

DECEMBER
2021**DECEMBER
at a Glance**

- 6th Week of Hour of Code
7th 3rd Math & 5th Science PSA
8th 4th & 5th Math PSA
9th Campus Spelling Bee
Last day of Tutorials
10th 5th Gr. Student Info. on Middle School Programs
13th CIT
16th Coffee with the Principal
17th Class Parties
End of 2nd 9 Wks.
Early Dismissal

**HOLIDAY
REMINDERS**

There will be
NO SCHOOL
Dec. 20th - Jan. 3th
for the Winter
Holidays.
Classes will resume on
Tuesday, Jan. 4th.
*We hope you have a
safe and happy holiday*

Letter from the Principal

Dear Westwood Families,

As the close of the second nine weeks approaches and our holiday break draws near we would like to thank all of our parent volunteers and the role they play in helping our school run smoothly. We have parents who help us out throughout the year. This year our volunteers have been helping us from both home and school by making book bags and activities for our students. If you are interested in being a parent volunteer, please contact Ms. Valdez or Ms. Island in our Parent Center. They would love to hear from you.

During our holiday break, it is important that our students get to continue working on understanding the value of family and friendship. Have them take time to help you get ready for the holidays. Students learn so much when they are able to contribute and take part in the work that it takes to put everything together. We would love to have pictures of our kiddos helping you put a recipe together, cleaning or doing dishes with you, reading a story to you or with another sibling. We will be collecting pictures when they come back in January to post in a collage in our main hallway. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season with friends and family.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kennard**LIBRARY NEWS**

The **Hour of Code** takes place during Computer Science Education Week. This year, it will be on December 6-12. It is held annually in recognition of the birthday of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper (December 9, 1906).

Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path. Mrs. Elias will send out more details by December 3rd on various online activities to provide our students the opportunity to learn computer science.

McDonald's FAMILY NIGHT

We will have a **Westwood McDonald's Family Night on Wednesday, December 15th from 4pm to 7 pm** at the **Hammerly/Gessner store**. 20% of the sales will be donated to our campus. The class with the most participation will have an ice cream party courtesy of McDonald's on December 17th during their class party. McDonald's has been a great community partner to us and we would like to show how much we appreciate them through your support.

NURSE'S NOTES

We have seen several playground injuries in and outside of school. If your child plays outdoors, please make sure the area they are playing on is safe-free of thorns, holes in the ground, and preferably on soft surfaces. Gymnastics and group sports are also fun and good exercise, but should be in wide-open soft areas like a gym with mats or open grassy areas-not on concrete. Please ensure that your children wear proper closed toed shoes. Students learn safety rules to be able to use our playground. These rules help keep them safe everywhere and we ask that you work with your child to remind them when playing at home. Here are some of the safety rules practiced at Westwood:

- No running on the playground. Never push or roughhouse while on playground equipment.
- Use equipment properly-slide feet first, no standing on swings.
- Do not jump off equipment, if they do, land on both feet with their knees slightly bent.

*Nurse Waller***SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MESSAGE**

As the holidays are upon us, many of you are thinking of or are already planning a family trip for the holidays. As you begin to prepare for the season, I would like to stress the importance of school attendance. Every year, we see the number of absences rise during the weeks leading up to and the weeks following winter break. We recognize that holidays are an important time of year for families to reconnect, especially if they live in another state or country.

As you plan for the holidays and are making travel arrangements, please keep in mind that the first semester will be ending on December 17th. This means that students will be submitting final grades right before the holidays. Report Cards will go home on Friday, January 7th.

The second semester of school will begin on January 4th and is just as important for students. Not being in attendance during the first few weeks of the semester can really put students behind. Regular attendance throughout the year is important for the success of our students. In particular, the beginning and closing of a semester can play a significant role in their overall performance.

This holiday season, continue to make education a priority and ensure that your children are in school. I want to thank you for your continued support and wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

WWE SPELLING BEE

Our Westwood School Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, December 9th at 9:00 A.M. in the school cafeteria. Parents of campus Spelling Bee participants are invited to watch the event. Students will compete to be one of the 2 representatives from Westwood, a 1st place winner and a 2nd place winner. The two representatives will go on to compete in the District held Spelling Bee on February 4th

TUTORIAL PROGRAM

The last day for our Tutorial Program for the first semester will be Thursday, December 9th. We will continue our tutorial program the week of January 10th. Any new students we need to add will be sent a permission letter for our tutorial program the first week we return in January. Our BGC Program will run through December 16th and will resume on January 10th. If you have any questions feel free to contact either Ms. Kennard or Ms. Moulton.

PARENT CENTER NEWS

As we get into the Holiday spirit, we want to keep you updated on what is going on in our school and our community. Please join us for our monthly parent meeting with the principal on Thursday, December 16th in person or through Zoom. A zoom link will be sent the week of our meeting through Class Dojo. Our first session will be at 9am and our second session will be at 5pm. We will provide translation in both sessions for your convenience. Come and enjoy a hot cup of coffee and learn about what is happening at Westwood!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

For the month of December, Habit 4 Think Win-Win is an attitude toward life. It takes courage and consideration to reach solutions where all involved feel valued and respected. Here are some ideas for home. Model being happy for others. "Your friend got a new bike. I bet you were very happy for your friend." Have family time celebrating something each family member did well. Be careful not to compare your children. Praise each for their own accomplishments. When conflicts arise, look for a win-win solution. Each person involved should feel understood and agree on the solution.