

# **WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

475 North Mark Street, West Salem, WI 54669

Phone 608-786-1662 Fax 608-786-3415

Ryan Rieber- Principal

Lisa Gerke- Associate Principal

Dear Families

It is difficult to believe, but our school year is half over! The semester point is past, and we are on our way to spring. We are just completing our mid-year assessment period so we can see the growth of our students and make any adjustments as needed. Our parent/teacher conferences are coming the first two weeks in March, which will give everyone an excellent opportunity to connect with your child's teacher. However, please do not think that you need to wait until parent/teacher conferences to contact your child's teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us! We will be happy to help answer your questions.

Just because we are no longer serving breakfast in the classroom, does not mean that we don't have a breakfast program. Everyday our kitchen staff is serving a hot breakfast from 7:15 until 7:50, then there is a grab and go option for those students who are running late or want to catch a quick bite prior to class beginning. There are many benefits to breakfast; one of the largest is breaking the fasting that we do while sleeping overnight and giving our students an opportunity to refuel in the morning to help in their learning. This past month we also experienced a late start to the school day. If this were to happen again, please know that the grab and go option would be available for those students needing a breakfast. If you have any questions on our breakfast program, please contact our school or our district nutritionist Kerri Feyen.

The PTO family movie night was a hit! It was so good to see so many of our families come together for a relaxing night with popcorn and a movie. I would also like to thank those of you who brought food donations for our local food bank. It is always great to give back, and I appreciate your generosity, especially right after the holidays! The next PTO event will be our science night on the evening of Monday, February 6th. We hope to see many of you there!

If your child is missing any articles of clothing, please check our lost and found area. We will clean this area once per month and make a donation to a local clothes closet. There are a number of hooded sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and mittens. This is also a good opportunity to remind you to write your child's initials on their coats, hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants.

With the school cancellations the week of January 16th and January 23rd, our last day of school for the 2016-17 school year is now Friday, June 9th.

If you haven't done so yet, please follow the elementary school on Twitter. We will provide updates and reminders for events at the elementary school. Our Twitter handle is @WestSalemES.

-Ryan Rieber, Principal

## **Early Release**

**Wednesday,  
February 8th**

**Students will dismiss at  
12:20pm  
Buses will leave at 12:30  
Lunch will be served**

## **No School**

**Friday, February 17th**

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER Family Event

Please join us **Saturday, February 18th** for a Winter Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Hike at the Outdoor Education Center (School Forest) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Together, let's enjoy the winter outdoors! Please bring your skis, snowshoes, or "good ole" boots; a limited amount of skis and snowshoes will be available to borrow. Hotdogs, grilled over an open fire, and Hot Chocolate will be available for purchase.

"Schooling" session, and loop will be available for beginners.

All ages welcome; Children K - 12 must be accompanied/supervised by an adult.

We do not have small sized equipment to fit children under the age of 8.

**Directions:** Take Interstate I94 towards Sparta.  
Take the 2nd Sparta exit, Hwy 16 (Fort McCoy)  
Turn Left at Stop Sign  
Travel approximately 3/4 mile and take right at BP gas  
Follow road passing Best Western on right  
Turn right on gravel road  
Continue on paved road  
Park in designated area. Car Pooling encouraged

The Valentine Holiday... is a crazy busy time here at the Elementary School. Please, for the safety of all our students, do not send flowers or balloons to the office. We have students who have allergies to latex. Also, it is not safe taking flowers in glass vases on the bus or to daycare. Dismissal is crazy enough without adding all the deliveries to the mix.



Thanks for your help with this!!

### Kindergarten Registration 2017-2018

Now that West Salem has a 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program in place, we no longer have a kindergarten registration. If you have a student who will be five years old by September 1, 2017 and your child does not attend our 4K program, please contact the elementary office at 786-1662 to pre-register. All 4K students currently attending West Salem's program will automatically receive kindergarten enrollment information.

## **Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration Screening**

Mark your calendars now...

If you have a child who will be four years old by September 1, 2017, please call the Elementary Office to register your child.

You will receive a packet in the mail prior to the event.

Then plan on attending either Thursday, February 2nd (for last names that start with A-L) or Tuesday, February 7th (for names that start with M-Z) with your child.

Please come by 6:00pm to sign in and transition your child to a classroom for a variety of activities led by one of our 4K teachers. Social, communication, motor and early learning skills will be observed. An audiologist will be on hand for free hearing screenings by parent request. Handouts regarding various aspects of child development will be available to families. The parent registration meeting will be held in the assembly room at 6:30pm. The total time

needed for the various activities will be approximately one hour 15 minutes. Please allow extra time if a hearing screening is requested.

\*Please note that registration cannot be completed without residency and birth certificate verification.\*

## **2017 Summer School Program**

It's that time of the year again to start thinking about Summer School!

Be sure to mark your calendars!

This year Summer School for K-8 students will be held:

**July 17th through August 4**  
**from 8:30am - 11:40am**  
(buses depart at 11:50am)

The school district will again be offering swimming lessons. Please note that swimming lessons are not held during the July-August Summer School session. Dates and times will be announced soon.



## **4K Family Event**

**Where: Pizza Oven, West Salem**  
**When: February 10th at 10:15am**

Kids are making their own individual pizza, getting a tour of the kitchen and adults can enjoy the pizza buffet.

**Cost:**  
**\$4 per child**  
**\$5 per adult**

**West Salem School District 3 yr. old Child Development Days**

**Thursday, Feb. 23 from 3:30-5:30PM**

**OR**

**Friday, Feb. 24 from 9-11AM**

If you have a child who will be three by September 1, 2017 please plan on bringing your child to one of the free developmental screening clinics at the West Salem elementary school. Early childhood staff and a speech therapist will be available to interact with your child while looking for specific developmental milestones. They will have you fill out a questionnaire regarding your child's development and take the time to discuss all of this with you. Please plan on the whole process taking approximately 45 minutes. Please call the school office at 786-1662 to let us know which date works for you.

**If you missed West Salem School District's 4K registration night,**

and have a child who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2017, **come to the elementary school from 9-10AM on Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.** Please bring your child with you; early childhood staff and a speech therapist will be available to interact with your child while looking for specific developmental milestones. Be sure to bring your child's birth certificate with you for birth date verification. If you are new to the school district you will also need to bring proof of residency. **Please note that registration cannot be completed without residency and birth date verification.** Please call the school office at 786-1662 to let us know that you are coming.

**After school all students must be picked up by 3:20pm. There is no supervision at school after that time. The Boys and Girls Club offer after**

**Elementary Morning Procedures**

**before 8:00 am bell**



When the temperature before school "feels like" above 10 degrees students are allowed to be outside.

When the welcome flags are out by the front entrance of the school and outside the kindergarten door (south end drop off) it means that students are inside.

- \* Kindergarten goes to the Assembly Room
- \* Grade 1 goes to the **front** gym
- \* Grade 2 goes to the **back** gym
- \* Grade 3, 4 & 5 go to their respective hallways

(K-2 may take backpacks/coats to lockers first)

When we are inside before school, students may enter through the B door. The door will be unlocked and the entrance will be supervised by an adult.

**Running Late???**

If your student is tardy for school, please either accompany them into the building or send them with a note explaining the absence.

School starts at 8:00am and students are considered tardy after 8:00am.

## Hello!

My name is Johnnyray Wildt (Mrs. Wildt) and I am the new part-time art teacher this year for West Salem Elementary; I teach fourth and fifth grade. I am incredibly honored and excited to be partnering alongside you and your students this year. Every Thursday, alongside Angie Hemker, I help run the after school art program. In my room I allow students various stations or choices such as: painting, drawing, sewing, and building. I am very passionate about giving students choice to come up with and explore their own ideas. Allowing students to build from recyclables/other materials and turning it into art that they are excited about is great, but it also requires a lot of materials. This is why I need your help; I will be taking donations of materials until the end of the year in order to keep building a choice.



Below is a list of some materials that I will gladly accept.

### Things to Collect:

- Paper towel/toilet paper rolls
- Caps of all kinds (ex. plastic water bottles, old marker caps, etc.)
  - Cereal boxes
- Small jars and containers (ex. Empty yogurt containers)
  - Small to medium sized cardboard boxes
- Unwanted fabrics, sewing supplies
- Any possible craft/art supplies that are not wanted any longer

**Thank you in advance for all your help!**

### Upcoming Music Concert Dates:

**March 6 - Grade 1 concert 6:15 pm**

**March 6 - Grade 3 concert 7:15 pm**

**March 7 - Grade K concert 6:15 pm**

**March 7 - Grade 2 concert 7:15 pm**



**Watch for information to come home soon!**

**West Salem  
Elementary  
8th Annual  
Jump Rope for Heart**



**Date & Times:** Friday,  
February 10th

5th Grade: 8:15 - 9:15  
4th Grade: 9:15 - 10:15  
3rd Grade: 10:15 - 11:15  
2nd Grade: 12:00 - 1:00  
1st Grade: 1:00 - 2:00  
Kindergarten: 2:00 - 3:00

**Place:** Elementary School Gym

**Activity:** Various jump rope stations

**Bring:** Pledge form & donations (if you are done collecting), a smile and a positive attitude!

**Fundraising:** It is not necessary to obtain pledges to participate in this event. All of the money raised will go to the American Heart Association. Pledge forms are due Thursday, February 16th.

**Prizes:** Awarded to individuals collecting donations as stated on the flyer. Students can also earn Lifesaver Pups. Our school will also earn money for more PE equipment!

\*\*Register online and join our school's team at  
[www.heart.org/jump](http://www.heart.org/jump)\*\*

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with the event, please contact  
**Mrs Meyers** ([meyers.lindy@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:meyers.lindy@wsalem.k12.wi.us))

**News from the Music  
Room**

**4th grade students** will be studying the life and music of composer Serge Prokofiev in preparation to attend the Symphony for Youth Concert in March. Works that we will study include the finale from "Classical Symphony" and "Peter and the Wolf."

**5th grade students** continue to learn about composers and musicians from the past and present in a variety of musical styles. We have studied classical, romantic, and baroque musicians, and are now transitioning into country and rock and roll musicians.

Piano Units: **Both**

**4th and 5th  
grades** with  
begin their piano  
units near the  
end of February.



In both grades, students work at a self pace and check progress with the music teacher with specific performance pieces. If your child takes piano lessons, they will need to complete our in class activities before they can work from their individual lesson books. This ensures that all students have the same core base of knowledge/experience as they get ready to transition into MS music courses.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences**

**Thursday, March 9  
&  
Tuesday, March 14**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Education Information Services, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 20, 2017

Contact: Tom McCarthy, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559



### **Eight public schools nominated for national Blue Ribbon honor**

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers nominated eight public elementary schools for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, which recognizes overall academic excellence or progress in improving student achievement.

The 2017 nominees are:

- Mountain Bay Elementary School, D. C. Everest Area School District, Weston;
- Robinson Elementary School, Laona School District;
- Shorewood Hills Elementary School, Madison Metropolitan School District;
- Oriole Lane Elementary School, Mequon-Thiensville School District;
- Elmwood Elementary School, New Berlin School District;
- Phillips Elementary School, Phillips School District;
- West Salem Elementary School, West Salem School District; and
- Washington Elementary School, Whitewater Unified School District.

“The Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for solid student academic achievement,” Evers said. “Our public school nominees provide a safe and supportive learning environment where young people can build a foundation for future academic and life success. I wish our nominees well in the next phase of the Blue Ribbon School process.”

Schools nominated to the program must complete the Blue Ribbon Schools application and undergo the national review process. Awards, presented to “Exemplary High Performing” and “Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing” schools, are typically announced in early September. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized more than 8,500 of America’s schools since it began in 1982. To be considered for the program, schools must be among the top schools in the state for overall achievement on statewide assessments or closing achievement gaps between student groups.

NOTES: More information is available on the department’s Blue Ribbon Schools website, <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/blue-ribbon>. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2017\\_07.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2017_07.pdf).