

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),

It is my pleasure to welcome you to West Newton Elementary School! The faculty and staff join me in saying we're happy to have you as part of the West Newton family. This is the first edition of the "Wildcat News", our monthly parent newsletter. Look to receive this once a month in your child's Wednesday folder.

I would like to encourage you to visit and use our school's website often. It contains information about PTO, a calendar of events, and other important information. Links to our cafeteria menu, updates on school events, and new pictures of things that have happened here at school.

One of the ways we communicate with our parents is through the school agenda. Take time to review your child's agenda each day. It will contain their homework assignments and other comments from your child's teacher. Please sign the agenda each day to show that you are aware of your child's assignments. Also, our agenda contains both the West Newton school handbook and the Newton County Elementary School Handbook. It should answer many of your questions.

In addition to working with your child at home, I would like to invite you to become involved here at West Newton. You can serve as a room parent, parent volunteer (please see someone from our EIP Committee), have lunch with your child, or work with our PTO on one of their many projects. I am sure that working together we will make this a successful year for your child.

I encourage you to make a commitment for your children to attend school each day. Please make sure that your child arrives to school on time (7:45 AM). Tardiness and absenteeism affect a child's ability to obtain the full benefit from the instructional day.

If I can assist you in any way, please contact Ms. Jackson, Ms. Marrett, or myself. Working together, we can ensure that our children receive the best education possible.

Sincerely,
Takila Curry, Principal

MEET THE COUNSELORS

Ms. Maria Moore is excited to begin her fourth year at West Newton Elementary as a school counselor. She is a veteran educator who has taught both elementary and middle school students. She holds a B.A. degree in Psychology, a M.Ed. in School Guidance Counseling and an Ed.S. in Educational Leadership.

Mrs. Tomeka Stringer has a Master's Degree in School Counseling from University of West Georgia. She has worked as an elementary teacher in DeKalb County for 7 years. She currently lives in Newton County with her husband, and three children. This is her third year as a school counselor and she is very excited to be working at West Newton.

It is our pleasure to serve the staff, teachers, and students in the role of counselors at West Newton Elementary. Our goal is to help the students reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally. We want all of our students to become responsible, successful citizens. Through classroom guidance lessons, small group participation, mentoring and individual sessions we hope to reach our goals.

English Language Learners

(ELL)The ELL program is in the swing of things. We have welcomed many students and are enjoying working with our former students. We are continuing to support what students are studying in their classrooms. We have been learning new

strategies and skills to improve in the area of writing.

-Evelyn Shirley, ELL Team Leader

Specialist News **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

We are starting a new campaign to raise equipment and fitness activities for West Newton Physical Education. The Campbell's *Labels for Education* program is a great way to get FREE P.E. equipment for our school. Participating in the program is easy — simply save proofs of purchase from participating Campbell products and send them to your child's teacher. Some say 1 point and others are marked 5 points. These are like the BOX TOPS for education, but they say LABELS FOR EDUCATION. Here are some of the eligible products: Campbell's soup & tomato juice, SpaghettiO's, Prego Italian sauces, Goldfish crackers, Swanson broths and canned poultry, Pepperidge Farm items, and All V8 drinks.

As always, we are still collecting Coke Points and Box Tops for Education. If you haven't heard, West Newton was recognized as one of the top ten schools in the nation for the amount of Coke points redeemed last year. Congratulations and thank you everyone for collecting them last year! This year our goal is to collect 100,000 Coke points and 50,000 Labels for Education. I know we can do it with your help.

Chad Matthews, PE Teacher

Special Education at WNES

It is an exciting time in Special Education here at West Newton. As we move forward with the mandates of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), we are now offering co-teaching in all grades levels. Co-teaching is when there is a special education teacher and regular education teacher in the class at the same time teaching together.

This is a wonderful scenario because there are two certified teachers in the room who are equally responsible for teaching

students regardless if the student is a special needs student or regular education student. Almost all of our special needs students are in a regular education setting at some point through-out the day.

Parents, if you have a child in a co-teaching classroom, here is a helpful suggestion. Please make sure you know who your child's co-teachers are. This is helpful because you now have two teachers you can contact if you have any questions. The Special Education department has an open door policy. Please feel free to come and visit your child's classroom.

****Carlyne Leon-Bernard, SPED
Team Leader**

KINDERGARTEN FUN!

Kindergarten Rocks!

The Kindergarten team would like to thank you for getting this year off to a great start! We are going to be very busy this month. Here's what we'll be doing: In **Phonics**, we will continue to identify our letters and the sounds they make, as well as blend letter sounds to make words. In **Reading**, we will predict/infer, sequence, and summarize stories. In **Math**, we will review shapes, identify patterns, sort, order, and compare objects. Please make sure you are reviewing the skills in your child's folder with him/her daily. We also need your help in ensuring that your child's agenda is checked and signed daily. We're looking forward to a continued great year!

Marci Scott, Kindergarten Team Leader

SECOND GRADE Prowl!

Dear Parents, its great being back with the children. We are diligently learning in **math** how to regroup in our 2 digit addition problems. In **reading** our focus is to distinguish between real or fictional events in a story. *Please read these stories Tuesday thru Thursday.* We are presently learning about the 5 Regions of Georgia. Can you name them? 1)Appalachian Plateau 2)Blue Ridge mountains 3)Coastal Plains 4) Piedmont 5)Ridge and Valley.

In language, we are identifying the subject of a sentence and writing personal narratives in our **Writer's Workshop**. We hope this year you will support our endeavors by checking your child's agenda and homework folder each night. Go ahead and sign your child's agenda each night communicating to your child's teacher that you are

supportive of what your child is working on in school. Each Wednesday check your child's book bag for a green, West Newton folder. This week a "Sign up for a Conference" form will be included. Our first Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for September 17 & 18. Sign the form and return it as soon as possible. If you have any questions feel free to write them in your child's agenda and an answer will be sure to follow. Thank you for all of the supplies you have sent in. They are greatly appreciated.
2nd Grade Team

THE FOURTH GRADE TIMES

We are off to a good start in 4th grade! We are studying place value in math and many of us have mastered rounding. Hurray!!! Don't forget that our students have monthly reading goals; therefore, they should be reading each night. If you are in need of a copy of the goals, please contact your child's teacher. In Science, we are studying ecosystems and map skills in Social Studies. Weekly papers are sent home in the Wednesday Folder. Please review the papers with your child, sign, and return them on Thursday. Parents, we thank you so much for helping our students get off to a fantastic school year. We look forward to speaking with each of you during September's parent conferences.

4th Grade Teachers

Fabulous Fifth Grade News

We are off to a great start in fifth grade.

We are learning about:

Math: Concepts of graphing

Reading: Story elements

Language Arts/Writing: Four kinds of sentences, subjects and predicates, and personal narrative.

Science: Earth's structure.

Please make sure students are studying multiplication facts and reading for 30 minutes daily. Reading goals for the month of August include a chapter book and 2 student choice books. Math goals include mastery of 3, 4, and 5 multiplication facts. We are desperately in need of supplies therefore; please make sure that students bring items in. Many of you have voiced your concerns about homework. Students have homework nightly although it may not be assigned. This homework may include but is not limited to working on

reading and math goals, reading for 30 minutes, practicing math facts, and/or studying vocabulary and spelling words.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 3- Student Fundraiser Kickoff; PTO Program – 7:00 PM

September 7-Labor Day Holiday

September 9-Domino's Family Night

September 11-Help a Child Smile (Dental Unit)

September 14-PreK Grandparent's Day
Breakfast am-8am

September 14-18- BookFair

September 17 & 18-EARLY

DISMISSAL

September 18-Fundraiser ends (All money due at the time of the order); Stevi B Spirit Night

September 21-25 CoGat & ITBS Testing (2nd and 4th graders only)

September 24- Charlie Elliott Visit Third Grade (\$2 per student)

Third Grade Team

Dear Parents,

We are going to start a new multiplication motivation program! Each child will now earn an ice-cream sundae with their multiplication knowledge. When the student can pass off each level of multiplication, they will receive a paper version of part a sundae. On a date chosen by each classroom teacher, we will have an ice cream sundae party, where each student will receive the sundae that they have earned.

Starting next week, August 31st, we will be teaching and studying our times tables for approximately 5-6 weeks and at the end of this time we will have our celebration. The students will be given weekly quizzes on the tables that will count for their grade, and earn the sundae pieces. If a student does not pass the weekly quiz, they can retake them the following week to earn the sundae. Thank you for your support.

Third Grade Teachers

Congratulations

Mrs. Norris -Teacher of the Year

and

**Mrs. Helen Phillips-
Support Staff of the Year**

