

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

Spring Lake Park Schools' Programming and K-3 Boundaries Study

At the November 15 meeting of the Spring Lake Park school board, Amy Schultz, director of business services, provided an update on the district's Programming and K-3 Boundaries Study. She said "this is really a continual process, an ongoing study. For example, last year the district conducted a review of boundary and programming options prior to the current 2011-2012 school year. It was determined at that time that our schools had space to continue offering its programs within existing boundaries, and no changes were recommended or made."

Since last year's review, the district has continually collected, studied, and updated data on elementary programming options, enrollment and enrollment trends, housing and birth information for the district's three cities, as well as optimal school and facility usage.

Schultz said that the district is seeking a long-term boundary and programming plan that utilizes school district facilities effectively and efficiently; addresses growth and placement of choice options, including the Spanish Immersion Program; and effectively manages current and future enrollment trends.

In the next phase of the study, set to begin in the next few weeks, the district will begin to share options, enlist community input in the decision-making process, conduct public informational meetings, and continue further analysis and refinement of options. Updates will be available shortly on the district's website, in school and district newsletters, e-mailed to parents and E-News subscribers, and in the local media.

Final recommendations on programming and K-3 boundary options to consider for 2012-2013 will be developed, then forwarded to the superintendent and to the school board for review in February 2012.

PTO Corner

**PTO Meeting Thursday, December 8
6:30—Media Center—child care provided.**

**Westwood Intermediate Sweatshirts and T-Shirts are still available. Limited sizes remain. Please contact the Main Office if you'd like purchase one.
T-Shirts \$10 Sweatshirts \$20**

Trimester 1 Issue 12
Nov. 30, 2011

Upcoming Events for December

- Dec. 1- End of Trimester 1
- Dec. 2- No School: Teacher In-service
- Dec. 4- Spanish Immersion- Barnes & Noble Book Fair
- Dec. 21- Gr. 5A Field Trip to Shoreview Community Center
- Dec. 22- Gr. 5B & 5C Field Trip to Maple Grove Community Center

Heat up with Chili's December Dine to Donate

Bring your voucher into Chili's of Blaine (109th and Hwy 65) when you dine and Chili's will donate a portion of the food and beverage sales back to Westwood School! Watch for your voucher coming home in your student's backpack this week. Vouchers are also available on page 2 of this weeks' newsletter posted online.

http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/schools/wwi/wwi_news.asp

Student Council News

Cold weather and snow are here! Many families struggle with keeping warm during winter months. On 11/28 the Student Council will start their first service learning project of this school year. We will be collecting warm hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to be donated to the Community Emergency Assistance Program. The project will run through Dec. 16th.



School Closings

Winter will eventually arrive—and when it does many parents and students begin to wonder will we have school. All school closings will be posted on the website and with local news media stations. In case of a closing or 2hour adjustment in start or dismissal time we will contact parents via the automatic calling system. Please be sure your contact information is current—if you moved or changed phone numbers and did not let us know now is a good time to update this information.



Pepper Partner Program

Bring this voucher when you visit (Dine In or To Go) the **Chili's** location identified below and 10% of your purchase (excluding taxes) will benefit:

**WESTWOOD
INTERMEDIATE PTO**

Group/Charity

December & January

Event/Exp. Date

One coupon per person, per visit at participating Chili's restaurants only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer ends per expiration date above.

1430 109TH Ave NE Blaine 763-783-9222

Chili's Location/Telephone

#99999000001927



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What families should know about school closings, delayed starts, early dismissals, and updating contact information



When would the school district close school, delay the start time, or shorten the school day?

With the arrival of winter comes an increased chance of a weather-related school closing, late start, or early dismissal. If this does occur we want to notify you as soon as possible, and that means having up-to-date contact information

The most typical reasons for closing school, delaying the start of school, or shortening the school day in Minnesota are related to snow and cold.

Students must be able to safely arrive at school, whether by bus, car, or walking. The amount of snow, temperature, wind chill, passable roads, buses that start are among the many factors that are considered

We are conditioned to follow news reports about an approaching snowstorm or bitter wind chill; however, there are other factors that may cause a school or schools to be closed at a far more unexpected time such as a loss of electricity, loss of heat, or a break in a water line.

Update your contact information

When school is closed, begins late, or closes early, our automated e-mail and phone alert system is our most effective means of notifying parents and families in the shortest amount of time.

Therefore, it is extremely important for you that we have the most up-to-date parent/guardian contact information (home phone, cell phone, e-mail addresses).

If your contact information is not current, or if you're not sure, please visit the Parent Portal (soon to be called Campus Portal) on the home page of the district website.

If you need assistance with this process, if you need login information, or if you need to set up your Parent Portal account, please contact the Technology HelpDesk at 763-785-5555 or TechSupport@district16.org

When to look for an announcement

An announcement for school closings or a delayed start is *usually* made by 5:30 am.

Notification sources

If winter storms or other emergency situations cause us to close school for the day, delay the start of school, or close school early, we will notify our school community through:

--An "alert notification" will be sent to you by telephone and e-mail
A message will be sent to your home phone, cell phone, work phone, and e-mail address, based upon information provided by each family. (To update your records, visit the Parent Portal on the website home page, contact the district (details in box to the left), or contact your child's school.

--The district website
(SpringLakeParkSchools.org)

--Recorded messages on district and school office phones

--Twin Cities news media – Radio and Television

Next page:

What programs and activities are typically canceled or affected?

When school is canceled for the day

When the Spring Lake Park School District is closed, the following will *typically* take place:

- All schools are closed.
- All daytime programs are canceled
- Early Childhood Family Education programs, Learn & Play Preschool are canceled .
- Learning Ventures and Discovery Days are canceled.
- Before- and after-school programs and classes are canceled.
- Community Education programs for youth and adults are canceled.
- After-school or evening athletic and activities practices or contests may or may not take place. Each is at the discretion of the district, the activities director, or individual coaches or advisors. The Spring Lake Park page of the North Suburban Conference website (nsconference.org) will also be updated.
- School facilities may or may not be open for evening community rentals. Check the district website homepage for further updates.

When there is a two-hour delayed start

If the start of school is delayed for two hours, the following would *usually* occur.:

- All schools will start exactly two hours later than usual.
- Buses will run two hours later than usual.
- There will be no morning half-day kindergarten.
- Kindergarten Plus will have a two-hour delayed start.
- Learning Ventures, Discovery Days, Preschool, Early Childhood Family Education, and Early Childhood Special Education will be open at their regular starting times. It would be helpful to call your Learning Ventures or Discovery Days site before bringing children to be certain staff has arrived.
- Continue to monitor the district website for updates and changes.
- All district staff should report as close as possible to their usual starting times.

When school is dismissed early

If inclement weather (or broken water main or other facilities problem) causes a school or schools to be dismissed early, the following *typically* occurs:

- Afternoon Kindergarten (if it hasn't begun by this time) will be canceled.
- Early Childhood Family Education programs, Learn & Play Preschool classes that have not started by this time will be canceled.
- Afternoon Learning Ventures will not reopen for care. Children who are at school when it is canceled need to follow the family's emergency care procedures. Kindergarten students still in our care will have parents notified for pick-up within two hours.
- Discovery Days children will have parents notified for pick-up within two hours.
- Achievers/STARS and After-school Adventures classes will be canceled.
- After-school or evening athletic or activities practices or contests may or may not take place. Each is at the discretion of the district, the activities director, or individual coaches or advisors. The Spring Lake Park page of the North Suburban Conference website (nsconference.org) will also be updated.



High school after-school or evening athletics and activities

When there's no school for the day or when school is dismissed early, high school after-school or evening athletic or activities practices or contests may or may not take place. Each is at the discretion of the district, the activities director, or individual coaches or advisors. The Spring Lake Park page of the North Suburban Conference website (nsconference.org) will be continually updated.