



Principal Karen Zwolenski

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February/March 2018

## Important Dates:

- Feb. 6 - PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- Feb. 14 - Classroom Valentine Parties
- Feb. 15 - Gr. 2-3 Music Program; 6:30pm
- **Feb. 19 - No School, Presidents' Day**
- Feb. 20 - PTC Butter Braid Fundraiser Kick-Off
- Feb. 23 - PTC Family Fun Carnival; 6-8pm
- Feb. 26 - District Wide 4th Grade ELC Meeting; 6 p.m.; WW Gym
- March 1 - E-STEM Night; 6:30-8pm
- March 6 - Butter Braid Orders Due; PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- March 8 - SAGE Qualified Student Parent Curriculum Night; 6-7pm
- March 8 - SPAN Meeting; Media Center; 7-8:30pm
- **March 12-16 - No School; Spring Break**
- March 27 - Spring Picture Day
- March 29 - K-1 Music Program; 6:30pm

## A Letter From Mrs. Zwolenski

Dear WestWood Families,

I hope this newsletter finds your family healthy, happy and enjoying winter. When you live in the world of kids, snow is a bonus! Here at WestWood, teachers and students have taken advantage of the 12+ inches of snow with outdoor experiences such as building forts, sledding and snowshoeing. Additionally, recess is much more fun when there is snow.

We are looking forward to a great month ahead filled with "I Love to Read" activities, Family Fun Night on February 23 and ESTEM Night on March 1. Thank you for your continued support of your wonderful children. It is truly a privilege to serve them. We love our students!

Have a heart-filled February!

Karen

## Students Celebrate "I Love to Read Month"

Our month of activities will begin with a kick-off event on Friday, February 2 at WestWood's all school meeting. WestWood students will receive a challenge to work together to collectively read 275,000 minutes at home during the month of February. We would appreciate your assistance in this effort by encouraging your child to read and reading to your child at home throughout the month. Please see the reading logs your child is bringing home to help your child keep track of his/her reading minutes. Students in each grade level have a "target number" of minutes that they are encouraged to read each week.

The minutes are as follows:

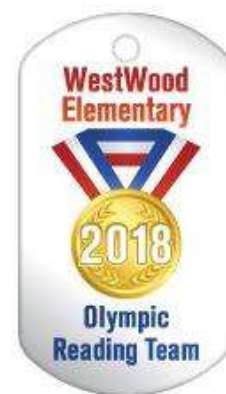
**Kindergarten:** 50 minutes per week

**1st Grade:** 75 minutes per week

**2nd Grade:** 100 minutes per week

**3rd Grade:** 125 minutes per week

**4th & 5th Grades:** 150 minutes per week



## WestWood Family Fun Carnival, Friday, February 23

Mark your calendars for the New and Improved WestWood Family Fun Carnival.

All WestWood families are invited to join us for activities and games: Bingo, Craft, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Cake Walk and plenty of carnival games.



Sponsored by WestWood PTC

- Silent Auction (cash or checks accepted)
- Pizza dinner, snacks and Tropical Smoothies available for purchase
- A form to pre-order unlimited play wristbands and game/meal deal will be sent home the week of February 5

**When:** Friday, Feb. 23; 6-8 p.m.

**Where:** WestWood Elementary School

## Look Inside For:

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## MCA Testing – Mark Your Calendars

WestWood third, fourth and fifth grade students will once again be taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA III) tests.

**Please schedule appointments and vacations around these dates. It is most important that all of our third, fourth and fifth graders are present for the state tests.**

All MCA testing for Reading, Math and Science will be completed online in our computer labs or on Chrome-books. A detailed MCA schedule will be posted on the WestWood Webpage mid-March.

**April 2 - May 4 :** MCA Reading & Math Tests  
Grades 3, 4 & 5

**May 4 - 11:** MCA Science Tests – Grade 5

## Why State Testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college. The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academics standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our children with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens (from the Minnesota Department of Education).

Please click below to read more information about statewide testing and access the parent/guardian opt out form. This form must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the main office of your child's school.

[State Testing Parent/Guardian Information \(Opt Out\)](#)

## WW Pride – Social/Emotional Learning

During February we will concentrate on the skill of empathy. Teachers focus on activities that help students understand and share the feelings of others.

Essential Skills for February and March include:

- Respond with questions or comments when having a conversation.
- Clean up after yourself. Put things back where you find them.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Watch your tone of voice.
- Practice patience.
- Compromise
- Congratulate the winner. Do not brag if you win.

## SPAN Meeting

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 (MCGT). Our mission is to support and advocate for academically advanced students, their parents, and their educators. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday February 8 at 7 p.m. in the WestWood Elementary Media Center (5370 WestWood Dr. SE; Prior Lake, MN 55372), featuring an encore showing of *2e Twice Exceptional* (<http://2emovie.com/>) with discussion to follow. Film is 54 minutes in length. If you have a student who is high ability and...on the spectrum, has a learning disability, has ADD/ADHD, etc...this film is a must-see.



## SAGE Academy Ranks High in National Vocabulary Competition



Joshua Johnson



Alexa Bianchi-Rossi,  
Kaia Wozney & Olivia Zirbel

Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the **WordMasters Challenge™**, fourth grader Joshua Johnson earned a perfect score of 20 on the challenge. Nationally, only 86 fourth graders achieved this result. Other students from WestWood Elementary/SAGE Academy who achieved outstanding results in the meet include fourth graders Kaia Wozney and Olivia Zirbel, and fifth grader Alexa Bianchi-Rossi.

The **WordMasters Challenge™** is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Although most vocabulary enrichment and analogy-solving programs are designed for use by high school students, **WordMasters Challenge™** materials have been specifically created for younger students in grades three through eight. They are particularly well-suited for children who are motivated by the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

The **WordMasters Challenge™** program is administered by a company based in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools. Further information is available at the company's website: <http://www.wordmasterschallenge.com>.



## Qualified Student Parent Curriculum Night

**March 8, 6:00 p.m.**

WestWood Elementary, 5370 WestWood Drive  
Come to learn more about SAGE Academy



## March 27 is Spring Picture Day!

Watch for Picture Day  
Information to Come Home  
with Your Child

## In District Transfers & Open Enrollment

If your child(ren) are attending WestWood as an In-district Transfer or Open Enrolled Student and they have paperwork on file, new paperwork is **not necessary for the 2018-19 school year**. Please call Kirsten Schoeller, Head Secretary, with questions at 952.226.0404.

## Early Entrance into Kindergarten

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools has a policy for early entrance into kindergarten for those students who turn five years of age between September 1 and October 15. In order for a student to be considered for early entrance into kindergarten, parents must inform the elementary principal on or before June 1. If you are considering early entrance for your child, please be mindful of the cut-off date. Parents are required to pay for the cost of the testing for early entrance which is approximately \$300.

## Kids' Company Registration

Kids' Company registration for Summer 2018 and the 2018-19 school year will be available online beginning March 5. If you have questions call 952-226-0090 or visit [www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.ce](http://www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.ce).



## Summer School 2018

Summer school for 2018 is in the planning process. Stay tuned for more information on dates and locations. Teachers will recommend students based on learning needs in the area of reading, math and writing. If you have questions about this program, please contact your child's teacher. Applications will be sent home by classroom teachers in April.

## Student Placement Forms Due May 1

Student Placement forms are now available in the office for parents wishing to give further input into the classroom placement of their child(ren) for the 2018-19 school year. Please fill the form out completely and **return to the school office by May 1**. Most parents leave classroom placement decisions up to the judgment of their child's teachers and principal who know them best in the school setting. Under certain circumstances, it may be advantageous to offer input. When giving this input, it is important to refer to particular teacher characteristics (i.e. firm, gentle), specific educational interest areas (hands on learner, loves theater), or other special concerns, **but not specific teacher names**.



## Nurses' Notes

### February is Heart Month

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense where there is no doubt what's happening. But most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

**Chest discomfort:** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

**Discomfort in other areas of the upper body:** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

**Shortness of breath:** with or without chest discomfort.

**Other signs:** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

### Warning signs for women may differ from men:

"Although men and women can experience chest pressure that feels like an elephant sitting across the chest, women can experience a heart attack without chest pressure," said Nieca Goldberg, M.D., medical director for the Joan H. Tisch Center for Women's Health at NYU's Langone Medical Center and an American Heart Association volunteer. Instead they may experience the symptoms below.

- shortness of breath
- pressure or pain in the lower chest or upper abdomen
- dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting
- upper back pressure or extreme fatigue."

[http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/HeartAttack/WarningSignsofHeartAttack/Warning-Signs-of-a-Heart-Attack\\_UCM\\_002039\\_Article.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/HeartAttack/WarningSignsofHeartAttack/Warning-Signs-of-a-Heart-Attack_UCM_002039_Article.jsp)

## March is National Nutrition Month!



Kids can learn fun facts about nutrition at this [Fuel Up to Play 60](http://www.fuelup60.com) website

## Report Cards

The end of 1st semester ended on Thursday, January 25. Teachers completed report card work on Friday, January 26.

**Student Report Cards will be sent home with students on Friday, February 2.**

Report Cards will also be available on Infinite Campus.

Please call the school with any questions at 952-226-0400.







## March is Music in Our Schools Month!

### 2nd & 3rd Grade Music Program

Second and third grade students will perform on **Thursday, February 15 at 6:30 p.m.** in the WestWood gymnasium. Dress Rehearsal will be on February 15 at 2:45 p.m. for WestWood students. Families who cannot attend the evening performance are invited as well.

### Kindergarten & 1st Grade Music Program

Kindergarten and First Grade students will perform on **Thursday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m.** in the WestWood gymnasium. Dress Rehearsal will be on March 29 at 2:45 p.m. Families who are unable to attend the evening performance are invited to enjoy the concert, along with WestWood students.

## Conferences Will Be April 12, 17 & 19

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for the following evening:

- Thursday, April 12 4:15-8:15pm
- Tuesday, April 17, 4:15-8:15pm
- Thursday, April 19, 4:15-6:15pm

You should be receiving confirmation of your Spring Parent/Teacher Conference time from your students teacher will be sent home mid-March.

## Tracy Nelson Maurer is coming to WW



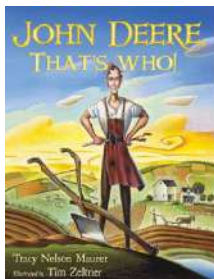
Award-winning author, **Tracy Nelson Maurer** will be visiting WestWood Elementary for Grade Level Presentations on March 7, 2018.

**Tracy Nelson Maurer** is the author of over a hundred books, including *John Deere*, *That's Who!* And many other nonfiction books for children. She lives near Minneapolis with her family, and loves to interact with readers

Students will learn about the legendary inventor, John Deere, and hear about this nonfiction author's writing process.

Advance book order forms will be coming home with students with special discount pricing.

See more about Tracy Nelson-Maurer at [TracyMaurerWriter.com](http://TracyMaurerWriter.com)



## WestWood/SAGE National Geography Bee Winners



Congratulations to, Dylan Moyers (left), 5th Grader from Ms. Tindal's class, who won the SAGE Geography Bee and Madison Andrews (right), 5th Grader from Mrs. Piper's class who won the WestWood Geography Bee in January. Both Moyers and Andrews will have the opportunity to qualify for the Minnesota State Geography Bee in April, by taking a written test. Good luck Dylan and Madison!



*SAGE Geography Bee Finalists: (left to right)*

*Front:* Harry Zheng, Adam Greengrass, Joshua Johnson, Dylan Moyers *Back:* Lukas Aidas, Maxwell Maskowski, Noah Wagner, Linnea Jungers, Finn Lillicrap, Sara Gastony, Shaurya Jain



*WestWood Geography Bee Finalists: (left to right)*

*Back:* Angelica Benitez, Nate Hetland, Morgan Daugaard, Adelyn Smith, Rowen Wilson, Brock Zurn, Madison Andrews, *Front:* Liam Evans, Cole Brinkman, Jeremy Kes, Drew Brinkman, Aaron Stich, Oliva Lesch

## Classes for Youth!

NASA (Gr. 1-5)  
Grandmaster of Chess (Gr. K-5)  
Awesome Drawings (Gr. K-5)  
Coding - Scratch Video Games (Gr. 2-5)  
Junior Dance (Gr. 3-5)  
Ready, Set, Create (Gr. K-5)  
Minecraft Game Designer: Dungeons (Gr. 1-5)  
Adventures in Cooking: Food on a Stick (Ages 10-14)  
Tennis (Ages 4-11)  
Headlamps and Hiking (Ages 6-11 w/Adult)  
Splat! (Ages 5-12)  
WEDO Robotics Engineering (Gr. 1-5)

**February 2018**



**February 2018**

## Dance with Me Ball (Ages 12 and under w/Adult)

Formerly the Daddy Daughter Dance, this dance is all about you, but it wouldn't be the same without your perfect date. Invite your favorite dad, uncle, grandfather, adult family member or friend as your escort. Dress up if you'd like, and feel free to wear whatever you are most comfortable in for twirling and dancing. Silver Sound Entertainment will help set the tone for the evening with plenty of family friendly songs and dances. Princesses will be there to dance and pose with the girls. Each girl will receive a favor, and light snacks are included in the ticket price. Capture the moment with professional photos of you and your date, available for purchase. Registrations begins November 14th. This event is expected to fill.

Saturday, Feb. 17 6:30-9 pm Prior Lake HS  
\$39/couple \$19/each additional girl



## Classes for Adults!

Find all of our classes and events online at [www.priorlakesavagece.com](http://www.priorlakesavagece.com)

100 Things to Do in the Twin Cities  
Awake@Work  
Retirement Planning  
Fab Lab Introduction  
Preparing Your Estate Plan  
Pickleball  
Travel Show  
Healing Broken Hearts  
Metal Foil Tooling  
Contractors Guide to Windows & Siding  
Abdominal Strengtheners: Core off the Floor  
Wine & Design  
and more!

### Helping Children Grieve

Wednesday, February 7  
6:30-8:30 pm  
Twin Oaks Middle School  
\$10/person or \$15/pair



### Speakers: Jan Sautter and Jaime Serbus

Everyone experiences loss. Watching a child navigate a loss can be an extremely difficult experience for a parent, caregiver or teacher. This class will explore the myths around grief and deliver ground breaking effective methods to help a child navigate death, divorce or an other trauma life may bring.