

PANTHER PRIDE

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL'S FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

ISSUE NO. 9

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.

TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS BY MR. NELSON

We have been spending time this year revisiting the impact on learning of Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs. There have been studies written that state that there is a relationship between ACEs and student learning (Delaney-Black et al, 2002; Shonk & Cicchetti, 2001), which reveal that students dealing with trauma:

- Are two-and-one-half times more likely to fail a grade;
- Score lower on standardized achievement test scores;
- Have more receptive or expressive language difficulties;
- Are suspended or expelled more often; and,

• Are designated to special education more frequently.

Felitti & Anda (2009) define adverse childhood experiences as any of or any combination of the following:

- Child physical abuse
- Child sexual abuse
- Child emotional abuse
- Emotional neglect
- Physical neglect
- Mentally ill, depressed or suicidal person in the home
- Drug addicted or alcoholic family member
- Witnessing domestic violence against the mother
- Loss of a parent to death or abandonment, including abandonment by parental divorce

- Incarceration of any family member for a crime.

This research gives us the ability to anticipate how best to serve the needs of students who have experienced trauma. At Weston High School, we have many educated staff who are experienced in working with students with ACEs, including: School Counselor, Katy Brown; School Psychologist, Anna Arnold-Grindy; Leah Buehler, Drug and Alcohol Counselor; Brandy Moore, Mental Health Counselor; and Will Nelson, Principal.

YOUR SCHOOL OF CHOICE

“BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE!”



LEADERSHIP CLASS

BY NECKO JONES,
LEADERSHIP STUDENT

Together the students and staff at Weston have created a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) matrix. We are trying to bring a more Accountable, Encouraging, Respectful, and Persistent environment to Weston High School. We will be focusing on a specific trait each month for the rest of the school year, and hopefully for more years to come. For practicing the PBIS behaviors, the students may receive a "reward ticket". After receiving a reward ticket, the student's name will be put on a bingo board. Once we have a full bingo, there will be a reward for those who are on the bingo board.

Our word of this month is Respectful. This means we will help guide our students to behave in a respectful manner like following directions when told, respecting the school and other student's property, using positive language, using appropriate language and volume, and saying thank you to each other. We hope these expectations will help bring a more positive outlook to our school. Thank you for being a part of our Weston community.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 24, 2017
Early Release
Teacher In-Service

March 24, 2017
Spring Green Dance
7pm-10pm
Doors close at 8pm.

April 3-7, 2017
No School – Spring Break

CAP WALL

BY LAURYN BAKER,
LEADERSHIP STUDENT

Students from Weston High School have reached many goals along their way. One of the ways we congratulate the kids on passing their classes is the "Cap Wall". This is a medium where we put their names up on the wall in the commons of the school if they pass 6 out of 7 of their classes, or applying to specific schedules. Each Cap is about a month long, two Caps equal a quarter of school.

In our Fall semester, our Cap wall had a theme of how music has progressed throughout the years, just as the students have. For example, the first Cap started out as records, the second was tape recorders, cd's, then Ipod Nano's. The Cap wall reminds students of their progress and pushes them to go further and further with studies. We've figured out that it can be difficult to stay motivated all throughout the school year and a subtle reminder to see what you've accomplished can be just enough push to keep going. Weston High School's Cap wall has been a successful way of motivating and congratulating all of our students.



COUNSELING COURNER

BY MRS. BROWN

Spring has finally arrived and we have seen a bit of sun! With spring break right around the corner, the end of the school year is coming up quick. Looking ahead, Weston's graduation commencement ceremony is set for Wednesday June 14th, 2017 at 7:00p at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center at Arlington High School. If you have a graduating senior, you should be receiving a letter in the mail about the ceremony and ordering your graduate's cap and gown. If you have any questions, please let me know! We are planning a field trip for our graduates at the end of the year as well and are looking forward to celebrating all of their successes.

Recently, Weston has received some generous donations from the community and the families of our students. From sweet treats to fun and fabulous decorations, the community at Weston is strong with the support of our volunteers and families. Thank you to everyone who has spent time with us and to those who have donated! We cannot thank you enough for your generosity!

MATHEMATICAL THINKING

BY MRS. HENRY

“Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical thinking.”
-Albert Einstein

This is not the way that most of us think about math. Math is creative and visual. It gives us a way to make sense of the world around us. Math is seeing patterns and relationships. It provides us with the tools to observe, interpret, analyze, hypothesize, prove and defend our conclusions. Math is the power to think and reason for oneself. No place is it mentioned that math is having the correct answer, being fast at calculations or regurgitating standard algorithms. However, many of our students think just that.

“Knowing math is being able to use it in purposeful ways.”
-Standards for School Mathematics: Executive Summary, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

In thinking about this, what can we, as parents and teachers do to help our students develop this kind of mathematical thinking? Consider asking any of the following questions to get your student to focus on their mathematical thinking.

- “How do you know?”
- “Can you prove it?”,
- “Why does that work?”,
- “How does this relate to what you already know or have done before?”

We are working to build a generation of students who understand that everyone can do math. As parents and educators, we must believe in our student’s ability to create, discover, and develop problem-solving skills. We must encourage them to struggle and commend their efforts. We must never give up on them, and maybe more importantly, never let them give up on themselves!

Emily and Joe Dyke. “10 Things Every Parent Should Know About Math.” 2014. Mathinspirations.com

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:

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Mr. Mike Johnson
Executive Director, Human Resources
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Revised & adopted October 2016

SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

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