

Weston Extra

October 2018

Principal

As we come to the end of the 1st Quarter I wanted to wish your students a WELL deserved break! Our students and staff have been working EXTREMELY hard this quarter. If you are looking for some fun activities to do over break check these out:

[Riley Festival](#) will take place Oct. 4th - 7th.

[Home Depot Kids Workshop](#) (FREE) on Saturday, Oct. 6th from 9:00 am - Noon

[Hancock County Library](#) has MANY events planned!

[Greenfield Parks](#) has a LOT to offer!

Our [Indiana State Parks](#) have a FUN Patch Program for kids and adults alike!

<https://indyschild.com/> is a great place to start planning your break!

Take time to cuddle with your child, talk with them, read to them and celebrate a GREAT first 1st Quarter of the school year :)

Do you want to see some of the amazing things that are going on each day? If so check out our website, Twitter #WestonProud and on Facebook.

LIFE IS GOOD @ WESTON!

Mr. Davis [@WestonPrincipal](#)

From the desk of Mrs. Miller

School safety is of paramount importance at Weston Elementary. We have many procedures in place to keep our students, staff, and visitors safe.

- ** All doors are kept locked during the day
- **All visitors are expected to enter through door #1 and check in at the front desk with a state issued ID
- **All visitors are issued a badge to wear when they are in the building
- **Staff members are vigilant, both in and out of the building. Individuals who are on school grounds without ID or without known reason are approached and talked with
- **All volunteers, including field trip chaperones, must undergo a criminal history check
- **A school resource officer is present in the building each day
- **Parents are asked to schedule an appointment anytime they wish to meet with a teacher
- **Routine drills are held during the year to help prepare our students in the case of an actual emergency
- **All students are taught bully prevention and intervention skills.

Thank you for your understanding as we do each of these things to keep everyone safe.

Terry L. Miller, LCSW

School Social Worker

temiller@gcsc.k12.in.us ; 317-462-1492

Library

It has been a great month! I have enjoyed getting to know your children and am looking forward to more fun in the library!

I am still looking for a few volunteers. I know you are busy so once or twice a month is fine. Please contact me if you are interested.

Have a great weekend!

Amanda Evans
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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We are almost through the month of September. If your kiddos have been participating in their fitness calendars they can turn them in during the first week of October. Guidelines for calendars are:

- Perform at least 3-4 days per week
- Once complete color, stamp, check off the activity date
- If students are participating in other athletic activities such as dance, football, or karate; you can cross out the activity and write in what they did instead.

Calendars for October will be coming home soon, and will be a good extra to participate in during fall break.

With fall weather around the corner I just want to remind everyone that boots are allowed in the gym, but they could limit the ability of the kids to move. Some are big and bulky, some have fur; no matter how cute, they make your feet sweat more and heavier to move around the gym. Please have your students bring tennis shoes for gym even if they leave them in the classrooms until it is time for class to start. I always allow kids to change their shoes before class starts, and change back when they leave.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask by emailing me at mbennett@gcsc.k12.in.us.

Morgan Bennett
Weston Elementary
Physical Education Teacher

Music

What a great start to the school year! We are having fun exploring all of the instruments in the music classroom as well as doing lots of practice with our singing voices. I am so impressed at how quickly our students here at Weston learn and grow on a daily basis!

Some days students will come home with a sheet they have done in class whether it be a small construction sheet, or a worksheet. The students are always encouraged to bring home their paper and perform or explain what we did in class. If you email or send a note back in, your child will earn a star stamp!

We are gearing up for musical auditions for **THIRD GRADE!!!!** Please keep an eye out for audition papers coming home over fall break :)

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to email me at lluna@gcsc.k12.in.us

Mrs. Luna

Music Teacher @ Weston

Art

Reminder that all forms for Art To Remember orders are due October 1st to me! Late orders can still be submitted. If you have any questions or miss ordering you can always order at artsonia.com throughout the year!

Mrs. Salee

Title I

It was wonderful to meet so many parents via phone, email and/or the Title Informational Meeting. If you were unable to attend and would like to see the power point, just drop me an email and I will forward the information.

Reading students have been staying busy with practicing decoding and comprehension strategies. If you notice your student struggling in one of these areas, try prompts such as:

- *Try something-say the initial sound
- *Stretch out the words
- *Look for parts in words ex. Mis/under/stand, name/game
- *Tell me what has happened so far
- *Make predictions of what will happen next
- *Make connections to your life

Math students have been working in areas such as number writing and recognition, math fact fluency, place value, and multi digit addition and subtraction. These students have been working through their intervention books at their own pace with a positive attitude.

Next month, your child will bring home a book which has one page which your child reads and another more detailed page for you to read. After reading the book, please return the "book in the bag" to school and another book will be sent home during the next week. :)

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to email or call. Have a great Fall Break!

Mrs. Julie Morley

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Twitter: @Jmorley_Weston

Reading

Fluency is an important reading skill for all grade levels. **Fluency** is the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to *read fluently*. **Fluent** reading is smooth and has expression. Children who do not read with **fluency** sound choppy and awkward. What you might see as a parent if your student is struggling with **fluency**:

- He knows how to read words but seems to take a long time to read a short book or passage silently.
- She reads a book with no expression.
- He stumbles a lot and loses his place when reading something aloud.
- She reads aloud very slowly.

What kids and parents can do to help with **fluency**:

- Student tracks the words with finger as a parent reads a passage aloud.
- Parent reads aloud to student, then student matches voice to adult's
- Read favorite books over and over again. Practice getting smoother and reading with expression.
- Read aloud to your child to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds

Carmen DeFusco

@GCReads2Succeed

Literacy Coach

Math

Last month, I wrote about Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University. She has advice for parents on how to make your child think more mathematically. We are going to concentrate on the first step to encourage children to think more critically. Jo Boaler says, "Encourage your child to play with puzzles and board games...."

Award winning mathematician and author, Sarah Flannery reported that her math achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games will help kids enjoy math, and develop number sense, which is critically important.

In Sarah's book, "*In Code: A Mathematical Journey*," Sarah writes about the way her math development was encouraged by working puzzles. Her father would give her intriguing puzzles to think about in the evenings after dinner. The puzzles were incredibly useful in developing her mathematical development especially if children are encouraged to talk through their thinking. One of the puzzles is listed below.

The Rabbit Puzzle: A rabbit falls into a dry well thirty meters deep. Since being at the bottom of a well was not her original plan, she decides to climb out. When she attempts to do so, she finds that after going up three meters (and this is the sad part), she flips back two. Frustrated, she stops where she is for that day and resumes her efforts the following morning- with the same result. How many days does it take her to get out of the well?

I encourage you to look through Jo Boaler's website www.youcubed.org

Next month, we will dig deeper into mathematical mindsets.

Jamie Lowes
Instructional Math Coach
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