



Principal Karen Zwolenski

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December 2016/January 2017

## Important Dates:

- **Nov. 23-25 - No School; Thanksgiving**
- Nov. 28-Dec. 6 - 5th Grade at ELC
- Dec. 5-16 - Toys for Tots Drop Off
- Dec. 6 - WW PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- **Dec. 23 - Jan. 4 - No School, Winter Break**
- Jan. 3 - Classes Resume
- Jan. 3 - WW PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- **Jan. 5 - SAGE Academy 2017-18 Parent Info Night, 6:00pm, WW Media**
- Jan. 9-13 - CogAT Testing for 2nd Grade
- Jan. 11 - 4th Grade Kindness Retreat
- Jan. 12 - 9:30am, SAGE Geography Bee. 4th/5th Grade, Kids' Co. Area
- Jan. 12 - 2:00pm, WestWood Geography Bee. 4th/5th Grade, Kids' Co. Area
- **Jan. 16 - NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Staff In-service**
- Jan. 19 - Kindergarten Registration, District Wide, 6:30pm
- **Jan. 26 - 2 Hour Early Release (1:50pm)**
- **Jan. 27 - NO SCHOOL Grade K-12, Grading Day**

**Laker Network**  
THE SOCIAL MEDIA HUB FOR PRIOR-LAKE SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

## A Letter from Mrs. Zwolenski

Dear WestWood Families,

In keeping with the theme of season, I want to extend a sincere thank you for all of your support during the first quarter of the school year. Thank you for supporting your child(ren) with all you do at home, be it family dinners, conversations, shuttling your kids to all their activities, supporting homework, enforcing bedtimes, or just having fun! What a difference you make in your child's life. Additionally, I want to thank you for attending conferences, chaperoning field trips, assisting with class parties, volunteering for the Book Fair, and joining us at our PTC meetings.

When my own children were in elementary school, I was teaching full-time, and was unable to be a room parent or chaperone field trips. But, I did make some decent dinners and was able to read to and provide homework support to my kids, most evenings. Between piano lessons, basketball practice, orchestra rehearsal, cross country meets, and I-don't-know-how-many games and concerts, I know how challenging evenings can be for parents! I applaud you for all the effort and time that goes into parenting. It can be a daunting job, but one of the most meaningful and rewarding of all.

At WestWood we continue to emphasize the importance of cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control. Each month we hold an All School Meeting, in which we celebrate our students and their efforts demonstrating these qualities. We talk a lot about "WestWood Pride," but what it really means is showing kindness to each other and ourselves. I look forward to meeting with every classroom again in January where I will revisit our WestWood Pride expectations.

Our next PTC meeting is Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Edgewood School. We will join all of the elementary PTCs for a joint meeting with Dr. Staloch, and then break out into individual building groups for our regular meeting. I hope you can come!

I wish you a healthy and safe winter season!

Karen Zwolenski

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WWSAGE/>

## Clothing Donations Needed in Health Office

- Boys/girls lightly worn adjustable or elastic waist pants (sizes 4 - 10)
- New underwear and socks
- Winter gloves/mittens/hats - various youth sizes.

Also, please launder and return any borrowed clothes.

Donations are appreciated ~ Thank you!

## Beach Party!

**Family Fun Night**  
**February 10, 2017**  
**6:00-8:00 pm**



**SAVE the DATE!**

## Look Inside For:

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## SAGE Academy Info Night

An Informational Meeting for those interested in learning more about SAGE Academy will be held on Thursday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m. In addition to learning about SAGE Academy, the entrance requirements and curriculum, a panel of SAGE students, student's parents and staff will allow prospective parents to have questions answered. Tours of SAGE Academy and WestWood will also be available.

All second grade students who currently attend Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) during the week of January 9-13, 2017. CogAT results will be available to parents mid February. Parents of PLSAS second grade students will be notified of SAGE qualifications by February 24, 2017 (pending district receipt of results). At the parent informational meeting, interested parents

whose children do not currently attend Prior Lake – Savage Area Schools will also have the opportunity to sign up for CogAT testing on Friday, January 13 at 8:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Please refer to the SAGE Academy website for additional information and forms. For specific questions call Karen Zwolenski, Program Coordinator and WestWood Principal. Another Parent and Student Informational Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9 for parents and second graders who meet the qualifications for SAGE Academy.

## Remember Winter

As winter approaches, please be aware of the cold temperatures your child will face. Waiting at the school bus stop can be very cold for our students. Please dress your children appropriately for the outside weather. A warm coat, hat, gloves or mittens, scarf, and boots, along with snow pants when there is snow on the ground, allows your child to have a fun filled recess time while keeping warm and dry.

Students will have outdoor recess preceding lunch unless the “feels like” temperature is –5° F. All district elementary schools use the KARE11 website for the “feels like” temperature. Once there is snow on the ground, students without boots are limited to playing on the blacktop area. Please send boots to school so students can enjoy winter in Minnesota!

Keeping track of hats, gloves, boots, and even coats can be challenging for our students. **Please write your child's name in their outdoor clothing.**



## Emergency School Closings

The wintry weather is coming our way, but hopefully not too soon! Please be reminded that school closings for the Prior Lake-Savage area Schools will be announced on the following stations: WCCO Radio (830) and KCHK Radio. Television stations WCCO, KSTP, KARE11, and KMSP-FOX.

You can also sign up for the School Alert at [www.kare11.com](http://www.kare11.com). If the announcement states that Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools are closed, then there will be no school at WestWood for our WestWood students. If the announcement states that District #719 will start two hours late, then grades K-5 will start school at 11:20 a.m.

In rare instances, we may need to dismiss students early. If the need should arise, please be sure you have a family plan to cover this situation so children are not left unattended. Sharing this plan with your children is important and will alleviate their fears if WestWood does close early. If Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools are dismissed early, parents will be contacted using the School Connects calling system and Infinite Campus Messenger. **Please keep your phone numbers current and accurate in Infinite Campus, so that you are easily reachable.**

## Early Childhood Screening for 2017-18 Kindergarteners Required

Do you have a child that will be entering kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year? Start preparing for this now! The state of Minnesota, as well as District 719, requires that early childhood screening be completed prior to entry into kindergarten. Appointments are required for the screenings that take place on select Tuesdays and Fridays. If your child has not been screened, call (952) 226-0975 to make an appointment. Children can be screened as early as age 3. Please feel free to leave a voice message and the early childhood screening scheduler will return your call to assist you in making an appointment. Or you may email the screening office at: [ecscreening@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:ecscreening@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us).

Early childhood screening is a comprehensive review of children in three developmental areas as well as a review of their health, immunizations, hearing, vision, speech, and height and weight. The actual screening process takes place at Edgewood School, 5304 WestWood Drive in Prior Lake. The early childhood screening phone number may also be called for exemption information if you are conscientiously opposed to screening.

Call or email Early Childhood Screening today.

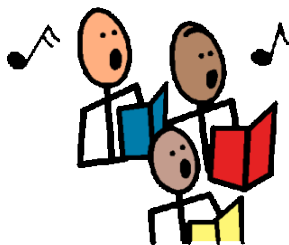


## 2017-18 Kindergarten Registration

**District wide Kindergarten Registration will be held on Thursday, January 19 at each elementary school and La ola del lago at Edgewood School (Spanish Immersion).** Prior to registration, district families whose children turn 5 on or before September 1 will receive a Kindergarten Registration Manual in the mail in early January. Please notify the WestWood School Office if you are new to our district or if you do not receive a Kindergarten Registration manual by mid January. Parents requesting early entrance for their child must file a written request to the principal by April 30, 2017 Parents interested in enrolling their child in the Spanish Immersion Kindergarten program should attend Kindergarten Registration at Edgewood School on January 19.

## WestWood/Grainwood Choir Concert

The performance for family members and friends will be **Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the WestWood Gym.**



**Dress rehearsal is at 1:45 p.m. on Monday, December 12.** Our WestWood and students and any families that cannot make the Thursday evening performance are invited to attend.

## SPAN (Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network)

SPAN is the Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network. We are also known as the Prior Lake-Savage Chapter of the MN Council for the Gifted and Talented. We will not hold a meeting in December. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the WestWood Media Center (5370 WestWood Drive SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372). A panel of high-school and middle-school students taking advanced/AP classes will discuss what they wished they would have known in elementary school. They will take questions as well. Please let me know if you have a middle- or high-school child who attended SAGE or participated in elementary Synergy and would be interested in participating on the panel. If you have questions or would like to be placed on our email list, please email Apryl at [span.priorlake@gmail.com](mailto:span.priorlake@gmail.com). See all of our meeting dates on our website [www.mcgt.net/priorlake](http://www.mcgt.net/priorlake).



## Sue Muelken - 2016-17 Teacher of the Year

Sue Muelken is a Physical Education teacher currently at WestWood Elementary. She also teaches K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders from La ola del lago Spanish Immersion who travel to WestWood for class. This is her 16<sup>th</sup> year of teaching in Prior Lake, her 32<sup>nd</sup> year as a teacher. Sue has served on multiple committees over the years: Curriculum, initial research into Q Comp, Athletic Director search committee, Meet and Confer, PLSEA Building Rep and others. Sue has also volunteered for PLAY in various coaching positions and has been a Sunday School teacher. The time and effort Sue puts into knowing her students and work with parents is exceptional. She is patient and kind and finds ways to engage ALL of her students. Sue always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude. Sue is an outstanding educator

## WestWood & SAGE Geography Bees

All fourth and fifth graders at WestWood will take a qualifying test to determine the top contestants who will participate in the final round of the WestWood and SAGE Academy Geography Bees. The qualifying students receive the highest scores on the Geography Bee preliminary round test. Qualifying students will receive a letter notifying them of their status as a participant in the Geography Bee before Winter Break. The WestWood and SAGE Academy winners will take a written test and will have the opportunity to advance to the Minnesota state competition in April based on his/her score.

**The SAGE Academy Geography Bee will be on January 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Kids' Co. area**

**The WestWood Geography Bee will be on January 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Kids' Co. area**

Parents and guests are invited to attend the SAGE and WestWood Geography Bees and share our pride in the students' successes and their knowledge of geography!



## Missing that favorite sweatshirt?

WestWood Lost & Found is overflowing with sweatshirts, lunch boxes, jackets and much more. All unclaimed items will be bagged and donated by December 16.

# Welcome 2016

## Have a Safe and Happy New Year!



## Classes for Youth!

Learn Math Facts the Easy Way (Gr. 2-5 with Adult)  
Video Game Coding: Star Wars (Gr. 1-4)  
Intro to Synchronized Swim (Gr. 1-6)  
Tae Kwon Do Karate (Ages 5+)  
Tennis (Ages 4-11)  
Fencing (Gr. 2-5)  
Cupcakes and Small Cakes (Ages 9+)  
Laker Dance Team Clinic (Ages 5-14)  
WeDO Robotic Engineering (Gr. 1-5)  
Crazy Chem works (Gr. 1-5)

**December 2016**



**Welcome Winter!**

**Welcome Winter**



### 5th Grade Ski Club

Enjoy five nights of skiing or snowboarding at Buck Hill in Burnsville for a great package deal! This club is for 5th grade students who just want to have fun, make new friends and improve their skills. The fee includes group lessons (during the first three sessions) for all ability levels of skiers and snowboarders and an activity fee which covers one way transportation to Buck Hill and activity costs.

Mondays, Dec. 19, Jan. 9, 23, 30 & Feb. 6  
After School until 7:30 pm at Buck Hill, Burnsville

## Classes for Adults!

### Four Famous Cookies

Wed, Dec. 7  
6-9 pm  
Twin Oaks Middle School  
\$55/person

### Beeswax Candle Making

Fr, Dec. 16  
5:30-6:30 pm  
Wozupi Garden Log Home  
\$15/person

### Zumba

Tue, Jan. 3 to Feb. 7  
7-8 pm  
Grainwood Elementary  
\$59/person

### The Truth Behind the Screen

Monday, January 9

6:30-8 pm

Twin Oaks Middle School

*FREE but registration requested*



**Speakers: Officer Matthew Nardo, Prior Lake Police Department and Jaime Serbus, Prior Lake-Savage School Social Worker**

In a collaborative effort between Prior Lake-Savage and Prior Lake Police, hear first-hand accounts of students who have fallen victim to online predators and what can be done by you as a guardian, to keep this victimization from taking place. We will take a look at how the grooming process occurs, popular applications and why teenagers are hard-wired to be susceptible to social media pitfalls. We will also share some simple, yet effective ways to help parents stay updated on the latest technologies. You do not need to be a technology expert to utilize the techniques that will be discussed.