

WMS Paw Print

2023.05.05

Bringing you the middle school scoop...

Principal's Message

May 5, 2023

Dear Westlake Middle School Families,

It is hard to keep up with all of the great learning. There is so much below. Please be sure to scroll and click.

Middle School is a great time for experiential learning. This year we have gotten back in the swing of things with field trips. We like to think of them as *field learning* and *field experiences*.

Thanks to Dr. Cowles, all of our 6th Grade Art students have visited a stunning art exhibit in Manhattan. We also had the opportunity to do some historical sightseeing with half of the 6th Grade yesterday. Some highlights from the day are below. We were impressed with the 6th Grade students' knowledge of classical architecture as they pointed out ionic and doric columns.

The 6th Grade will be extending their science learning to the field at the Bronx Zoo in a few weeks, and we have a 7th Grade combined Science and Social Studies trip in the works for June.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, our 8th Grade has worked hard and demonstrated their learning insignificant ways these last three years. Although there is a lot of learning left, it is time to celebrate a bit. To document all of the fun and memorable events leading through May and June, we've created a separate 8th Grade Newsletter sent to 8th Grade students and families.

As trips and events unfold, we'll post pictures to share in the fun and have for memories.

2023 8th Grade Newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/d861c>

KEEP THE PAW PRINT BOOKMARKED!

Once you have access to the document it will update automatically.

Older versions will be archived on our <https://wms.mtplcsd.org/>

Enjoy the *stuff* below!



Teacher Appreciation Week

The PTA has planned some sweets, treats, and surprises for the faculty and staff next week. Your support of the PTA makes this possible. We appreciate our PTA and all of our families.

We are also taking all of the kind messages submitted via our Teacher Appreciation Google Form and putting them in teacher mailboxes. Thank you for your submission and for making their day.



Who's That?

A rare shot of the man behind the camera for so much of what we see and enjoy on the website and in the halls. He is one of many teachers who deserve our appreciation. Thank you Mr. Pezzuti!



Happy National Nurse's Day

National Nurse's Day is May 6th. A special thank you to Ms. Horowitz and Ms. Jaime for keeping our students safe, healthy, and happy. We are so fortunate to have both of you joining our team this year.



May 31st - National Junior Honor Society Ceremony

Letters were sent notifying families that their child will be inducted into the NJHS for the 2022 - 2023 School Year. Save the date for the ceremony. As a reminder, this is a merit-based organization with rigorous challenging criteria. We emphasize that the process is as important as recognition. Although not all students who apply will meet the criteria. it is

an important first experience in meeting high expectations and long-term deadlines for the first time in a student's career. Our BLT has worked to diversify the ways in which we recognize growth and achievement. Students who do not meet the criteria are still eligible for the Principal's List, Honor Roll, and "On-A-Roll."

Upcoming Dates

April and May - New York State Assessments

Click on the chart for a full set of dates.

NYS Assessments: Westlake Middle School		
EXAM	GRADE	DATES
ELA*	7 & 8	Wed, April 19 Thurs, April 20
	6	Tues, April 25 Wed, April 26
MATHEMATICS*	7 & 8	Tues, May 2 Wed, May 3
	6	Mon, May 8 Tues, May 9
SCIENCE (Performance)	8	Tues, May 23
SCIENCE (Written)	8	Mon, June 5
NYSESLAT (SPEAKING)†	6 - 8	April 17 - May 26
NYSESLAT (LISTENING, READING, WRITING)†	6 - 8	May 15 - May 26

* The NYS ELA/Mathematics Assessments will be administered as Computer Based Tests (CBTs).
† The NYSESLAT Exams are only for those students who are designated as ELL students.
‡ The Math 8 and Science 8 Exams are only for those students currently enrolled in those courses.



May 13th - Music In The Parks Trip

Principals' Leadership Group - Snapshots of What's Happening at WMS



8th Grade Social Studies and ELA Experience

During the ELA double periods on May 4th and 5th, 8th-grade students had the opportunity to learn about Eva Schloss, a Holocaust survivor. This experience was hosted by the National World War II Museum via a virtual experience. This opportunity aligns with both Social Studies and English and will foster a deeper understanding of this important time period.

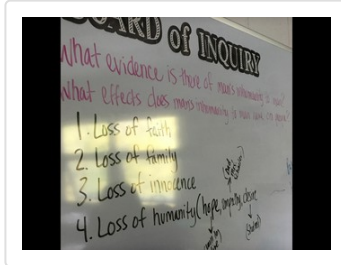
It was important for students to hear first-hand and expert accounts of a major historical, classical, and humanities theme.

As we head toward Memorial Day, remember that we should be grateful every day for those that sacrificed for our rights and freedoms.



Museum Presentation

Students were able to learn from primary sources presented to them.



Inquiry and Theme

Our ELA Teachers are helping students identify and analyze important themes in the humanities.



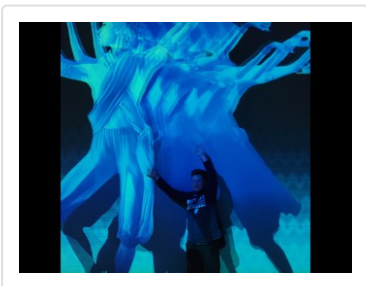
Historical Context

This interdisciplinary opportunity connects to the study of history and was co-planned with our awesome Social Teachers.



Language Immersion

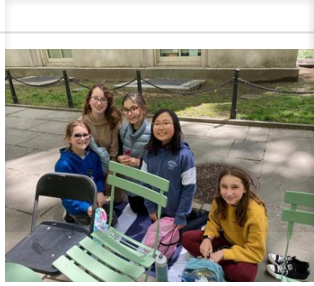
Our 8th Grade Spanish students immersed themselves in a cultural celebration with Quinceañers throughout the day.



The 6th Grade Art Trip to Manhattan - So Much To See!

The weather and time were on our side. After a phenomenal interactive art exhibit at The Hall des Lumieres, we took a stroll down Broadway, the Canyon of Heros, to Battery Park pointing out some historical sites, and impressive sculptures.

<https://www.halldeslumieres.com/>



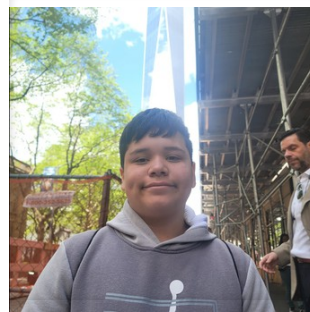
City Hall

We had a picnic at the seat of the city government.



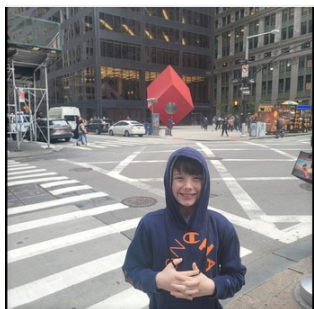
Manhattan Municipal Building

Manhattan's second-largest statue is at the top. I think you know the largest.



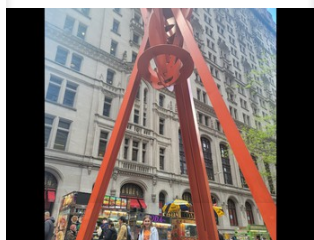
The Freedom Tower

Views of the 1776 foot tall building were not hard to find.



Red Cube

Isamu Noguchi's *Red Cube*...



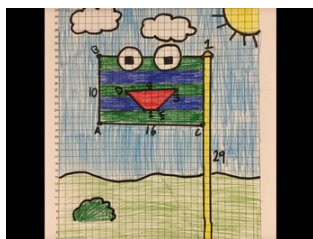
The Joy of Life

Mark di Suvero's sculpture, *Joie de Vivre* (*Joy of Life*)



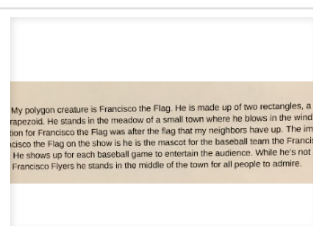
Canyon of Heros

Plaques on Broadway mark the many parades that have taken place. We kept seeing the name *Yankees* on these plaques.



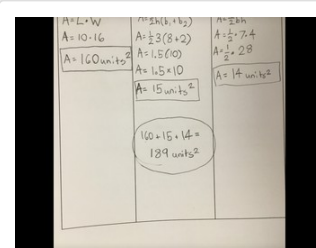
Polygon Creatures

6th Graders are designing creatures.



Their Story

Each has a fun backstory.



Their Measurements

And formulas and measurements to match.

Classical Architecture

"Creativity is always about continuing ideas, drawing back to precedents, and synthesizing concepts from different eras in new ways. Architects often get caught up in striving for new

ideas and innovation. As a society, we want to be moving forward. But we should not forget to learn from the past. Often, ideas that seem new are not."

It was great to see students so interested in architecture. Hopefully, the trip inspired a few future architects.

<https://www.stantec.com/en/ideas/hooked-on-classics-why-do-we-still-study-classical-architecture>

Looking Ahead - Save The Dates



Coming soon...

Be on the look out for the hatch date of our feathery friends.



May 15th - Incoming 6th Grade
Parent Orientation



May 18th - 6th Grade Trip to The
Bronx Zoo



May 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - 7th
and 8th Grade Spring Concert



May 24th from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. -
6th Grade Steam Symposium



May 26th through May 29th -
Memorial Day Weekend



May 30th - Spring NWEA MAP
Reading Assessments for Grades 6 - 8



May 31st at 7:00 p.m. - National
Junior Honor Society Induction
Ceremony



June 1st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - 6th
Grade Spring Concert

