

PANTHER PRIDE

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL'S FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

ISSUE NO. 2

Vision Statement

All Weston High School students think creatively and critically to problem-solve through project-based, hands-on, applied and relevant learning.



Mission Statement

Weston High School is a diverse school of choice providing innovative learning opportunities that prepares students for college, career and life.

FULL INCLUSION AT WESTON HIGH SCHOOL

BY MRS. SHAUGHNESSY

The world is a diverse and interesting place to live in, and here at Weston High School we strive to celebrate as well as meet the needs of all our diverse students. One of the ways in which we meet those needs is by implementing a teaching model called “full inclusion”. The definition of full inclusion means that “...all students, regardless of handicapping condition or severity, will be in a regular classroom/program full time. All services must be taken to the child in that setting”

(<http://weac.org/articles/specialedinc/>, 2016). How this translates into the classroom is that all students attend classes; there is no “Resource Room”. What researchers have found is that students with disabilities learn more and perform better when they are with their peers. “Results documented significant positive attitudinal and self-reported learning impacts of Inclusion for both student with disabilities (SWD) and regular education peers. SWDs reported higher self-concept, liking of school and teachers, and

greater motivation to work and learn. Unexpectedly, regular education student responses followed the same patterns, reflecting significantly higher attitudes across the board and perceived academic achievement, as well as higher tolerance for SWDs” (Dupuis, Barclay, Holmes, Platt 2016). What this means for Weston High School is that ALL students benefit by attending classes with their disabled and nondisabled peers, and that is a good thing.

YOUR SCHOOL OF CHOICE

“BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE!”



HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCES

BY MR. NELSON

Fall is definitely here. It is hard to believe that time falls back and we set our clocks an hour back on November 6 at 2:00am.

Every year in the fall we have High School Conferences, which are happening on November 10, from 1pm-3pm and 4pm-6pm. Our staff will take a dinner break from 3-4pm. Conferences are a great time to bring your student with you to have conversations with teachers about attendance, progress, challenges or barriers, and celebrations. We would like to share with you all of the great things that we see our students doing and this is the perfect venue. We want to have a chance to talk with you about new attendance laws, and new discipline laws. We are excited to have a chance to talk with you about the progress we've made in our grading policies the past two years. We would like to talk about what your student's goals are during and after high school. We would like to be able to share about Panther Period and how it is creating time for students to be successful.

We will have snacks available during the Conferences. This is an invitation to all of our families to attend our Conferences. If you would like to come, we ask that you give us a call at 360-618-6340, so we know that you are coming and we can be sure that you've been assigned a priority slot to talk with your student's teachers. Your call will also allow us to make sure we've got enough salty and sweet snacks available.

We look forward to a successful High School Conferences event and we look forward to seeing you.

THINK THAT YOU'RE NOT A MATH PERSON?

BY MS. HENRY

Did you know that there is no such thing as a math brain? Or that some people are naturally good at math and some people are not is a myth? Last spring some colleagues and I did a book study focused on our mindsets about math and we found out that making mistakes is a really good thing!

Jo Boaler, a Stanford math professor and author of *Mathematical Mindsets*, writes "we now know that when you make a mistake in math, your brain grows." MRI scans showed that when we make mistakes, a synapse fires. And the absolutely amazing thing about this is that we don't even have to realize that we have made a mistake! The MRI scans show that the brain actually grows because it is struggling.

However, it is important that we give good feedback to students about their mistakes. When students realize that they have made a mistake, that first synapse firing becomes more permanent, which is a great thing for learning. As adults, we need to always encourage students and not tell them that they are wrong when they are working on math. Instead, ask them to tell you about their logic – and believe it or not, they always have some logic to the way they are thinking about the problem. It is often at this point that students realize their mistake, correct it, and gain the thing that we want most for them—more permanent learning! For other really interesting articles or additional information about this brain research, check out youcubed.org.

Schwartz, Katrina. "Not a Math Person': How to Remove Obstacles to Learning Math." (2015). KQED News.



COUNSELING CORNER

BY MRS. BROWN

It is hard to believe it is already November! Seniors, if you are interested in attending college or a trade school, you will want to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application helps in determining students' eligibility for financial aid as they are preparing for their post-secondary education. This year, there have been some changes to the application process. Students are now able to submit their FAFSA earlier! The application became available for the 2017-2018 school year back on October 1st. Applying is simple – students will need their social security numbers and their families' income and tax information from 2015. Stay tuned for information on times that students and families will be able to come in and receive some help completing the application.

In other exciting news, Lisa Fritch, who works with Everett Community College will be at Weston all day on Monday November 28th to present to all interested seniors about their programs and the application process for Everett Community College. She is also a great resource for students needing some assistance completing their FAFSA. I know that some of these items can be overwhelming to think about; however, we are here to support our students and willing to help in any way we can.

THE PILGRIMS: FACT OR FICTION

BY MR. PEDACK

The Pilgrims are a cornerstone of November curriculum in elementary school. Everyone remembers Plymouth Rock, the Mayflower, and the first Thanksgiving, but the truth is, most of the stuff we learned and the images associated with this time of year are wrong.

For starters there were actually two ships that were suppose to make the voyage. The Speedwell was cleverly made unseaworthy because half of the Pilgrims didn't actually want to risk starvation and financial ruin, so they made an excuse that their ship wouldn't make the trip. So a little over half the Pilgrims piled aboard the rather small Mayflower. Two people did indeed die during the voyage, though. The Pilgrims were trying to go to Virginia but ended up in Cape Cod. The funny thing is the Pilgrims didn't even refer to themselves as "Pilgrims" which wouldn't be until 100 years later. If you think about it, where would they be making a pilgrimage?

It is true that the first winter was bleak. The Pilgrims started with 102 people and 50% of them died during the first winter. They also weren't religiously tolerant. It is a myth that they were seeking religious freedom for all people. The Pilgrims were a Protestant group that wanted to escape a volatile political/religious landscape, and that much is true, but once they founded the Plymouth Colony, they did not let people with other beliefs practice religion however they pleased. The Pilgrim mythos that has been conjured wouldn't lead you to believe this.

When it comes to the Native Americans there is a bunch of information that is wrong. For starters, all of the depictions of Native Americans are of Plains tribes not East Coast tribes. The Wampanoag tribe did help the Pilgrims, but mostly by giving them food in the dead of winter. Squanto did help the Pilgrims obtain food, and yet no one mentions that he had been to England three times (once as a slave) before he met the Pilgrims. His tribe was also wiped out due to smallpox, which is often left out of the narrative.

Thanksgiving wasn't even the Pilgrims' idea. People had been celebrating thanks and the harvest for a long time before this. The first Thanksgiving was in September. So when you are sitting around the table (hopefully, not the kids table) you can tell everyone everything they know about Thanksgiving is a lie.

District Non-Discrimination Notice Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

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Revised & adopted October 2016

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