

Westwood Intermediate School . . .



a supportive community focused on working together to ensure our students' academic, social, and emotional growth to achieve the Spring Lake Park Essential Learning Outcomes.

From the desk of the principal ... Mr. Larson

On November 8, residents of the Spring Lake Park School District will be asked to vote on two levy questions. Question 1 is a renewal of the current / existing Levy for Learning, allowing the district to retain funding previously approved by the community, and resulting in no tax increase. Question 2 is to ensure adequate funding for technology, maintenance of technology, and updating of the District's educational technology program.

When thinking about Question 1 on the ballot I am consistently reminded of the strengths, gifts, and talents of our current programming for our students. The levy ensures that these continue. Over the past four years we have worked hard to increase the training and talents of staff in responding to students who are both struggling and excelling. We have implemented specific reading interventions for students while addressing the needs of our gifted learners through accelerated classes and defining next levels of learning in each of our learning targets.

We have been able to maintain our current class sizes in home rooms while decreasing the average class size for our reading and math instructional core classes. In fifth grade our students are able to begin conversational Spanish, which was a direct result of the community's priority of how to continually improve our schools and successfully prepare students for college.

The current levy makes this possible and continuing this program ensures the world class education your child has in the Spring Lake Park Schools.

I often hear about technologies and the myth that every student has a computer sitting on their desk or that the technology is teaching our kids... The reality? Westwood has approximately 100 computers for student use, roughly 1 computer for every 10 students. Thinking about this in terms of actual use, our students are able to access a computer for 30 minutes a day. When you consider the testing we are mandated to give, lunch, recess, and other nuances in scheduling the time decreases.

The funding proposed in the Capital Projects/Technology Levy question would certainly increase the access for our student's use of computers but it would provide much more. A successful technology levy would increase the capacity for our school to provide one-on-one devices for our students to enhance their learning through the use of applications, ensure the continued support for our staff to use the technologies we currently have and that the technologies are in working order.

I am consistently amazed that our students are sharing their learning through the use of blogs, writing for an audience of many, and communicating with other people throughout the world both in and outside of the school day. We have been fortunate to have the Panther Foundation provide SMART boards for all of our classrooms as well.

As we prepare students for the 21st Century and the tools they do and will need to be successful, it is not only about how we use the technologies in transformative ways but to use these technologies to address problem-solving, creative thinking, collaboration and communication.

These are the skills needed for students to be successful in college as well as the work force. This is what the Capital Projects/Technology Levy would provide for our students and their future.

PTO Corner

**PTO Meeting Thursday, October 6
6:30—Media Center**

Trimester 1 Issue 5
Oct. 7, 2011

Upcoming Events for October

Oct. 6- PTO Meeting 6:30pm
Oct. 13- Early Release Day- 1:15pm
Oct. 14- No School
Oct. 19-21- No School
Oct. 28 Fall Family Night



2011 Fundraiser Winners

Classroom winners - Ice Cream party

Kindergarten - Senora Hayle

1st Grade - Senora Sierra

2nd Grade - Senora Fu and Senora Arellano-Sanchez

4th Grade - Mr. Cox and Mrs. Larson

5th Grade - Mrs. Golmen (Winner of privilege day as well)

Individual Winners - Highest sales in class winning pizza with principal

<p><u>4A</u> Alex Nelson and Kendrick Morton- Dave' Jediah Friesz - Christenson Owen Rumpca - Major Jesse Sills - Fritze</p>	<p><u>5A</u> John LaBelle - Brooks Allison Hjulberg - Golmen Grace Helgerson - Peterson Courtney Walsh - Ecker Katelyn Kloubec - Sellner</p>	<p><u>Kindergarten</u> Elsie Belina and Ryan Seal - Kucinski Kylie Nordenstrom - Hayle Marrah Pecha and Lauren Roe - Kennedy</p>
<p><u>4B</u> Logan Miller - Golanowski Kieran Ripken - Cox Sarah Kaplin - C. West Britta Solheim - Olson</p>	<p><u>5B</u> Sean Le - Byl Flutra Alfri - Powers Arianna Moorman - Gamage Emily Sroga - A. West</p>	<p><u>1st Grade</u> Meeghan Olson - Rojas Sydne Walker - Sierra</p>
<p><u>4C</u> Ben Theis - Arlt Tanner Payne - Lowry Andrew Ullman - Larson Josh Unger - Weisser Tony Hnat - Munter</p>	<p><u>5C</u> Hannah Capocasa - Burda Jayda Judkins - Sowards Jenna Carpenter - Pickens Mason Johnson - Walton</p>	<p><u>2nd Grade</u> Chloe Sroga - Fu Peter Calabrese - Arellano-Sanchez Nicholas Starcevich - Sandler</p>