if you have any questions,
Nurse Waller

Gifted and Talented Referral Window is Open until October 21

The Gifted and Talented Program identifies and serves the special educational needs of students with advanced learning abilities in language arts/social studies, and/or mathematics/science. Parents who would like to refer their child for screening must complete a referral form online at <https://springbranch.projectgt.org/Home/CustomGTParentReferral>

by October 22. If need assistance or have any questions, you may also contact Louisa Hametner, Westwood's counselor, (713) 251-2100.

Deadline for GT referrals is October 22.

What are some characteristics of gifted students?

- ❖ They are highly curious, independent thinkers
- ❖ They develop basic learning skills early
- ❖ They enjoy and seek out a challenge
- ❖ They process information in complex ways
- ❖ They understand abstract concepts
- ❖ They have a keen and sometimes unique sense of humor
- ❖ They generate many ideas and multiple solutions to problems
- ❖ They have are often highly self-critical

Para acceder a este form en español usa este link --
<https://springbranch.projectgt.org/Home/CustomGTParentReferral?language=es>