

# WESTWOOD GAZETTE



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(754) 323-7900

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*"WHE CAN, WHE WILL, SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS"*

<http://westwoodheights.browardschools.com>

<http://twitter.com/WHElementary>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Greetings WHE Parents & Guardians!

Please let me be among the first to congratulate our learners on their hard work and the grit that they showed during the 2016-2017 school year which resulted in our school moving up and achieving letter grade of a C, as awarded by the Florida Department of Education. I am proud to share that the collective efforts of our students and dedicated staff members paid off in a BIG way as we increased 60 points overall from the results achieved in 2016.

A letter grade of a B is well within our reach and that is our goal for the 2017-2018 school year. In order to do this, we will have a deliberate focus on the progress of each individual to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our learners.

The focus on individual student progress will be multi-dimensional as we will examine various components that result in student achievement. One key component will be to continuously monitor academic performance; however, we will also focus on fostering "grit" in our students through building and maintaining a positive, growth mindset. Angela Duckworth, a leading psychologist in the field, defines grit as "passion and perseverance toward long term goals." She goes on to say that "gritty people have a growth mindset; when bad things happen they don't give up." We will foster this mindset in many ways with one of the first steps being to begin each day reciting our new Westwood Heights Eagle Pledge. You will find the pledge, along with other exciting news in this edition of the Westwood Gazette. I look forward to an exciting new school year!

Jodi Washington  
Principal

### Important Dates

9/4.....No School  
9/6..... Open House 6p.m.  
9/14.....Early Release  
K-5: 1p.m.  
HS & VPK 12noon  
9/19.....Interim Reports  
9/21.....No School

### Assessment Dates

2/27.....FSAA Begins  
3/6.....FSA Writing 4<sup>th</sup> &  
5<sup>th</sup> Grades  
4/10.....FSA ELA 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Session 1  
4/11.....FSA ELA 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Session 2  
4/24-4/25..FSA Math 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>  
Grades  
5/1-5/2.....Statewide  
Science Assessment 5<sup>th</sup>  
Grade  
5/8-5/9 FSA ELA 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

### School Hours

PreK & HS: 8:00a.m.-  
2:00p.m.  
K-5: 8:00 a.m.- 3:00p.m  
Breakfast: 7:15a.m.- 7:45a.m.



Educating Today's Students to  
Succeed in Tomorrow's World

## *A NOTE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL*

Greetings Westwood Heights Family,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. As Mrs. Washington mentioned, we have many new additions to our school including a new logo, school motto that incorporated in the logo, and a school pledge. The school pledge is as follows:

*I am a Westwood Heights Eagle.  
I am a leader.  
I was leader when I came in and I will be a better leader when I leave.  
As a learner, I am dedicated, committed, and focused to succeed.  
I cooperate with my classmates, teachers, and community members.  
I am exceptional, not because I say it, but because I work hard.  
I dream big, believe, and achieve.  
I will graduate from high school because I always do my best.  
I am an Eagle and Eagles soar above the rest!*

The school motto and pledge were introduced to learners during the first week of school. Also during the first week of school, learners received First Day packets that contained the following documents:

- Emergency Contact Card
- Classroom Admittance Form
- School-Parent Compact 2017-2018
- Preliminary Family Needs Assessment
- After School Program (ASP) Information
- School Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) (formerly Parent Involvement Plan)

The PFEP can be found in the front office or on our school website at <http://westwoodheights.browardschools.com>.

**School Public Accountability Report (SPAR)** provides parents and the community with important information about each public school such as demographic, safety and academic data. The SPAR is available in the front office or online at

<http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/index.cfm>

Last school year, I was please to discover that several WHE parents are business owners. I established partnerships with these parents and worked to create a relationship that supports their business as well as the school. I am excited to announce the WHE Parent Partnership Organization (PPO). The PPO is an organization that supports and promotes the businesses of Westwood Heights parents. If you are interested in improving and/or expanding your business while partnering with Westwood Heights, I invite you to attend the first PPO meeting on September 26, 2017 at 4:15p.m.

Respectfully,

Lavina Robinson

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The ECE Team is so excited to be back for a new school year! We would like to welcome the new families, that are here at Westwood Heights for the first time, and our wonderful returning families! Also, we would like to introduce the new teachers on our team – Ms. Huber in VPK, Ms. Hyppolite in ESE and Ms. Lockhart in Head Start 3's.

The growth that you will witness in your children from the beginning of this school year till the end will be astounding! There are learners that this is their first time away from home, and leaving their parents and caregivers can be a challenge, but every day the transition from home to school becomes easier. Then the next thing you know, they will be singing songs from class at home, they'll be eager to show you what they have learned during the school day, and they will even beg you to bring them back to school!

Do not hesitate to get in contact with us, we are always here for you and your learner. We look forward to an amazing 2017-2018 school year.

## KINDERGARTEN

We, the Kindergarten team, are excited to start our year and are anticipating wonderful things from all of our learners. The beginning of the year is often a challenging adjustment for many of our learners. The school day is extended by an hour and there is no nap time! With this in mind, we ask that you ensure that your learner gets a good night's rest and comes to school refreshed and ready to work. If your learner will be eating breakfast here at school, please have them in the breakfast line before 7:30 am. As a team, we will assign a homework packet that will be sent home on Monday afternoon and will be due Friday morning. We will begin our year working on learning letter names, letter sounds, and sight words in English Language Arts and in Math we will be working on identifying numerals 0-20 and matching quantities to numerals. Open House will be held on September 6, 2017, we hope to see you there!

-The Kindergarten Team

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Welcome to first grade! The First-grade team is truly excited to welcome a new school year with your child. The next 180 days will be full of fun, laughter, and most importantly LEARNING. For the months of August and September, our learners will be working on learning the rules and procedures through authentic instruction to ensure that we have a safe learning environment for the 2017-2018 school year. Assessments will be used in the areas of Reading and Math, to provide teachers with the necessary data to drive standard based instruction. This will be coupled with the development of the students reading skills. Additionally, in math students will be focusing on adding and subtracting within 20.

We are truly excited to work with your child this school year. First Grade is such an astonishing year to witness your child blossom into a reader. We encourage our parents to contact us with questions to optimize their child's learning.



Thank you,  
Ms. Dorvil  
Ms. Johnson  
Ms. Montgomery  
Mrs. Nelson

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

The Second-grade team wishes to welcome all members of the Westwood Heights community to what promises to be a remarkable 180 days. For the 2017-2018 school year, the staff along with the support from our community, will embark on encouraging all learners to

“be”-lieve in themselves. In doing so, the expectations are that all second graders;

Be Focused...Be willing...Be consistent

For the months of August and September, our learners will be working on procedures and exceeding expectations, through practice and hands-on learning to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment. Assessments will be carried out in the areas of Reading and Math, to provide teachers with data to drive instruction. Academically, they will be developing comprehension skills through asking and answering questions about fictional and non-fictional texts through literacy, and in math, adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers.

We encourage our parents to contact us with questions, for resources, and suggestions to optimize their child's learning.



# CLASSROOM NEWS

## 3rd Grade

We are off to a great start in 3rd grade this year. It was so nice seeing both new and familiar faces back at Westwood Heights for the 2017-2018 school year. The 3rd grade team of teachers have been hard at work creating meaningful hands on learning activities that are challenging the learners minds.....and also fun and engaging at the same time.

At times, the work won't be easy, but it is important to remind your children never to give up. Every third grader has shown their teacher that they are eager to learn. We are so thankful for each and every one of them.

### Reminders

Be sure to check communication folders daily for parent forms and homework.

Make sure learners are reading a minimum of 20 minutes a night. Books have been sent home and are available for homework practice upon request.

If you are unaware of the behavior management system in your child's classroom, please contact their teacher for further information (different teachers use different forms of classroom management and behavior tracking strategies).

### Learning Focus

#### Reading Focus

- Asking and answering questions. - Recounting stories, including fables, folktales, and myths.

#### Science Focus

- Identifying and describing the role of sun and weather systems.

#### Math Focus

- Identifying patterns on an addition and multiplication table. - Add and subtract within 1000.

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

We are excited to be your child's 4th grade teachers for the 2017-2018 school year and we're delighted to make this our best school year yet! Parents/Guardians, as we're beginning the school year, it's very important that we receive support from you all on behavior and redirecting appropriate school wide behaviors; we would truly appreciate it! Once again, we are thrilled to be your child's teacher. This school year will be filled with fun, lots of learning, and new adventures!

Best Regards,

Fourth Grade Team



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Welcome to fifth grade! We (Ms. Smith, Mrs. Quinn, and Mr. D.) are so excited to educate your children this year! We look forward to meeting you during our Open House (September 6, 2017 6pm-7:30pm) and/or throughout the year.

This school year, our 5th graders will participate in novel study during their Reading block. They will also continue to foster and build their math skills as we work on fractions, decimals, geometry, and measurement during their Mathematics block. Lastly, our 5th graders will create and perform engaging science experiments during their Science period. In addition to our academia studies, our 5th graders will have the chance to participate in different extracurricular activities this years. (i.e. the Morning Announcements Team, The Recycling club, or Technology club)

Lastly, we have scheduled a few field trips this year; including our famous End Of The Year field trip.

Parents please remind your children that as a 5th grader, excellent behavior is expected. They are leaders of our school and should act as a role model for all the younger students.



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Westwood Heights welcomes you back! We have new faces on campus. The special programs department has added new faculty to the department. **Mr. Mayweather** will be the new instructor for the primary special programs class. He comes to Westwood with over ten years of teaching experience for special needs students. **Mrs. Satchwell** will be the new intermediate special programs teacher. She joins the team with years of experience in middle school special education. **Ms. Edwards** is our new full-time speech pathologist. She will service our general education students who receive speech and language services. For our little ones in specialized pre-k, **Mrs. Hyppolite** is their new teacher. The students have welcomed all new faces with lots of love!



# Literacy Corner



It's that time of year again! As our learners are settling into school, our teachers are providing small group instruction and reading centers that will provide targeted instruction at the pace our learners need to master various literacy skills.

As we look ahead to another school year of assisting students to narrow their reading achievement gap, we are profoundly aware of the significance of children reading with their parent or guardian at home. Reading at home with your child is instrumental to their academic development. Research has shown that one-on-one reading time and access to books are key predictors of future literacy skills and future educational outcomes.

Here are some easy ways that parents or guardians can support their children in becoming stronger and proficient readers:

✚ **Read at home.**

Reading regularly at home provides children with the practice they need to become great readers.

✚ **Make a special reading spot.**

Designating a special reading spot at home for children to read with you is not only exciting, but this is also a great way of creating a spot where children can concentrate.

✚ **Become a great reading partner for your child!**

As children it is no fun to read when you are mandated to read. Building trust and supporting your children reading habits is crucial. Show your children that reading is entertaining by reading with them.

✚ **Surround your child with books.**

When children have access to books at home, they become acquainted with books and the act of reading daily, successfully giving them a head start in learning.

✚ **Bring books everywhere.**

Incorporating books into everyday activities will continue to assist children in becoming better readers. Place books everywhere in your home and even in the car.

✚ **Communicate with your child's teacher and get involved at Westwood Heights Elementary.**

Communicating with the teacher also informs parents and guardians in what areas of reading they are succeeding in and what areas they may need additional help with. You can also volunteer in the classroom or attend a class fieldtrip.



*Happy Reading!*





# Science Corner

Welcome back to school for what promises to be another exciting year at Westwood Heights! I would like to start by congratulating last year's 5th grade learners on improving our school Science score by 3%! We look forward this year to improving that score by more than 3% this year! Additionally, we have been crowned as the 2017 Annual Science Brain Brawl Showdown CHAMPIONS! We look forward to defending our title in May of 2018! As the year begins the following are some of the standards that are the focus for our learners:

## **Kindergarten Learning Target**

- Identify and describe the five senses

## **1st Grade Learning target**

- Make observations of living and nonliving things, including identification of the major parts of plants and the interaction between plants and animals and their environment.

## **2nd Grade Learning Target**

- Compare and describe changing patterns in nature that repeat themselves, investigate and observe the Sun's energy, water evaporation, and the air and the relationship between weather and the properties of water in all its states.

## **3rd Grade Learning Target**

- Identify and describe the role of the sun in weather system.

## **4th Grade Learning Target**

Identify and describe the physical properties of common earth-forming minerals and rocks and how these minerals change over time through weathering and erosion to shape Earth's structure.

## **5th Grade Learning Target**

Distinguish among the following objects of the Solar System -- Sun, planets, moons, asteroids, comets -- and identify Earth's position in it.

# Math Corner Grades 3-5

Intermediate Math Article The beginning of the school year brings with it new content to be taught in our intermediate math classes! This year grades 3-5 will focus on 1 standard a week to ensure an extensive amount of time is given to each standard and opportunities for success grow.

Below is a list of some of the standards your child is learning in their respective grade levels:

## 3rd Grade Standards

Fluently add and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction. **MAFS.3.OA.1.1** - Interpret products of whole numbers, e.g., interpret  $5 \times 7$  as the total number of objects in 5 groups of 7 objects each. For example, describe a context in which a total number of objects can be expressed as  $5 \times 7$ .

Apply properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide. Examples: If  $6 \times 4 = 24$  is known, then  $4 \times 6 = 24$  is also known. (Commutative property of multiplication.)  $3 \times 5 \times 2$  can be found by  $3 \times 5 = 15$ , then  $15 \times 2 = 30$ , or by  $5 \times 2 = 10$ , then  $3 \times 10 = 30$ . (Associative property of multiplication.) Knowing that  $8 \times 5 = 40$  and  $8 \times 2 = 16$ , one can find  $8 \times 7$  as  $8 \times (5 + 2) = (8 \times 5) + (8 \times 2) = 40 + 16 = 56$ . (Distributive property.)

## 4th Grade Standards

Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them. For example, express the calculation "add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2" as  $2 \times (8 + 7)$ . Recognize that  $3 \times (18932 + 921)$  is three times as large as  $18932 + 921$ , without having to calculate the indicated sum or product.

Compare two fractions with different numerators and different denominators, e.g., by creating common denominators or numerators, or by comparing to a benchmark fraction such as  $1/2$ . Recognize that comparisons are valid only when the two fractions refer to the same whole. Record the results of comparisons with symbols  $>$ ,  $=$ , or  $<$ , and  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record the results of comparisons.

## 5th Grade Standards

Explain patterns in the number of zeros of the product when multiplying a number by powers of 10, and explain patterns in the placement of the decimal point when a decimal is multiplied or divided by a power of 10. Use whole-number exponents to denote powers of 10.

Compare two decimals to thousandths based on meanings of the digits in each place, using  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record the results of comparisons.

Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.

# Math Corner Grades K-2

**K-2 Mathematics** The first week of school was targeted on assessing students to identify attainment of the foundational skills or the lack there off for each grade level. The following information gives a brief outline of the standards and the skills being targeted for student achievement, Kindergarten through Second Grade.

## Kindergarten

Read and write numerals from 0 to 20.

When counting objects, say the number names in the standard order, pairing each object with one and only one number name and each number name with one and only one object.

## First Grade

Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem. •

Apply properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract.3 Examples: If  $8 + 3 = 11$  is known, then  $3 + 8 = 11$  is also known. (Commutative property of addition.) To add  $2 + 6 + 4$ , the second two numbers can be added to make a ten, so  $2 + 6 + 4 = 2 + 10 = 12$ . (Associative property of addition.) •

## Second Grade

Determine whether a group of objects (up to 20) has an odd or even number of members, e.g., by pairing objects or counting them by 2s; write an equation to express an even number as a sum of two equal addends.

Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.

Fluently add and subtract within 20 using mental strategies.

# **SAC/SAF & PTO**

**PTO begins at 4:30p.m. SAF begins immediately after PTO.  
SAC begins at 5:30p.m.**

**Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**Tuesday March 6, 2018**

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018**