

Wildcat World News

OUR MISSION:

To provide an exemplary education for all students to become productive participants in our community.

OUR VISION:

West Newton Elementary School will continue to be a high performing school where all are motivated to make a difference in the school community.



Principal's Reflections

Dear Parent(s),

I hope that everyone enjoyed their holiday break and are ready to begin a new year and a second semester here at West Newton. Testing is rapidly approaching and I would like to offer some helpful tips to help you support your children through this process. During the month of February third and fifth grade parents will be given a review of the CRCT and its impact on promotion and retention. This will take place during our parent conferences in February.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

How to Help Your Child Succeed

Parents play a vital role in helping their children to succeed on standardized tests. You can help make your child's test-taking experience a successful one.

_Put children at ease by discussing your own experiences with taking tests. If you were nervous or anxious, talk about it. Let them know those feelings are normal. Help your children think of the test as an opportunity to show what they know.

_ Be aware of the specific days tests will be given. Most standardized testing is given over a three or four day period. Ask your child's teacher for a schedule and make sure your child attends school on those days. Ask your child how the testing sessions are going. Offer encouragement.

_ Stress the importance of listening to test directions and following them carefully. Provide practice activities at home such as following a recipe or reading and answering questions about a story.

_ Make sure your children go to bed early and at the same time every night, especially on testing days. The brain needs fuel.

_Finally...see that your children arrive at school on time and are relaxed. Sending them off with plenty of hugs and a big

smile will help them have a positive attitude and provide a great start to their day.

Adapted from California Teachers Association Guide for Parents

ELL

The ELL students will begin ACCESS testing in January. The ACCESS test will help determine the proficiency levels and progress of our English language learners. Please encourage your child to do their best on the test!

Counselor's Corner

One of the most important ways children develop self-esteem and confidence is by feeling competent and capable. Every time you teach your children a new skill, whether it's tying their shoes or riding a bike you're helping build their self-esteem. When children say, "I can't," they sometimes mean, "I don't know how." Help your children by showing them each step of a new task. This will help them to build confidence to take on new and exciting challenges.

Physical Education

I cannot believe that this school year is halfway through. There are some exciting things still to come in PE during the second half of the year. Our annual Jump Rope for Heart will begin soon and Field Day is later in the spring. We just received over \$700 from Box Tops! Thank you for your support! Please continue to bring them in (along with Campbell's Labels and Coke Points). There has been over 50,000 Coke points turned in so far. Help us reach 100,000 by the end of the year. We will soon be adding more Nintendo Wii's along with new fitness games and controllers. This way more students will be able to participate. Our goal is to get 4 Wii's by the end of the year. If you have any Wii fitness games or Wii equipment you do not use, it would be wonderful if you could donate them to our program. It is so

important to teach and encourage *them to stay active for life....especially through new technology.* Thank you again for helping out with your child's PE program.
Mr. Matthews

First Grade News

First grade is continuing to work on addition and subtraction. Please make sure that you are practicing the math facts in their take home folders daily. Each student should be able to answer basic facts without counting on fingers or other help. We are also continuing to work on writing proper sentences. You can help your child at home by having them write notes to you. You can put up a request box or board. The child can then write their requests for movies they would like to watch or what they would like for dinner. Encourage your child to write at every opportunity.

In grammar, we are working on nouns, verbs, contractions, and compound words. You can help by having your child read to you and identifying these parts of speech in the sentences.

Please read at every opportunity with your child. Remember, to receive a 3 at the end of the year, a child must read 60 words per minute. Reviewing sight words also helps increase speed and accuracy when reading. Thank you for working with your child on a daily basis and encouraging them to be focused and attentive while at school.

Second Grade

The 2nd Grade team would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all of our parents for their support with the 2nd Grade Mini-Market. The students truly enjoyed being 'Producers' and 'Consumers'. This month in Reading, we will cover Drawing Conclusions, Text Organization, Cause and Effect and Summarizing. In Math we will complete the unit on Measurement and begin the unit on Geometric Shapes. In Science we will study 'Pushes and

Pulls'. We will also begin focusing on Persuasive Writing. If possible, please send Kleenex tissue and hand sanitizer. Please continue to check your child's agenda nightly. Thanks for your support. The 2nd Grade Team

Fourth Grade

As a fourth grade team, we are pleased to welcome our students back after the holiday break. We are eager to begin the second semester of the school year. We are working on geometry and measurement in math. The theme of our reading stories is problem solvers. Some of the reading skills include drawing conclusions and story structure. We will be hosting our celebration very soon for students who have turned in all of their reading logs. Please look for details very soon. We will need lots of volunteers. We hope that you will be able to volunteer some of your time.

Fabulous Fifth Grade

Reading- Reading Comprehension Skills

Math- Funky Fractions

Language Arts- Parts of Speech

Writing- Persuasive

Science- Chemical and Physical Changes

Social Studies- Civil War

Parents we need your help as we continue to prepare our students for 6th grade.

Students have homework even when it is not assigned. They should be reading 30 minutes each night and practicing multiplication facts. We are also asking that students come to school daily with the necessary school supplies. Please remember to check agendas daily and Wednesday folders weekly. Thanks for your support,

Fifth grade team

Congratulations

Mr. Donald Harris and Ms.

Patsy Bledsoe

West Newton

Staff of the Month



Up Coming Events

Jan. 15- Report Cards go home

***Jan. 18- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Day (Observed) No School***

Jan. 29- System Wide Spelling Bee