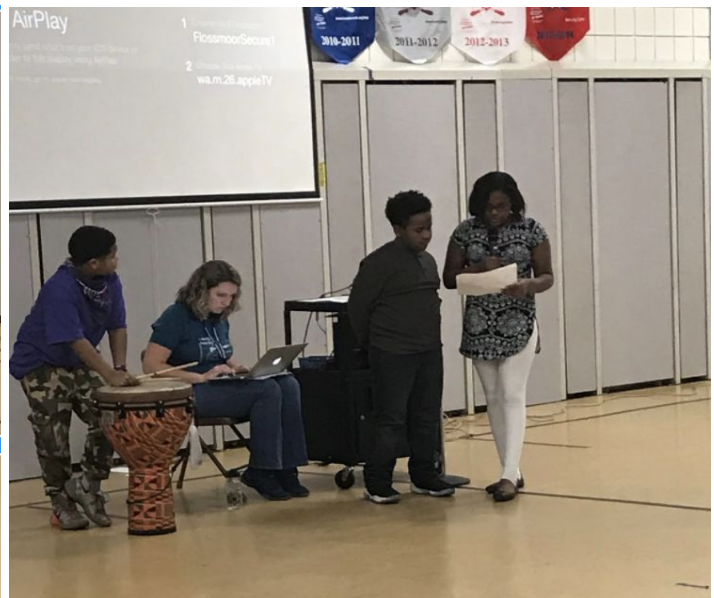


The Western Weekly, Issue 26

February 25th, 2018



Black History Month Assembly: “It’s Showtime at Western Avenue!”



On Friday, February 23rd, we closed Black History Month with a showcase of student performances from our children in grades 3-5. There was spoken word, dances, poetry reading, musical performances, among other artistic expressions for the entire school building. What an incredible afternoon! The showcase closed with a whole-class performance from Mrs. Panozzo’s homeroom, celebrating the

diversity that we are fortunate enough to experience at Western Avenue every day. Watching our students perform this past Friday as we closed our celebration for Black History Month left me feeling hopeful and honored to see the culture of care and compassion that we all work so hard to cultivate in our building. A special thank you to the Black History Committee for planning all of the activities for this month, especially Dr. Daria Terrell, Mrs. Kim Mitchell, and Mrs. Katrina Crawford. We would also like to thank our teachers for supporting the practice and activities during this month, and especially to Mrs. Kubas for featuring art projects that focused our students on learning more about Black History. GO Western!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

The Week of February 26th - March 2nd

Monday, 2.26	Tuesday, 2.27	Wednesday, 2.28	Thursday, 3.1	Friday, 3.2
Reading Schedule: Chapter 10 (Pages 66-75)	Reading Schedule: Chapters 11-12 (Pages 76-90)	Reading Schedule: Chapters 13-14 (Pages 91-100)	Reading Schedule: Chapters 15-16 (Pages 101-112)	Reading Schedule: Chapters 17-18 (Pages 113-124)
NWEA Scores Mailed this Week				
Lunch: Chicken Nuggets	Lunch: Breaded Cheese Sticks	Lunch: Popcorn Chicken	Lunch: Not published yet	Lunch: Cheese Pizza
	Chess Club @ 3:15 pm	STEM Club @ 4:15 pm	Girl Scouts @ 3:15 pm	

Upcoming Events:

- March 5th: Casimir Pulaski Day (No School)
- March 7th: School Improvement Day (11:15 am dismissal)
- March 7th: End of Second Trimester (59 school days)
- March 8th: Spring Pictures
- March 14th & 15th: Musical at Western, 101 Dalmatians!



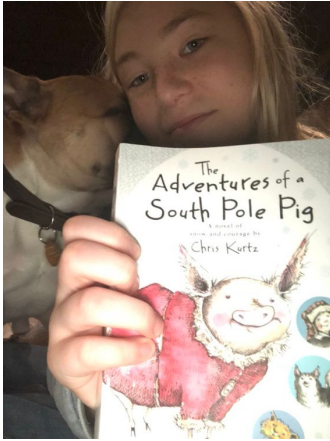
TOP STORIES

One Book, One School: "The Adventures of a South Pole Pig"

On Tuesday of this past week, our literacy committee announced "The Adventures of a South Pole Pig" as our selection for "One Book, One School." This book was voted from a selection of books by our students, and we are all very excited to learn more about the adventures of Flora and her dream to



explore what is beyond her pigpen! Each day, students have trivia questions from their reading schedule, and the class that scans their answer in first spends the following day with Flora!



All of our teachers and staff are reading this book together. We are collaborating with Heather Hill on reading activities, and having a blast working with a partner school in our district. If you have a great picture of your kids reading at home, please send it to me it as an attachment email, and I will print it out for our One Book, One School Bulletin Board. A very special thank you to our P.T.O. for funding our books, to Mrs. Mooney and Ms.



Tobin for coordinating this effort, and to the entire literacy committee for helping plan all of the activities. This is a wonderful initiative, and we are so excited to be reading together at Western Avenue. Thank you!

Western Avenue Box Tops Challenge End February 28th!

It's a blizzard of Box Tops at Western Avenue! Time to "shovel" your clipped Box Tops into bags and send them to school with your child to turn into their teacher. We started the week of February 19th collecting for Box Tops. The classroom that collects the most Box Tops by the end of the drive on February 28th will receive a special surprise!



Western Avenue earned over \$1,000 during last year's Box Tops drives that helped fund classroom supplies and improvements. This year, we are hoping to earn even more money and we need your help to collect over 6,000 Box Tops during the winter drive to meet our goal. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Thank you!

Green Team Plastic Bag Challenge!

The Western Avenue Green Team is hosting a Plastic Shopping Bag Drive February 20th-March 2nd. Green Team's Plastic Bag Drive Week 1 was a huge success! The Green Team students weighed the plastic bags collected by each classroom. Overall, Western Avenue students collected 78 pounds of plastic bags in Week 1. That is equal to about 6,450 plastic shopping bags. The winning classroom collected 15 lbs (1,200 plastic bags). The winning classroom will be announced on Monday morning and each student in the class will receive a Smencil. The plastic bag drive continues next week, so please continue to send in your bags. Help our Green Team reach their goal of collecting 10,500 bags. The winning classroom for Week 2 will receive Italian Ice for bringing in the most bags!



Plastic shopping bags are 100% recyclable but NOT in our curbside recycling bins. These bags can be repurposed at Recycle Right, or you can recycle at other locations including Walt's, Target, Kohl's, Jewel, and Food4Less. Thank you for your support of the

Green Team in this important initiative to reduce the plastic bag waste on our planet. Check out some of the photos from our Green Team packing up the bags that our families brought in for this week! We are so proud of our Green Team for their efforts in making our planet a cleaner, greener space for generations to come!



Flossmoor Baseball and Softball Registration is Open

Registration for Flossmoor Baseball and Softball is now open, and will remain opened until March 1st. Registration in the program includes free winter workouts at HF High School's Field House beginning this Sunday, January 21st. For more details, please see the attached flyer.

Classroom Visits from Parents

At Western Avenue Elementary, we welcome visits from our parents into classrooms! However, please remember to contact your teacher directly via email or phone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange a date and time for your visit. Especially now that testing has started, it is important that if a visit is arranged, that it is done around the testing windows. Thank you in advance for your support!

Traffic Flow at Arrival and Dismissal Times

Parents, we understand that everyone is rushing to get their days started in the morning. However, we need to do a better job driving safely in the drop-off and pick-up lines. We have three staff members directing traffic at the front lot, two staff members posted at door I, and multiple people posted at the playgrounds and blacktop area between the playgrounds. We also have one person directing traffic in the North parking lot. Please remember that there is a traffic flow. Students must be dropped off in the designated car lines. Please do not drop off your children on any other street or sidewalk other than the designated lines. Please do not wait in line to make sure your child walks to the door because that stops the flow for other parents behind you. And please be very mindful when you are pulling away from the car line. There should only be one priority for morning drop off and afternoon pick up--and that priority is the safety of all our kids at Western Avenue. If we all work together, we can ensure the safety of all students. Thank you!

Thank you for reading, and have a wonderful week!

