

The Western Weekly, Issue 18

December 24th, 2017

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## This Holiday Season, Western Avenue Choir Shares the Gift of Music!



Western Avenue's Choir spent this past Thursday morning performing for a Senior Citizen Home and for District Office. The children came back from their trip so excited! They loved being able to share the gift of music with others, especially for those who may need extra love and care this holiday season. A special thank you to Mrs. Pasqua for organizing this performance for our children. Our kids bring so much joy to others, I am sure their trip to visit the seniors was enjoyed by all who listened to their musical selections for the morning! We also had a great time bringing the kids together for our school-wide Sing Along the same afternoon. A shout-out to Mr. Hood, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Thielen for their guitar performance, and a big thank you again to Mrs. Pasqua for organizing our Sing Along!

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### The Week of December 25th-January 9th

***There is no school in session. Have a wonderful Winter Break!***

#### Upcoming Events:

- December 22nd-January 9th: Winter Break Begins (No School)
- January 8th: Teacher Institute Day (Non-attendance day for children)
- January 9th: First Day Back for Children
- January 15th: Martin Luther King Holiday (No School)



## TOP STORIES

### Thank you for Participation in the Cherrydale Fundraiser

The Western Avenue P.T.O would like to extend their gratitude to all families who participated and supported in the Cherrydale Fundraiser. It was Cherrydale's first year at Western Avenue, and the P.T.O. is appreciative of all our community coming together to make this fundraiser a huge success!

### 5 Essentials Survey-Parent Participation Needed!

District 161 will join the [Illinois State Board of Education](http://www.isbe.net) (ISBE) in the sixth statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions. The survey provides a unique opportunity for students, teachers and parents to have a voice in improving their schools. Students in grades four through eight, teachers and parents will be asked to take a 25 minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment. We encourage parents and guardians to complete the survey to provide feedback to impact change in the district. ***All District 161 parents and guardians should have received the link to the survey on December 5th. You are able to complete the survey on any device.***

***We are currently at 13% participation for all parents at Western Avenue Elementary. Our goal is at least 20% of parent participation on this survey! The link to this survey is right here:***

<http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>

We really appreciate your help and participation. Thank you!

### Thank you to all families who donated to the Allen Family

Thank you to all families who helped contribute to the Go Fund Me Page for the Allen Family. For those who may not have heard, the Allen family, whose son Aeneas is in fourth grade, and whose older daughter Lalah attends Homewood Flossmoor High School, experienced a devastating house fire on the evening of Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.



While all of the family members are safe, the Allen's did lose most of their personal possessions. If you are interested in making a donation to the family, you can follow the Go Fund Me link below:

<https://www.gofundme.com/reggieallenhousefire>

## Girls on the Run Interest Survey

Every year, Western Avenue has wonderful participation in Girls on the Run. We are trying to get an accurate number of girls who are interested in participating this year for Girls on the Run. We have embedded a link to the survey on our school's website because we know that there were many issues last week with parents being able to access the link that was sent from our Western Weekly. Please visit our website at <http://westernavenue.sd161.org/> in order to access the survey form. Thank you!

## Thanks to All Parents Who Helped Make Our Classroom Parties a Success!

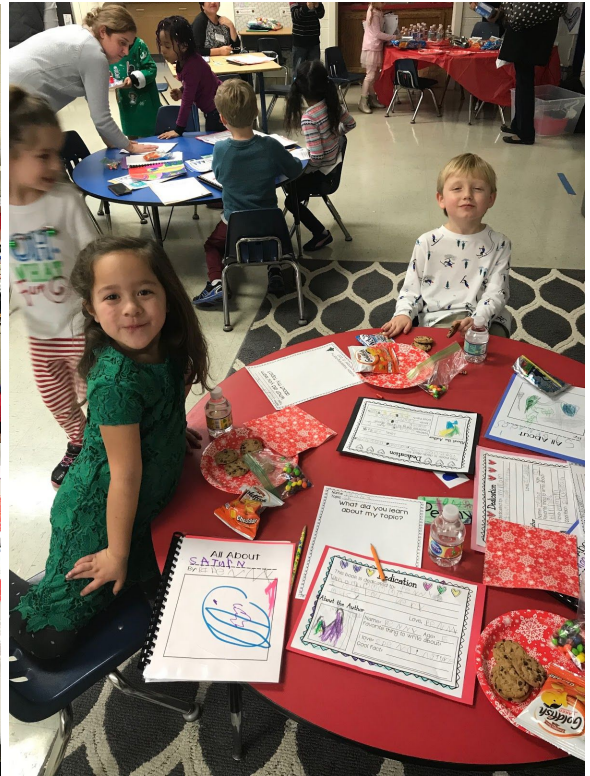
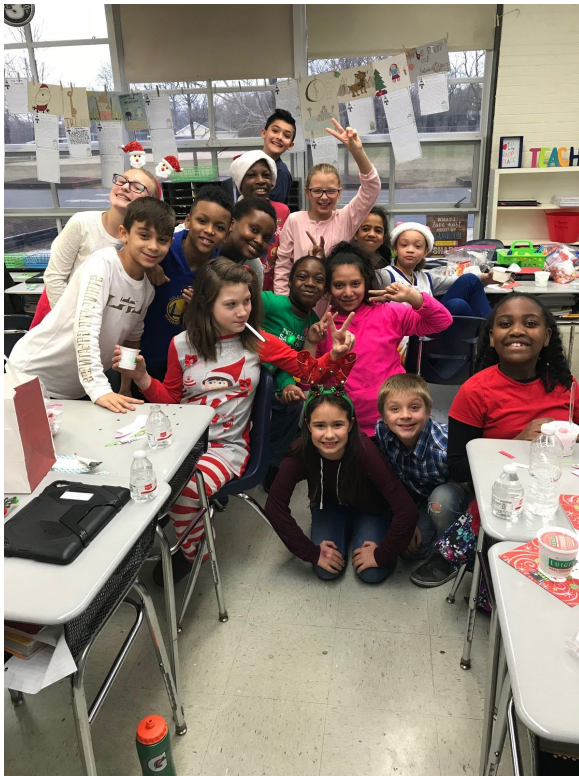
The children were beyond excited for their holiday parties this past Thursday. Thank you to all of our parents who helped organize the food, activities, and games for the students. They so enjoyed spending time with you, and it was the perfect way to end our year together. I have posted a few extra pictures from the parties for this edition of the Western Weekly.

*Our next Western Weekly will come out on Sunday, January 7th, 2018.*









Thank you for reading, and have a wonderful break!

