



Tiger Talk

September 1, 2017

Dear West Park Families and Friends,

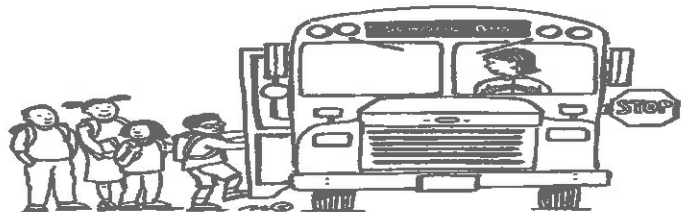
Where did the summer go? It feels like we just said our goodbyes for the summer, but here we are back in the full swing of things! This time of year is always filled with excitement, mixed emotions and anticipation for what is to come throughout the school year. As we get things going for this school year, I'd like to take a peek back at last year and celebrate some of our accomplishments.

- Parents and families rated with a 90% satisfaction rate
- Reading scores improved by 10% in proficiency
- Math scores improved by 10% proficiency
- All 3rd grade eligible students passed the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee

These accomplishments show what occurs when schools and families work together to make the students' education a high priority. As great as these accomplishments are, we must look forward to ensuring we continue to make positive strides. It starts with daily attendance. Students are unable to learn the information necessary for proficiency and to move on if they are not present. Our goal this year is to have a 95% attendance rate overall. Please make every effort to have your student at school on time (by 8:00) every day. We have 173 days of school this year. A 95% rate for your child would equate to being absent no more than 9 days. If you need support in this effort, please reach out to us.

I'm very excited for the great possibilities for this school year and I hope you are, too.

Educationally yours,
Mr. Jaissle



West Park Academy

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Classroom News

Kindergarten

Welcome to a new and exciting time! Our friends in kindergarten are experiencing new things- like making friends and being apart from moms and dads. But we all are jumping into this crazy new world together.

We have been practicing our names, and will continue to practice them- both spelling them and recognizing them. We are learning how to be a good citizen at school and in the classroom. We are practicing how to count objects and the order of the numbers.

First Grade

First grade is getting school ready. We are remembering our kindergarten skills and learning all the new expectations that come with being a big first grade kiddo. We are working on our behavior by bragging about our good behavior using beads! Solid beads on our necklace mean we are rocking it. Sparkle beads mean we are an all-star! We use the sparkle beads with our school pillars! We get sparkle beads for community, excellence, resilience, and integrity. The kids also get star beads for being called out by adults in our building community! These kids have a lot to brag about when they show off their necklaces each day!

Second Grade

Second grade has started off the new school year full speed ahead. Already we have new Star Citizens, have completed Module One in our new Eureka Math program, and have begun meeting in reading groups.

Grouping in math and reading will always be flexible, differentiating instruction based on the evolving needs of our second grade students. We are all equal, we are **not** (thank goodness!) all the same. We honor and celebrate our differences, our strengths, and our challenges.

Third Grade

Hi my name is Melissa Nelson and I am new here at West Park Academy! I am the new third grade teacher and I am very excited to be a part of this school!

In third grade we are learning how to write about things that we like and how to form paragraphs. In reading we are learning how to ask and answer questions using information from the text and in math we are learning how to multiply and divide.

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Fourth Grade

The 4th grade has recently moved into the mod and are enjoying their new classroom. Students are working hard to earn Dojo points and rewards individually and as a class. In math we just took our NWEA assessment and are focusing on place value and rounding numbers to the nearest thousand. We have been working on finding evidence to support our ideas in language arts and have just started to use centers in the classroom. In social studies, we are starting to learn about Ohio and its resources.

Middle School Science

Students have been working on a unit about eclipses. Students were able to make their own device in class to view the solar eclipse safely on Monday. The students enjoyed being able to witness the event safely using their devices. The school also had a few pairs of solar eclipse glasses that the students took turns using to view the eclipse in detail. Throughout the rest of the week students have been investigating the science behind how and why different types of eclipses occur.

Middle School ELA

In middle school ELA we are focusing on making our writing great! We are working on being descriptive and using figurative language to show the reader what we mean. We all wrote our own memoir after reading examples from other authors and shared awesome details about our lives.

Middle School Math

Hi,

I am very excited to be working with the Middle School students again! Our new curriculum, Eureka Math, has gotten off to a very good start. The Instructional Delivery makes it exciting for the students to learn. They particularly like the RDW method, Read, Draw and Label, Write an Equation and Write a word sentence. This method stimulates their reasoning and thought processes by answering these three questions:

1. What do I see?
2. Can I draw something?
3. Write a word sentence (statement).

Ms. Stuldivant, Math teacher.



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Middle School Social Studies

In middle school social studies the 5th and 6th graders are working on timelines, in 7th grade the students are engaged in a project about Roman and Greek deities, and the 8th graders are learning about the world prior to 1492 when Columbus arrived in the Americas.

Fine Arts

Art Contest for All WPA students, check with Ms. Ray for details pertaining to the contest.

Contest ends October 15, 2017.

All entries must be in before October 1, 2017.



Physical Education

Hello, My name is Mr. Geeter and this will be my first full year at West Park Academy. I became the Physical Education teacher here at West Park Academy during the last quarter of last year. I am a recent graduate of Cleveland State University and I am from Lakewood, Ohio. I am very excited to start the year with the students at West Park Academy and I am sure it is going to be a very educational and valuable experience for them and myself.

During these first 2 weeks, we have been focusing on the daily procedures that will take place during class, along with some teamwork building and cooperation skills. The K-2 students are focusing on their spatial awareness and body control. Grades 3-8 have been introduced to the FITT Principle and the 5 Components of Fitness.



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K-2 Wellness Tip of the Month

An important word for grades K – 2 is **hydration**. Children need at least **six cups** of liquids each day. The six cups can include milk, juice, and water. Quality is important. Children should limit sugary drinks and drink fruit juice that is 100% juice. During the school day, our students drink healthy drinks in the cafeteria and water from the drinking fountains. This is so important to keeping our students' bodies and minds healthy and ready for the challenges of learning. One thing to keep in mind is to **STAY HYDRATED**. Feeling "thirsty" is your body's way of telling you that it needs some hydration. If you stay hydrated throughout the day, you decrease your chances of experiencing that thirsty feeling.

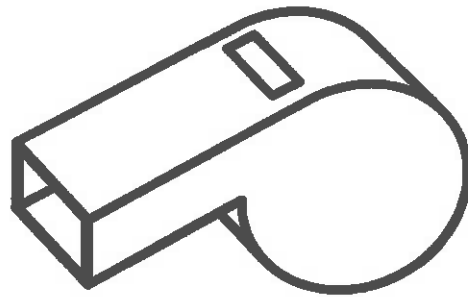
3-5 Wellness Tip of the Month

How much physical activity should you be doing? This is one of the most important topics that are learned in elementary physical education. It is recommended that children and adolescents should be spending at least **60 minutes** of the day participating in **moderate to vigorous physical activity**. Too many of our children do not get enough physical activity throughout the day. Some of the reasons why include the increase in the use of technology and video games and simply not having enough time in the day. The benefits of physical activity are endless and people don't realize how easy it is to be active. Common activities that fit under the moderate intensity category include brisk walking and cruising on a bicycle. Sports and games that include a lot of running would be considered more **vigorous intensity**. If you are having trouble reaching that 60 minute mark, try to break it up into intervals that add up to 60 for the day.

6-8 Wellness Tip of the Month

As our students get older, they are able to make more conscious decisions about participating in physical activity. One thing I've noticed in these first two weeks is that a lot of our students don't know why they should be physically active. If you don't know why you should do something, why would you do it? Everybody knows that when you are more active, you are fit. The meaning of being fit is very broad and can even differ depending on who you ask. Here are some specific benefits that come from being physically active on a regular basis.

- Better sleep
- Weight management
- Lower risk of certain types of cancer
- Better concentration
- Elevated mood
- Boosted Self-Esteem
- Better blood flow
- Stronger bones and muscles



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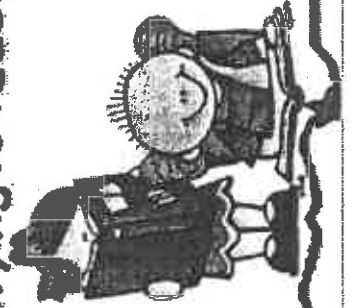
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Reading With Your Child- Before and During!

- What story clues are in the title and in the pictures?
- Is this selection fiction or nonfiction?
- How do you know?
- Why do you want to read this story?

- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you feel about the main character?
- Would you do things differently if you were the main character?
- Does the story text make sense to you?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Is the author trying to teach you something?



After Reading With Your Child



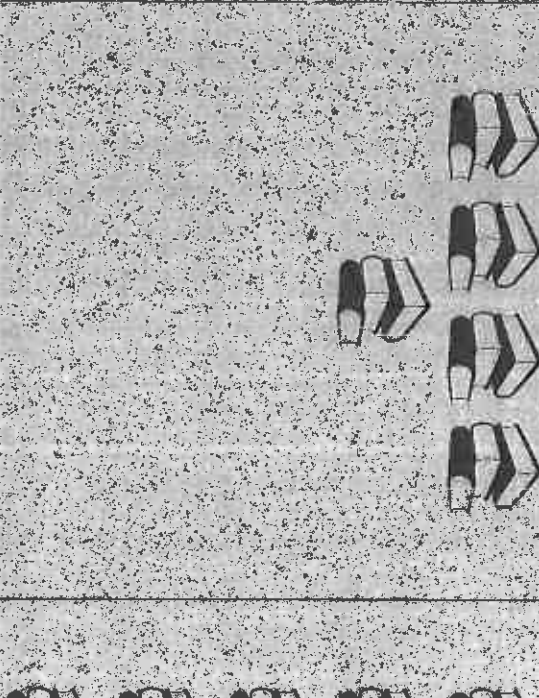


When You Think You're Done,
You've Just Begun!

After enjoying a book with your child,
(whether he reads to you, or you read to him)
continue the experience by asking:

- How did the story make you feel?
- What did you like or dislike about the story?
- Does the story remind you of any other story?
- What were you wondering as you read?
- Does this book make you think of anything else you've read?
- What was your favorite part?
- Were there any parts that surprised you?
- What are you going to read next?

*Adapted from Johnson and Keller,
"Catching Readers Before They Fall"

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Nagy and Herstein, 1987)

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.