



Superintendent's Corner

It was a busy and joyful week across Mount Pleasant as we headed into the short stretch before holiday recess. Our fifth graders at Columbus became cartographers during a hands-on mapping program led by instructors from PNW BOCES. After reviewing map features, students worked in teams to map their own classrooms — drawing to scale, creating legends and labels, and even using an alidade before combining their sections into one complete map. Columbus students also experienced something truly special as The Living Museum Company transformed the school into an immersive “Museum of Legends,” bringing history to life through interactive storytelling featuring figures such as Louisa May Alcott, Alvin Ailey, Anne Frank, Albert Einstein, Aretha Franklin, Frida Kahlo, and Emmeline Pankhurst. Meanwhile, at Westlake, our Middle and High School Kindness Club spread cheer by decorating kindness ornaments, decorating (and sharing!) giant sugar cookies, and surprising students and staff with small acts that made a significant impact. At WHS, Service Club students jumped into Mission Santa — claiming letters for 25 local families representing 38 children — helping ensure more of our neighbors wake up to the magic of the season. Our AP Art and Drawing & Painting students also took their learning beyond the classroom on a field trip to the Katonah Museum of Art to study and emulate Shen Wei’s work (pic below). And at WMS, holiday spirit was everywhere — from Peer Leadership’s “Jingles the Elf” to Speech students presenting research projects on international holiday traditions. As we look ahead to the celebrations and time with family and friends, I wish everyone in our school community a warm, restful, and happy holiday season.

Noticing the Good

The WHS Winter Concert was a wonderful and joyful finale to our winter season, featuring standout performances by the WHS Jazz Band, BLENDORS, Wind Ensemble, Chorus, and Concert Band. Students shared an impressive range of music — from Miles Davis and Piazzolla to Fleetwood Mac, ABBA, and a festive Charlie Brown Christmas! Along the way, we celebrated big program milestones, including our largest BLENDORS ensemble to date, the launch of the new after-school Wind Ensemble (made possible with the support of our administration), and a Concert Band of over 100 remarkable musicians. Congratulations to every performer, and heartfelt thanks to directors Emily Denler and Ulysses Torres for their exceptional leadership and dedication.

Tune in to Westlake High School Broadcasting’s 2025 Holiday Broadcast! This year, we’re honoring Local Legends Ms. Frawley, Coach Hennessey, and Coach Kappy, sharing student-produced segments (Holiday Taste Test + NYC!), and ending with Mossimo and His Grandma’s Socks by Paul Tohill—featuring Dr. G!
Watch here
<https://shorturl.at/qvLvH>

The Week Ahead

12/23 - Half Day For All
12/24 - 1/2/2026 - Holiday Recess - Schools Closed



In Awe of the Paw – HOBY

Congratulations to WHS sophomore Fiona Clark on being selected for the HOBY Award! The HOBY (Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership) Award is presented to outstanding sophomores across the country who demonstrate exceptional communication skills, empathy, courage to stand up for their beliefs, and strong decision-making abilities.

Reflecting on leadership, Fiona shared, “Leaders must lead from the bottom... listen, learn, and lead for the greater good. They must stand by their beliefs, consider opposing views, and model the qualities they hope to see in others.”
Congratulations Fiona!

