

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

MCA Scores

Last week the MCA school scores were released to the public. The news for Westwood was both good and an area for improvement. In reading 80% of our students were proficient. In math 57% of our students were proficient. With the new math standards this is our base line data. We are unable to compare the scores from last year to this year. The factors contributing to this score are both internal and external. Internally we had a new curriculum that was implemented, the MCA III vocabulary and Math Expressions vocabulary need further aligning and we will be improving and learning about interventions for students in the area of math. Externally the state required new higher standards for students, the test format changed, and the norming took place over the summer. Your child's individual results will be provided to you at conference time.

Math and Science Saturday Enrichment Opportunities

The following experiences are sponsored by the University of Minnesota.

Saturday Math Enrichment classes for grades 5-7 (Sponsored by the School of Mathematics Center for Educational Programs)

<http://www.mathcep.umn.edu/satenrich/>

Math/Science Fun Fair: Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(This free event is sponsored by the College of Science and Engineering K-12 Outreach Program.)

http://cse.umn.edu/k12/CSE_CONTENT_254378.php

PTO Corner

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

Can you hear the theme song from Rocky echoing in your ears. Only 1 week until our Westwood Triathlon. This is our one fundraiser for the year if we meet our goal of raising \$25 / student. At the last PTO meeting the budget was approved for this year. It was also determined that childcare will be provided during the meetings.

We are looking for someone to organize the fall event on Oct. 29th. Let us know if you are interested.

Trimester 1 Issue 3

Sept. 21, 2011

Upcoming Events for Sept. & Oct.

- Sept. 29- Fall Picture Day
- Sept. 20- Homecoming
- Oct. 1- Panther Foundation Fun Walk/Run (HS)
- Oct. 6- PTO Meeting 6:30pm
- Oct. 13- Early Release Day- 1:15pm
- Oct. 14- No School
- Oct. 19-21- No School



Hand-me-downs:

The nurse's office is looking for gently used clothes - sweatpants, t-shirts, sweatshirts, tennis shoes, jackets - in smaller sizes for our Kindergarten/Grade 1 students. If you have a few items you would like to donate please contact the nurses office at 763-783-5404. These items will be used for students who may need replacement clothing during their school day.

Conferences- October 17, 18, 19

Please return your conference preference time form. Conferences will be scheduled in the next week and notices indicating your date and time will be sent home October 5th.

Student Council

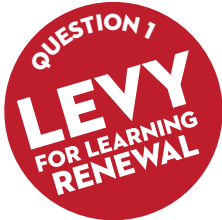
Grade 4 and 5 students have the opportunity for a leadership position at Westwood—Student Council. The Westwood Student Council plans spirit days for the students, service learning projects, run the school store, and help at events during the school year. The student council is an elected position, one person for each classroom. An application process is used (applications are handed out in home rooms) and then each class votes for their representative. The Student Council elections will take place around the first week of October.

Media Permission & Student Acceptable Use Policy Forms

Just a reminder to please complete and return the Media Permission form and Student Acceptable Use Policy form as soon as possible. Your child's teacher will have an extra copy of each form if you are in need of one.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES NOV. 8 LEVY FOR LEARNING RENEWAL, TECHNOLOGY LEVY BALLOT QUESTIONS

On August 23, the School Board voted to place two ballot questions for the community to consider on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Each question is explained below.
More updates will follow.



LEVY FOR LEARNING RENEWAL

BALLOT QUESTION 1 WILL BE FOR THE RENEWAL OF A NO-TAX-INCREASE, EXISTING \$524/STUDENT LEVY FOR LEARNING, APPROVED BY VOTERS IN 2002 AND SET TO EXPIRE IN 2012.

By State law, continued funding of an existing levy requires that it is renewed by voters.

This existing Levy for Learning is for Teaching and Learning, funding teachers and educational support staff. Renewing this levy would allow the district to maintain its current level of programming, and make continued progress towards its strategic directions. It would not provide additional funding, or allow the district to do more.

If this levy expires before it is renewed, results would include:

- Significant increases in class size and elimination of programs as a result of cutting 30 or more teaching positions and reduction in student support staff
- Increasing walking distances to school as a result of transportation reductions, or initiating fees
- Increasing fees in student activities and athletics, as well as reductions in programs
- Difficulty in maintaining past community investments in buildings and grounds as a result of necessary reductions in custodial staff

Approval of Ballot Question 1 would result in no increase in taxes.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEVIES

For more information on the Nov. 8 Levy questions, visit SpringLakeParkSchools.org

Give us your comments, we'll answer your questions

Call the Hotline or send an email, and we'll try to respond within 24 hours:

Hotline: 763-795-5195

Email: levy@district16.org

Questions? We'll come to you.

We will answer your Levy for Learning and Technology Levy questions any time, or anywhere, whenever possible.

If you would like the superintendent, a district administrator, or a School Board member to visit with your community organization, please call 763-785-5513.



TECHNOLOGY LEVY

BALLOT QUESTION 2 REQUESTS FUNDING TO ENSURE ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE, REPLACEMENT, AND UPDATING OF THE DISTRICT'S EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

A Capital Projects levy can only be used for expenses related to equipment, technology, and technology staff.

The major components of the Capital Projects/ Technology Levy:

COMPONENT 1:

Improve student learning by providing technology-rich learning environments.

- Support teachers in meeting individual and varied needs of students
- Provide students with equitable access to technology, blending classroom and real-world experiences
- Improve parent communication and student access when at home

COMPONENT 2:

Implementation of a replacement schedule for aging student and staff computers, providing for current and reliable technologies.

COMPONENT 3:

Ensure ongoing equipment maintenance and repair of these technologies, and ongoing staff training required for effective utilization of technologies.

Years of flat and limited state funding, as well as delayed payments from the state in recent years have produced challenges to maintaining and replacing outdated and poorly functioning student and staff computers,

and technologies that are necessary for day-to-day teaching, learning, and operations.

A Capital Projects/Technology Levy would keep technology expenses separate from the other needs of the district, allowing it to avoid reductions in other areas to sustain basic technology needs.

At the August 23 Board meeting, superintendent Jeff Ronneberg said, "Just as families and individuals have experienced the increasing influence of technology on their daily lives, we too have experienced increasing technology needs and demands."

"The use of technology is evident in our classrooms," Ronneberg added, "as teachers use various tools as part of their instruction. In addition, technology is used extensively for parent communication, connecting with the community, and all aspects of our general operations."

Funding of a technology initiative would position the district to successfully meet growing and changing needs for educating today's students, provide more equitable access to technology, and successfully prepare students for post-secondary education and the workforce.

Approval of Ballot Question 2 would result in a tax increase of about \$5.25 per month, or approximately \$63/year, for the average home (about \$200,000) in the school district.