

# Westwood Middle School Weekly News Update

Home of the  
Panthers

Wed., Feb. 1, 2012

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES ARE THIS WEEK!

Evening Conferences: Thursday, February 2, 4:00-7:30 pm

Daytime Conferences: Friday, February 3, 8:00-11:00 am and 12:00-3:45 pm

### Visit our Book Fair During Conferences

You may also visit our on-line book fair now through Feb. 10. at  
<http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs/2921633>

## Principal's Perspective Insights from Paula Hoff



This week at conferences, you will receive a report from your student's last MAP testing session. Our students at Westwood Middle School took the MAP during the month of January. On your student's report, you will see a trend line that shows your student's progress over the course of time taking this assessment in our school district. You will also see lines that represent our school district average as well as the national, norm group average. This information is very important as a parent in monitoring your student's progress toward being college/work ready. You want to see a line that shows growth. Below is a website for parents created by NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) that can help develop a deeper understanding of your child's results.

<http://www.nwea.org/support/article/930/parent-toolkit>

As a school, we use this data to monitor student's progress, classroom progress and school progress. We also use the data to make programming decisions for students and plan future instruction. As a staff, we talked at length about this winter's data and what that means for us in the next couple of months. It is an important tool for us. We are committed to providing a strong academic experience for your child that meets them where they are and moves them further along the college/work readiness path.

If you are unable to attend conferences, we will mail you the assessment report and your child's most recent grade report.

Thank you for all you do!

*Paula Hoff*

## PRIDE CLASS DISCUSSIONS

This month in Pride the students have been learning about prejudice and discrimination.

We compared the definitions of these two words and came to the conclusion that a prejudice is a belief, and discrimination is an action that occurs because of prejudice.

One lesson that the students enjoyed demonstrating was why we should not "judge a book by its cover" while watching some talent show video clips.

We encouraged them to think about this video when they are walking through the halls --- when they catch themselves beginning to judge someone they don't even know.

### Important Phone Numbers

Main Office  
763-784-8625

Fax  
763-783-5394

Attendance  
763-795-6440

Health Services  
763-783-5410

Panther Planet  
763-783-5387

#### Counselors

Kim Harris-Robinson, 6th gr.  
763-795-6321

[kharr1@district16.org](mailto:kharr1@district16.org)

Megan Lotze, 7th gr.  
763-795-6323

[motze@district16.org](mailto:motze@district16.org)

Heather Krier, 8th gr.  
763-795-6322

[hkrier@district16.org](mailto:hkrier@district16.org)

### Parent Portal

- Online access to secure and timely information about your child's class schedule, attendance, report card, and transcript.
- Up-to-date contact information and email addresses will ensure that you receive alerts as well as news updates and newsletters.
- For more information, or to sign up for an account, visit "Parent Portal" on our website.
- If you need technical assistance:
- Call 763-795-5901 or email [portal@district16.org](mailto:portal@district16.org)

# WORLD CULTURES CLASS

Señora Miller's World Cultures students are learning to become global citizens by raising money for the Heifer International organization for the next few weeks. Heifer International is an organization that donates cows, goats, water buffalo, and many other types of animals to communities in poverty. They donate the animals to help lift the entire community out of poverty by having them sell the milk, or use the animals to harvest crops, or to use the manure to fertilize the fields. When the animals reproduce, it is expected that the community gives away the offspring to a neighboring community also in need.

One way parents can get involved is to send a Valentine's note and sucker to their student(s). For a one dollar donation during Thursday evening conferences, parents can fill out a note and we will attach a sucker to it to be delivered to their student in PRIDE on Valentine's Day.

If you want to send a note to your student, but didn't get a chance to stop by the table at conferences, you can send the note and one dollar in an envelope to the front office by Friday, Feb 10th, and we will make sure your note and a sucker are delivered to your student. Please label your envelope "Attn: Ms. Miller". Don't forget to include the name of your student's PRIDE teacher on the note.

## Upcoming Events/Meetings

- Thurs., Feb. 2 - Evening Conferences, 4:00 - 7:30 pm
- Fri., Feb. 3 - NO SCHOOL - Daytime Conferences, 8:00 - 11:00 and 12:00 - 3:45 pm
- Feb. 20 - 21 - NO SCHOOL
- Thurs., Feb. 23 - 8th gr. and HS Joint Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, FAC
- Mon., Feb. 27 - 8th gr. Parent Meeting - review Explore test results, 6:30 pm, Media Center
- Fri., Mar. 9 - NO SCHOOL
- Mar. 12 - 16 - NO SCHOOL
- Wed., Mar. 21 - Spring Casual Pictures and 8th gr. Panoramic Pictures
- Tues., April 3 - Spring Musical, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Thurs., April 5 - Spring Musical, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Fri., April 6 - NO SCHOOL
- Tues., April 17 - Welcome to 6th Grade Orientation, 6:30 pm



- Fri., April 17 - Early Release Day, 12:45 pm
- Tues., May 15 - Jazz Café, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Thurs., May 17 - 8th gr. Band and Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, (Band), 8:00 pm (Choir), FAC
- Mon., May 21 - 7th gr. Band Concert, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Tues., May 22 - 6th gr. Band Concert, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Thurs., May 24 - 6th gr. Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Mon., May 28 - NO SCHOOL
- Tues., May 29 - 7th gr. Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Tues., June 5 - 8th gr. Party, 6:00-8:00 pm
- Thurs., June 7 - Last Day of School