



THE WOLF PACK PRESS



October
2016

SETH WHITMAN ELEMENTARY

WORD OF THE MONTH

October: Responsibility

News From the Office!



Dear Parents,

Cold season is upon us! Any time your child is absent we ask that you contact the main office before 8:00 a.m. The number for the main office is (815) 544-3357. If you call before our office opens, please leave a message with your child's name, the reason for the absence, and the teacher's name/grade level.



Also, if there is going to be a change in the way that your child is getting home after school, we ask that you send a note to the classroom teacher. If you are unable to send a note, please call our main office before 1:00 p.m. This helps to ensure that the office has enough time to get messages about the after school changes to the teachers.

Thank you to our PTO!

On behalf of the students and staff at SWES, I would like to say thank you to our awesome PTO for our Superhero Science Assembly that took place on 9/30. This was a great way to kick-off our hands-on inquiry based science this year! The students and staff had fun learning about the scientific method and watching exciting science experiments. We truly appreciate your continued support of our building initiatives.



Dates to Remember:

11/2/16– Parent Teacher Conferences

11/2/16-11/10/16– SWES Fall Book Fair

11/9/16– Early Dismissal 1:05

11/10/16– Parent Teacher Conferences

11/21/16– PTO Meeting 2:30 SWES Library

11/21/16– CNO Chick-Fil-A

11/23/16-11/25/16 Fall Break

12/2/16– Barnes & Noble Night

12/14/16– Superintendent Dr. Woestman and members of the Central Office team have been invited to come and observe PACK Time at SWES. This is sacred time set aside for grade level teams to focus on our students' individual needs. This is a time for reinforcement or enrichment for our students and is often hands-on and cross-curricular in nature.

12/19/16– PTO Meeting 2:30 SWES Library

12/21/16– End of 2nd Quarter

12/21/16– Winter Parties 1:30-2:00





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District News

Strategic Planning in District 100

As you know, we have recently embarked on a new journey to create a multi-year strategic plan for the district. The Strategic Planning Committee is comprised of representatives from all stakeholder groups. These groups include: Staff (10), Union Leadership (4), Board of Education Members (2), Community Leaders (4), Parents (6), Students (6), School Leadership (3), and District Leadership (5). The strategic planning team just completed its October Data Retreat. The team broke into six independent work teams to review and analyze perception data. Academic Programs, Student Achievement, People (Human Resources) and Finance/Operations. The teams also considered external factors that may impact the school district in the future. The team reconvened and synthesized information into Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This is called a SWOT analysis. The draft SWOT analysis will be made public to all stakeholders. We will be collecting feedback from all stakeholders in preparation for the November 7th vision retreat.

SWES News

PACK Time:

SWES students and teachers participate in PACK time on a daily basis. This is time built into their schedules to focus on skills or concepts needing reinforcement as well as areas in which we can provide students with enrichment opportunities. PACK Time is scheduled so that grade level teams can partner with each other, exchange students and share resources to differentiate instruction for our students. It has been neat to see PACK Time in action!



Parental Engagement

As a parent or other family member, you can support your child's learning in a number of ways. You can provide teachers with information about your child's interests and challenges, and you can talk with teachers about data related to your child's academic progress. These conversations can help you and your child's teacher co-create action steps to help promote your child's learning in the home, school, and community.

- Keep in contact with your child's teacher or support specialists.
- Review E-School Parent Portal on a regular basis.
- Ask your child to see samples of his or her class work. Looking over this work can help you develop specific questions for teachers about how to build on areas of strength or areas that you could help support at home.
- Ask the teacher to show you samples of your child's work to get a full understanding of your child's performance. This information will help you see whether your child is on track to achieve learning goals.
- Talk with the teacher about how to use your child's data to set short- and long-term learning goals and how you can help to support these goals at home.
- Continue to encourage your child. Support them when a challenge arises and help them to challenge themselves both at school and at home.
- Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities to expose them to different opportunities and support their interests.
- Attend Parent/Teacher Conferences.

