

Tailfeathers

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NEW MONTHLY FORMAT!!

Spotlight on Learning

Prove it!

That's something you'll hear often in a math class at Westlawn. Teachers plan instruction to allow students the opportunity to explain their work and their solutions. It is important that children become efficient with basic facts and eventually with the standard algorithm for each operation (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). However, a successful math student is always one who understands WHY and not just HOW. By asking students to prove their thinking and their solution, teachers are encouraging students to grow in their comprehension of mathematics. Try it out at home: the next time your child asks you for help, have s/he tell you what s/he's done so far and why. Rather than showing how to do something, encourage your child to think about why a particular solution method works.

Happy mathing!



For Your Information

For the past three years Westlawn's mathematics teachers in grades one through six have participated in lesson study. As professionals who constantly seek to learn more and improve their craft, teachers at Westlawn have embraced the lesson study model as a way to collaborate and reflect on their practice. The idea of lesson study comes to us from the Japanese educational system, where an integral part of teaching is to learn from observing others and then discuss what was observed.

At Westlawn, grade level teams work together to select a mathematical concept that students find particularly difficult to grasp, and they plan a lesson together. One teacher in the team volunteers to teach the lesson while the other teachers observe and take notes about the lesson. Later the team gets together to discuss what worked well, what areas need improvement, and how to best meet students' needs.

This year's lesson study topics were: first grade-comparing capacity; second grade-the comparison model of subtraction, third grade-probability, fourth grade-using the identity property to determine equivalent fractions, fifth grade-adding fractions with unlike denominators; and sixth grade-deriving pi.

We are fortunate to have two very talented mathematics coaches, Sarah Kosbob and Kate Beck, who guide and support the entire lesson study process. Their expertise in mathematics, coupled with their knowledge of the students and the teachers, help make lesson study a powerful learning experience for the entire grade level team.

Reminder

Our school hours are from 8:00 am until 2:40. pm Students may begin arriving at school at 7:40 am. Please make sure your child is not dropped off before 7:40 am. Thank you for your support.

April Preview

1st Early Dismissal

2nd Spring Pictures

3rd – 10th SPRING BREAK

16th 6:30 Partners in Print

17th 2:45 Jump Rope for Heart
Grades 1-3

30th “Wizard of Oz” @ Falls
Church High School



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| 2 6 th Grade All County Chorus Rehearsal | 3 -Interims Sent Home -8:00am Parent Partners -2:45 6 th Grade Homework Club | 4 -7:00pm Family Reading Night | 5 -2:45 Boyer After School Program -2:45 WEST TV Club -7:00pm PTA Meeting in Library | 6 -9:15 4 th Grade to Mount Vernon |
| 9 | 10 -8:00am Parent Partners -2:45 6 th Grade Homework Club | 11 | 12 -2:45 Boyer After school Program -2:45 WEST TV Club | 13 |
| 16 6 th Grade All County Chorus Rehearsal | 17 -8:00am Parent Partners -2:45 6 th Grade Homework Club - Happy St. Patrick's Day! | 18 -9:15 5 th Grade to the Baltimore Aquarium | 19 -2:45 Boyer After school Program -2:45 WEST TV Club | 20 |
| 23 | 24 -8:00am Parent Partners -2:45 6 th Grade Homework Club | 25 | 26 -2:45 Boyer After school Program -2:45 WEST TV Club | 27 |
| 30 | 31 -8:00am Parent Partners -2:45 6 th Grade Homework Club | | | |