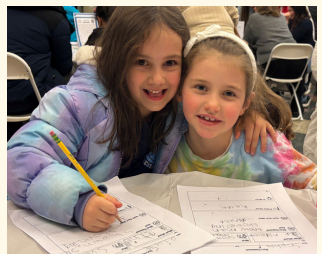


THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 4 Issue 18



Superintendent's Corner

This week our Hawthorne Wildcats celebrated winter and writing in a variety of ways.

First grade families gathered yesterday for Family Literacy Night. Teachers dressed as snow people and read books to students and their parents in the multi purpose room and cafeteria. Families then participated in a variety of activities to strengthen ELA skills including word searches and scrambles, "fishing" for rhyming words, and reading stories with purpose to answer questions and find clues to solve puzzles. As an added bonus, students were asked to donate books for a book swap and each family was left with a new book to add to their personal collection. In kindergarten math classes, students practiced dividing shapes into multiple parts and then wrote and read sentences about the shapes they were studying. This multi-step activity reinforces the importance of reading skills in math studies. In art, second graders embarked on an imaginative journey to the Arctic, where they developed their drawing skills by creating polar bear habitats. Using Model Magic, students created a 3D polar bear by learning how to properly form a ball, divide clay into pieces, and roll pieces into different-sized coils. Look for these special projects to make a reappearance at the 2nd Grade Celebration of Learning later this year.

Our winter athletic season is in full swing. This week basketball stars Maggie Plotkin and Marcus Jackette were nominated for player and play of the week respectively. We commend them and all our teams on their outstanding efforts. Good luck to our track team at County Champs tomorrow!

Noticing the Good

Westlake High School has a new school crest developed through a collaborative process led by Principal Keith Schenker and his Principal's Advisory team. Student leaders - Megan Alexander, Luan Celaj, Chloe Deur, Bridget Doherty, Lucas Finkel, Luke Gilbert, Madelyn Sergeant, and Bethany Tsoi - spearheaded the project, with over 60 students contributing to the redesign that began in Spring 2024. The new crest thoughtfully reimagines traditional symbols while honoring the school's heritage.

Key design elements include: stone pillars symbolizing strength and strong foundations, a rising sun representing light, enlightenment, and new beginnings, a Hawthorne Tree representing knowledge, wisdom, and growth, and a prominent display of "Responsible" and "Resilient" attributes. Due to New York State regulations, the original Native American imagery was removed. The students expressed gratitude to Mr. Schenker, Dr. G, and their classmates for supporting the project. The new crest will soon appear on diplomas and throughout the high school.

The Week Ahead

1/28 - WMS Incoming 8th Grade Course Selection Parent Mtg 7 pm

1/29 - Lunar New Year
NO SCHOOL

1/30 - WHS/WMS 2nd Quarter Report Cards, WMS Musical: Legally Blonde 7 pm

1/31 - WMS Musical: Legally Blonde 7 pm

WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical JR.

Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin Book by Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown And the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

SCAN ME

FOR TICKETS

2025:
THUR JAN 30 - 7PM
FRI JAN 31 - 7PM
SAT FEB 1 - 7PM
SUN FEB 2 - 1PM

Legally Blonde Jr. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-6684 mtishows.com



In Awe of the Paw - A Special Tradition

Over the past decade, students in Deb Kurlander and Bernadette Grassi's class have participated in a special tradition - having their silhouette drawn by Mrs. Grassi! These works of art then hang in the hall with clues and staff members, parents, and other visitors try to guess which silhouette belongs to which student. At the end of the school year, these beautiful keepsakes are sent home with students as a special memory of their Kindergarten year.

