

WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

475 North Mark Street, West Salem, WI 54669

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Ryan Rieber- Principal

Lisa Gerke- Associate Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to November! I hope that your experiences with parent teacher conferences were positive ones and you were able to connect with your child's teacher. The connections between home and school are so very important! Working in partnership is the best way to help our kids reach their potential!

Now that fall has officially arrived and the unpredictability of Wisconsin weather is also here, I am asking for your help in making sure that warm clothing is sent to school with your child. It is not a bad idea to make sure that warm jackets, stocking hats, gloves/mittens are being sent with your child to school. Once the snow begins to fly, also make sure that boots and snow pants are making the trip with your child as well. We will continue to go out for recess during cold weather, so please help in making sure that proper clothing is sent with your child.

I was informed that Pokemon cards have been around since 1998. That is a long time, and the fad has not faded away! Pokemon and trading cards have been causing some heartaches, tears, and disagreements here at school. I am asking that you please keep these items at home.

I want to thank you for your help and support in reporting into our office upon entering the building for visiting within our building. It has been great to see our visitors throughout the building. Know that you are all more than welcome as this is our building and we are here to work with our kids together. One item that I would like to request this month is that when you are dropping off or picking up your child and plan on leaving your vehicle, please find a place to park in our parking lot. Please be conscientious and courteous of the other families that are in the line to drop off their students. Thank you for your help and support!

The month of November is home to several meaningful events at the Elementary school. On November 1 we will have our 4th and 5th grade music concerts. This is a time our students get to share with their families and friends all that they have been practicing in music. Thank you to our music department for making this a wonderful night.

On November 11 at 9:00am we will host our Veteran's Day program with our community. This moving program recognizes and gives thanks to all of the veterans who have and are currently serving our country. It is truly an honor for our staff and students to share in this program.

Thursday night, November 10, our PTO and Title Teachers sponsor our annual family reading night. What a great way to share the joy of reading with your family. The night includes celebrities reading their favorite book and at the end of the night each child is able to choose a book to take home.

Wednesday, November 16 is an early release day for the district. Please make note of this on your calendars.

All of these events are made possible with the planning and cooperation of our staff, PTO, and community members. More information will be coming home for each activity.

If you have any questions about your child's experience at the Elementary school please do not hesitate to give us a call, email or please stop by.

Thank you for all that you do and allowing us to work with your child!

Ryan G. Rieber Together...every student, everyone, every day!

EARLY RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**Students will be dismissed at
12:20.**

**Buses will depart at 12:30.
Students will be served lunch
on early release days.**

NO SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY &

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 23, 24 & 25

Nursing Notes

In the upcoming months, we will again start seeing more illnesses as children spend more time indoors. Please review the following rules about children who may become ill.

1. If your child is ill with a fever over 100 degrees, please do not send your child to school until they have been without a fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. (Many times a child will wake up without a fever, but will have one by noon.)
2. If your child has been vomiting or has diarrhea, please do not send your child to school until he/she is able to tolerate solid foods without vomiting or having loose stools.
3. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat or conjunctivitis (pink eye), he/she must have been on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. If your child needs to take medication during the day (either prescribed or over the counter), a parent or guardian needs to fill out a pink medication sheet. (Prescription medication also requires a doctor's signature.) Medication also needs to be sent in its properly labeled original container.

When you call the school to report your child's absence, please tell the secretary the nature of your child's illness. We are required by the state to report numbers of children ill with strep throat, stomach flu, cold, and chicken pox, so it is important that we have an accurate count.



A BIG welcome to Jessica Tomten (left) and Beth Clements (right)!

Beth Clements has been hired as our new District Nurse (replacing Connie Troyanek) and Jessica Tomten is our new Associate Nurse (replacing Tiffany Lisk). We are very happy to have Beth and Jessica on our team as we start a new chapter in nursing care for our students here at the West Salem School District!

The Dreaded “L” Word.....Lice!

Every year as school begins, we start to see cases of head lice or pediculosis. I want to give everyone information about what lice is and what it isn't, how it is transmitted, and how to get rid of it!

Head lice is a condition that each year affects approximately 6-12 million children between the ages of 3 and 12. Lice are parasites that are usually found on the scalp - especially around the ears and the nape of the neck. Head lice are spread through direct head-to-head contact with an infested person or indirect contact with an infected person or lice-carrying objects such as combs, brushes, hats, or scarves. Since nits (louse eggs) are laid by adult lice the chances of nits being spread from person to person are minimal.

Head lice is not a sign of poor hygiene and you can NOT give them or get them from your pets.

Lice can NOT jump or fly from one person to another. Lice can only live 1 to 2 days off the head. Lice do NOT cause any known disease.

If your child is suspected of having head lice, he or she will be checked by one of the nurses. If live lice are found, you will be contacted and asked to pick up your child to take home and treat. Upon return to school, your child will be checked again before returning to the classroom. If no live lice or viable nits are found, the child may return to the classroom. Nits that are greater than 1/4 inch down the hair shaft are not considered viable and will not hatch into live lice.

If you are told your child has head lice, or you find live lice on your child, there are a few important steps to follow. Treat the affected child with either an over the counter medicated lice shampoo product or an alternative treatment found to be successful in killing head lice. (Your school nurse can give you directions on these types of treatments.) Combing through the hair with a fine tooth comb or special nit comb is necessary to remove the nits. All recently worn clothing (including coats and hats), towels and bedding should be washed in hot water and if possible placed in boiling water. Anything that is not washable such as stuffed animals, can be put into a plastic bag for 2 weeks or placed in the clothes dryer on hot heat for 30 minutes.

If you receive a letter home from school that a case of head lice has been found in your child's classroom, please do not panic. Studies over the past 10 years have proven that school is rarely the place of lice transmission. Most cases of lice are spread by friends and family members who often play or live together. Your child has a much greater chance of catching a cold or stomach flu from his classmates than a case of head lice.

Head lice are very common. Our goal is to minimize absences from school due to head lice, and to provide you with the information you need to care for your child. If you have any questions about anything related to the health of your student, please feel free to contact one of the school nurses.

La Crosse County Vaccination Clinics Available

All students no matter what district they are in, can attend any open immunization clinic

Nov 2: 3:30-6:30pm Holmen Middle School Stage (Enter at Door A)

Nov 17: 5pm to 7pm Schuh/Mullen Homes Boys and Girls Club
1305 St James St, La Crosse

La Crosse County Health Dept at 400 North 4th St, La Crosse is offering immunizations until Nov 18th. A single fee of \$15 per child. Flu vaccinations can be administered at no fee.

Vision and Hearing Screening will be held in Spring 2017.

The nurse's office will conduct screening for student's vision and hearing in grades Kdg-5.

If you do NOT want your child screened, please call the nurse's office at 786-1662.



Smiles4Life comes to the School District of West Salem providing our students with oral hygiene services right at school.

The Smiles 4 Life program provides:

Oral Screenings

Cleanings

Fluoride Varnish (decay prevention)

Dental Sealants (cavity prevention)



Enrollment is open to all students in the district.

Please watch for upcoming date of when this great service will be offered at our school!

AFTER SCHOOL MESSAGES

When calling the elementary office for an after school message, please leave the information with the secretaries in the office. Please do not leave the information on a teacher's voicemail. The office will make sure the information is relayed to the classroom.

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are 7:15am to 4pm

If you need assistance with the busing after these hours please contact the Bus Garage at 786-4356

Please also remember to call your child's absence into the office by 8:00am at 786-1662.

Thank You!

A big Thank You to the PTO for providing a meal at Parent/Teacher conferences. Also a BIG thank you to the parent volunteers who helped out!

Thanks to-

Twyla Sandvick, David Daoust, Dana Brigson, Heather Jehn, Cassie Zarecki, Krissa Byom, Erica Boland, Robin Reid, Rebecca Byrnes, Jamie Faucett, Michelle Witte, Jami Greer, Michelle Lorenz, Michelle Pontius, Lori DuMars, Nikki Hanson, Jess Wolf, Nicole Campbell, Jamie Holst, Andrea Schmitz, Stacey Sjöquist, Rose Wolbrink, Rachael & Matthew Duster and Molly Mader

Winter Weather Reminders



All children will be outside for recess when the temperature feels like 0 degrees or above.

Before school, children will be outside the feels like temperature is 10 degrees or above.

Please dress children accordingly. The children will only be inside for recess on days that are below zero.

School starts at 8:00am. Children enter the building at this time and then the doors are locked immediately for security reasons. Children who arrive after this time need to enter through the main office for a tardy pass.

To ensure that your child is not tardy for school, please try to arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the start of the school day to account for traffic. We know that it is very congested at drop off time and we appreciate your patience.

Calendar of Events

November

1: Grade 4 Music Program 6:15pm
Grade 5 Music Program 7:15pm

3: Grade 4 to Madison
Grade 3 PE Night 6:30-7:30pm

9: Grade 5 Choir to Mulders

10: PTO Story Night

11: Veteran's Day Program 9am

16: Early Release

23-25: No School

December

13: Grade 5 Choir to Mulders

14: Early Release

Christmas Break Dec 23rd - Jan 2nd



4K Family Event

Story time at the West Salem
Public Library

Tuesday, November 15th at
6:30pm



Want to become a sub? Now
is your chance!

Subs are needed in the following

areas:

Teachers

Custodians

Paraprofessionals

Secretarial

Kitchen

Bus Drivers (will train)

Interested? Stop by the District

Office at 405 E. Hamlin St,

West Salem, or call

608-786-0700, or apply online at

www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

On Friday, November 11th at 9:00am the students of West Salem Elementary will be participating in a Veteran's Day program to honor America's Veterans in their service to our country.

We will honor our veterans as we recognize the various branches of the armed forces. The elementary students will sing patriotic songs and an honor guard of scouts will do the Ceremony of Presentation of Colors. This will be a meaningful experience for the students in the celebration of this national holiday. Please feel free to join us if you can.



Ellie Slotten, 8th grader at West Salem Middle School, is collecting new and gently used shoes for Soles 4 Souls. They are a non-profit global institution dedicated to fighting poverty. Your shoe donation helps people in the U.S. and around the world. She is also fundraising to collect for the shipping costs.



The shoe drive will run from September 21st through December 8th.

Boxes will be located at Altra Federal Credit Union in West Salem, Pizza Oven, West Salem Elementary and Middle School, and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in West Salem during the duration of the shoe drive.

NEWS FROM THE OEC

Mark your calendar: The second Sunday of each month, the Outdoor Education Center (School Forest) will be open for self-guided hikes from 12:00 pm - 3:00pm. to families and community members. Please come enjoy this amazing space that your district has preserved for you for 58 years.

Dates: 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14

Directions: Take Interstate I94 towards Sparta

Take the 2nd Sparta exit, Hwy 16

Turn left at stop sign

Turn Right on Theatre Road (BP gas)

Follow road, passing Best Western on right

Turn right on gravel road

Continue on paved road through red gated entrance



Tooth Bags Needed!

The Elementary School provides tooth bags for students who lose a tooth at school. If you have any extra material and could sew a few tooth bags, the



Elementary School could use some. The tooth bags can be dropped off at the Elementary School Office.

Thanks for your help!!

MAPL NEWS

(MUSIC, ART, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, LMC)

News from the WSES PE Department

3rd Grade PE Night is Thursday, November 3rd from 6:30-7:30.

Once a year, per grade-level, PE (Physical Education) Nights are held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the elementary school gym. Students must be accompanied by a parent. This is a night for the grade-level students and their parent(s) ONLY. Please do not bring younger or older siblings along. Various stations will be set up for students and their parents to participate in different activities. Tennis shoes need to be worn by all students and adults. We look forward to seeing 3rd grade students and their parent(s) on Nov. 3rd!

PTO FAMILY READING NIGHT

November 10th at 6:30pm

Watch for more information to come home.

Every child that attends, receives a free book.



Music Concerts Tuesday, November 1st Heider Center

**Grade 4 concert: Rock 'n Roll Forever
6:15pm**

**Grade 5 concert: Flashback to the 80s
7:15pm**

5th Grade Choir **Walk to Mulder's November 9th at 1:30**

K students are busy moving and making music together. They have used cymbals, tone blocks, and maracas in addition to other classroom instruments. They are also busy learning about sound waves and vibration.

1st grade students have learned how to read 5 different rhythms in music class. They are now learning about the Treble Clef (Mrs. G Clef) and the notes that live in the musical staff.

2nd grade students have kept busy learning how to read music from their books. They have sung songs, as well as created ostinatos (repeated patterns) to accompany songs on the xylophones.

3rd grade students are applying their note naming skills to simple folk tunes. After naming notes in each tune, students play their songs on the xylophones. Some classes have even tried to play their songs on sets of desk bells!

4th and 5th grade students will soon be writing new song lyrics to one of their concert songs. This is a great activity to get those creative juices flowing. When students complete their song, they will be able to record it on their iPad to share at home.



Celebrate Your Artist!

Dear Family,

We have partnered with your child's school to create a unique opportunity to celebrate their artistic accomplishments while raising much needed funds for the school. This year they will be using any money generated to purchase new tables/work stations.

Coming home soon will be your child's custom catalog featuring their artwork. Won't you help make your child feel like an accomplished artist by purchasing keepsakes for the whole family containing their masterpiece? The school earns profit from every order. And as a thank you for participating, we provide each child with a sheet of stickers imprinted with their artwork — absolutely FREE!

Watch for more details about the campaign and order deadlines. All online and paper order forms must be turned in by the due date on your child's custom catalog. (No late orders can be accepted.) Together, we can help support the school, build your child's self-esteem, and create lasting keepsakes from your child's artistic achievements.

THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER KEEPSAKES

1. The paper order form attached to their custom catalog.
2. Online at www.square1art.com/shop.
3. Phone Customer Care [888-332-3294](tel:888-332-3294).

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all of the teachers, faculty and volunteers for their help in creating this meaningful fundraiser.

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

CLOTHING AND ART: Sometimes accidents happen!?! Students are encouraged and reminded to push up their sleeves and wear an apron during art class. However, sometimes we still have a paint disaster. Some tips for removing stains are soaking and the usual laundry remedies and believe it or not -WINDEX-. It might also be a good day of the week to have your child wear older clothes.

DONATIONS: currently the art room(s) are looking for the following recyclable items:

Brown paper bags

Plastic mayo jars

Plastic ketchup bottles

Plastic rectangular baby food containers with lids

Lids from ice cream, sour cream, whipped topping

Old kitchen towels.

*Due to a large and generous donation, we currently do not need fabric or faux flowers.

* **AFTER SCHOOL ART** starts on November 3rd.

Students in grades 4/5 who are interested should turn in a permission slip to one of the art teachers on or before that date. Permission slips are available in each art room.

Safe Routes to School Information

Our Friday Walking School Bus leaders and themes for November include:

Nov. 4th - Pet Therapy Dog Matilda and owner

Nov. 11th - Veterans Day, bring a veteran

Nov 18th - WSHS Marching Band Drum Major and WS Panther

*that will be our last fall Walking School Bus. We will be starting up again in the spring, more information coming then!



Follow these 5 Safety Tips when Walking or Biking to School this Fall

According to Safe Kids USA, unintentional pedestrian injuries are the 5th leading cause of injury-related death in the United States for children ages 5 to 19. However, walking and biking can be safe and fun activities when everyone follows the rules of the road. The La Crosse County Health Department and Safe Routes to School would like to remind families how to encourage safe walking and biking to school this fall.



#1. Walk with a buddy. If your child is between the ages of 5-10 they may be just learning how to be independent. While they enjoy walking and riding their bike or scooter, they might not have the judgment to cope with traffic by themselves. If possible, walk to school with your child, have your child join a Walking School Bus in your neighborhood, or have them walk with a family or friend you trust.

#2. Choose safe walking routes. Map out your child's walking/biking route together. Choose routes with sidewalks and the fewest streets to cross. Practice walking and biking the route together so you and your child are comfortable.

#3. Teach safe crossing habits. Teach your child that when they cross the street they should stop at the curb and look left, right and left again to make sure the road is clear of traffic. Teach them to cross at an intersection (rather than in the middle of the block between cars), cross with traffic lights and to walk, not run across the street.

#4. Make Eye contact. While we often think drivers see us, they sometimes don't. They may be distracted, talking on the phone or adjusting something in the car. Teach kids to make eye contact with drivers so they know the driver sees them before they step off the curb.

#5. Practice safe biking/wheeling habits. If your children are biking or riding a scooter to school, be sure the bikes they use fit them. Children should be able to sit on the bike seat with their feet flat on the ground with 1-2 inches between the top bar and the child's body. Require your kids to wear a helmet and to wear it correctly! Bike helmets, when properly fitted, reduce the risk of head injury by 85%.