Principally Speaking ...

Can you believe the year 2023 is here? We are thrilled to welcome back our students after the winter break. We hope that each one of you enjoyed time with friends and family making memories and slowing down a little bit. January is a great time to make new goals for yourself and for your family. We find that the new year is an opportunity to structure routines and is a great time to grow.

Ideas for growing in 2023:

- Read for at least 30 minutes every day
- When the weather is nice play outside
- Make your bed every morning
- Openly express your feelings and not be afraid to share with someone else
- Try something that scares you
- Develop positive self talk through a daily mantra
- Slow down and notice the things you are thankful for
- Write a letter and send it in the mail

We had some amazing things happen in the year 2022 and we can’t wait to see what the year 2023 holds for the incredible staff and students at Westview.

Quarterly Progress Reports

Second quarter ended on December 22nd. Your child’s second quarter report card will be electronically distributed on Friday, January 6th. This distribution will be the same process as the previous quarter report cards. If you have trouble viewing your child’s report card or want a paper copy please contact the Westview Elementary office.

Westview Spelling Bee

The Westview Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, December 22nd. We are very proud of all our spelling bee participants. This was an exciting spelling bee and this year we had seven rounds of head to head competition! The winning word this year was “adorable”. Congratulations to Charlie Lange, 5th grade – 1st place; Evelyn Newman, 4th grade – 2nd place; and Nikko Fowlkes, 4th grade – 3rd place. We would like to congratulate all of our spelling bee participants for an outstanding job!
No School for STUDENTS on:
January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Here at Westview we have many outstanding students who exhibit positive attributes. It is always a pleasure to recognize our students who have received the Optimist Award. The following students were presented this honor for the months of November and December and will be recognized at our all-school pep assembly which will be held on Friday, January 13th. Congratulations to all of our award winners!

The theme for November: Someone who is being a good and supportive friend.
Kindergarten – Kameron Parker, 1st Grade – Carter Anschutz, 2nd Grade – Jaxon Bailey, 3rd Grade – Faye Zumwalt, 4th Grade – Mason Amann, 5th Grade – Addie Zumwalt.

The theme for December: Someone who is optimistic and enjoys reading.
Kindergarten – Bianca Gonzalez, 1st Grade – Dean Leslie, 2nd Grade – Vander Tieman, 3rd Grade – Chloe Robinson, 4th Grade – Luna Liddell, 5th Grade – Andrew Bonkeen.

Join us for our monthly PTA meeting on Monday, January 9th at 6 pm. PTA Meetings are held at Westview. Come support our wonderful Westview PTA.

Westview PTA Presents Culver’s Night
Please join our Westview PTA on Wednesday, January 18th from 5-8 pm at Culver’s location at 1701 NE Douglas Street, Lee’s Summit, 64086. Come and enjoy dinner and get to know some of the many wonderful families from Westview and our PTA. All are welcome! **10% of the sales will benefit Westview PTA!!!

District Covid Information
As we go through the year and you would like to view Westview or other District Covid information, please click here to view Westview and District Covid Cases.
January - Looking Ahead:

- **1/1 - 1/4**: NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK!!!
- **1/5**: Classes resume- Welcome Back Students!
- **1/6**: Late Start Friday; Progress Reports sent home electronically
- **1/9**: PTA Meeting at 6:00 pm in the Library
- **1/10**: 4th grade choir 8:00 am; Nutrition Council meeting at 4:15 pm
- **1/11**: 5th grade choir 8:00 am
- **1/12**: 4th & 5th grade choir 8:00 am; Summit Technology Academy Open House 6-8 pm
- **1/13**: Late Start Friday; Spirit Assembly 2:30 pm
- **1/16**: NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day!!!
- **1/18**: STUDCO (4th & 5th grade) meeting 4:10 pm; PTA Culvers Night
- **1/19**: LSR7 Board Meeting 7 pm
- **1/20**: Late Start Friday; 5th Grade Strings 1:20 pm
- **1/23**: Game Club (2nd & 3rd Grade) 4:10 pm
- **1/27**: Late Start Friday
- **1/30**: Game Club (2nd & 3rd Grade) 4:10 pm
- **1/31**: 4th grade choir 8:00 am

District Information

Lee’s Summit R-7 School District, Chamber of Commerce Invite Nominations for 2023 Excellence in Teaching/Teacher of the Year awards

The district also announces Support Staffer of the Year program.

The Lee’s Summit R-7 School District is accepting nominations for the 2023 Lee’s Summit Chamber of Commerce Excellence In Teaching/LSR7 Teacher of the Year Awards. All community members, parents, and stakeholders are invited to nominate. Twelve LSR7 teachers will receive this year’s Excellence In Teaching Award. They will also become a finalist for the Lee’s Summit School District’s annual Teacher of the Year Award. The district’s Teacher of the Year advances to compete in the Missouri State Teacher of the Year program.

Any certificated pre-K-12 teacher, counselor or library media specialist is eligible to be selected as Teacher of the Year. All candidates must have been employed at least five years with the district. Former Excellence In Teaching Award winners who are nominated again are eligible for consideration to receive one of three Teacher of Distinction awards. Teachers of Distinction also interview for Teacher of the Year.

In addition, for the first time ever, the district will host a Support Staffer of the Year awards program alongside its Teacher of the Year program for all non-administrative employees who are not eligible for Teacher of the Year. Any LSR7 employee who has been employed by the School District for at least one year in a non-teacher certificated role that is not administrative or supervisory is eligible for this award.

The Excellence In Teaching and Teacher of Distinction award recipients will be selected by a committee of LSR7 staff and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. Six Support Staff of the Year finalists will be selected by a roundtable of district administrators. The 12 Excellence In Teaching winners and Teacher of Distinction honorees will be announced in the spring and honored at an April reception, where the Teacher of
the Year will be announced. Support Staffer of the Year finalists will also be announced in the spring and celebrated at the same event.

Nomination forms are available on the Lee’s Summit R-7 School District Teacher of the Year website, LSR7.org/TOY. Jan. 31, 2023 is the deadline for nominations.

BCMS Teacher Selected for Next Round of Parade of Hearts  Bernard Campbell Middle School Art teacher Katie Messick's work was chosen for the 2023 Parade of Hearts. She is one of the 40 artists chosen from nearly 530 who submitted designs for the second annual event featuring local artists. Mrs. Messick picked up her heart last month and will paint it over the next two and a half months before its put on display in April. You'll be able to follow her progress online, along with other artists working on hearts, by following the hashtag #My5FootHeart. The Parade of Hearts was created to strengthen the region through art. The first round of hearts were auctioned off with the proceeds benefiting organizations impacted by the pandemic. This year’s hearts will also be auctioned off in August, the money going towards grants to organizations in health & wellness, education, small/minority owned businesses, arts & culture and hospitality & tourism.

Lee’s Summit R-7 Board of Education places debt service levy transfer on April 4 ballot  The no tax rate increase ballot item asks voters to allow the district to shift dollars to the operating fund to enable efforts to recruit and retain quality staff.

The Lee’s Summit R-7 Board of Education approved placement of a debt service levy transfer on the April 4, 2023 ballot by a 7-0 vote at the Dec. 15 regular monthly meeting.

Ballot language proposes the increase of the district’s operating tax levy by 20 cents (per $100 of assessed valuation) and a decrease to the debt service tax levy by 20 cents to ensure no net impact to the district’s overall tax rate.

Reallocating additional revenue to the operating fund will allow the district to increase staff compensation as part of the district’s goal of recruiting and retaining quality staff.

The Board’s decision follows the review of salary data from surrounding school districts, in addition to input from stakeholder groups including the Citizens’ Advisory Committee, Business Roundtable, Team Lee’s Summit and district staff.
“The Board of Education and administration believes bringing a ballot question to the voters to transfer 20 cents of debt service levy to the operating levy is in the best interest of the district,” said Superintendent David Buck.

The levy transfer is designed as a no tax rate increase approach to ensure the school district can offer competitive staff compensation during a time of high inflation and stagnant state funding for K-12 education. In recent years, neighboring districts have taken voter-approved actions such as levy transfers and increases to invest in salary schedules, and LSR7 has fallen behind in starting pay for teachers and other positions.

Salary recommendations in the Lee’s Summit R-7 School District are made each year by a representative group of employees before being presented to the Board of Education for consideration each spring. This collaborative process will determine the allocation of additional revenue for salaries should voters approve a levy transfer in April.

The district’s current overall property tax rate of $5.31 per $100 of assessed valuation includes the operating tax levy and the debt service tax levy. The current operating tax levy ($4.24) funds operational expenses, such as teacher and staff salaries, supplies and equipment. Current debt service tax levy ($1.07) funds are used to pay interest and principal payments for general obligation bonds issued for voter-approved bond projects.

Shifting $.20 from the debt service levy to the operating levy is a budget reallocation that redirects approximately $5.4 million to the general operating fund on an annual basis.

While a levy transfer impacts the district’s future bonding capacity — how much the district can borrow in the future for bond projects — assessed valuation and growth projections indicate that LSR7 is in a strong position to cover its anticipated facility needs with a lower debt service tax levy. Voter approval of a levy transfer does not change the terms or rates associated with previously issued debt. Because of responsible long-range debt planning, the district has adequate funds to cover its existing debt.

The April 2023 levy transfer will require a simple majority from voters for approval. The deadline to register to vote for the April election is March 8, 2023.

Information about the levy transfer is available on the district’s webpage at lsr7.org. Throughout the next couple of months, school district officials will be providing more comprehensive information about this topic as well as offering presentations to interested organizations. For more information, you may also contact the district’s Public Relations Department at (816) 986-1112 or submit questions at the district’s contact us webpage.

“Increasing staff salaries through a levy transfer is a way to ensure LSR7 continues to be a destination district without asking voters for additional tax contributions,” said Board of Education President Kathy Campbell. “We know our community supports our schools and our staff — we see it every day in so many ways across our district — and we are looking forward to sharing more information about this ballot item with our community.”