

**NOVEMBER  
at a Glance**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal  
(No Afterschool  
Programs)  
5<sup>th</sup> Picture Retakes  
11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day (Not  
a school Holiday)  
15<sup>th</sup> Gen Tx Week  
16<sup>th</sup> CIT Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> Parent Meeting  
19<sup>th</sup> Progress Reports  
22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving  
Holiday

**Holiday  
Reminders**

There will be **NO  
SCHOOL** on:  
Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>  
for our  
Thanksgiving  
Holidays  
School will resume  
on  
Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

**Letter from the Principal**

Dear Westwood Families,

October was a very busy month! Parent/Teacher conferences were well attended. It was wonderful to see our families involved in supporting the learning that is going on in our classrooms. A big thank you to all our parents who made costumes for their children during our Annual Storybook Parade. We loved how you brought their storybook character to life.

This month we will have an early dismissal on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. We will not have any afterschool programs, including Boys and Girls Club. Our teachers have been in trainings during our early dismissals this year. They have been learning so much and are working together to support our students' success.

The holiday season is fast approaching. It is hard to believe we have already completed one fourth of the school year! This year our Thanksgiving holidays will be the week of November 22<sup>nd</sup>. On behalf of the staff of Westwood Elementary sending to you and your family our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sincerely, Mrs. Kennard

**LIBRARY NEWS**

McDonald's will celebrate the top ten 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the **2021-22 Beanstack Challenge**. The top ten students who have logged the most minutes from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> will enjoy a Happy Meal at the library on November 17.

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Studies report that children who read for at least 20 minutes a day can attain the following benefits:

- increased vocabulary
- increased background knowledge
- improved fluency and comprehension
- improved reading achievement
- greater motivation to read.

A family who reads together, learns together! Make sure to encourage your children to keep reading.

**LEADING THROUGH MUSIC**

Ms. Shudra is bringing back our morning music program. If you are a 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grader and would like to learn how to play an instrument he is providing a voluntary program. His program will be Tuesdays – Thursdays starting at 7:20 am.

This is one of students' favorite programs. He is looking forward to starting this program on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. All your child needs to do is show up.

**NURSE NEWS**

Vision and Hearing screenings are well underway in the clinic. Texas law mandates that all kindergarten, first, third and fifth grade students be to be screened each year along with any students new to the district and those suspected of possible deficits.

If during the screening a possible impairment is detected, the student will either be rescreened after two weeks or referred to an eye doctor, ear/nose/throat doctor, and/or pediatrician. For example, a child with excess wax or an ear infection may fail the hearing test but later pass it after medical treatment.

These screening are very important. It is very hard for a child to learn without full use of their eyes and ears. If you receive a referral to have your child evaluated by a specialist, please have them evaluated as soon as possible. If you have any difficulty doing this, please let the nurse or social worker know as soon as possible as we may be able to assist you.

A child may not know they cannot see or hear the world as we do, because they never have. This always reminds me of the book by Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

*Nurse Waller*

**Notification to Parents of Teacher Qualifications**

As a parent/guardian of a student at Westwood, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child, and Federal law requires the school district to provide you this information in a timely manner if you request it. Specifically, you have the right to request the following information about each of your child's classroom teacher:

- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects s/he teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please feel free to contact Ms. Kennard at 713-251-2100.

**COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

Our Leader in Me monthly focus for November is Habit 3 **Put First Things First**. This means to decide what is most important and to take care of that first. Thinking about what needs to be done tomorrow or by the end of the week can be overwhelming, especially for children. Learning to think of which things are the most important and taking care of them first allows children (and adults) to be less stressed. If your child uses a planner or weekly log, then he or she has a great organizational tool to *Put First Things First* in writing. By writing down his or her responsibilities and planning ahead last-minute trips to the store, missed events, or missed homework are avoided. Remember, as always modeling this behavior is a great way to teach children.

**PARENT CENTER NEWS**

November is filled with beautiful weather and a lot of parent support ❤️. We will have our monthly *Coffee with the Principal* parent meeting on **Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** in person and through Zoom. Our Morning Sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. and the Afternoon Session will start at 5:00 p.m. We will have translation available during both sessions. We will send a reminder on our Campus Class Dojo. We hope you can join us!

Betsaida Island and Arcie Valdez

**SBISD Choice Programs**

The School Choice application goes live Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am through January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11:59 pm. All the Choice School programs are listed on our district's website at [www.springbranchisd.com/choice](http://www.springbranchisd.com/choice) SELECT "Apply" link. On this website, we have a list of participating Choice Schools. If you do not have access to a computer online, access is available by computer at any SBISD campus library. Lottery results will be mailed electronically on Friday, February 11, 2022 after 4:00 pm.