



Westwood Middle School

UPDATE

February, 2009



A Message from Principal, Paula Hoff

If you haven't been by the building to check out the new front entrance, please feel free to do so. It is incredibly beautiful and well worth the wait! Thanks to all of our community for supporting our district and students!

Thank you very much for attending your child's conference the last couple of weeks. It was wonderful to see so many families. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible. The relationship you have with your child's teacher is instrumental in your child's academic success.

There are many current topics that I encourage you to check out on the district website at www.slpschools.org. This is a wonderful way to stay connected with many of the current topics affecting our schools. For instance, at the website you can learn more about the proposed calendar for the 2009-2010 school year as well as the current process for dealing with the current state level budget situation. Both topics present avenues for providing feedback. Please check it out!

First In The State!

Two academic teams representing all three grades at Westwood Middle School placed first in the state in the Knowledge Master Open! The 6th grade team, and the combined 7th and 8th grade team were the state's best according to recently released results from the Minnesota Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl's fall competition.

The students answered computer-based questions in the areas of science, social studies, literature, math, geography, government, news, English, as well as fun facts. Accuracy and speed was their claim to fame and helped lead them to victory.

In addition to being tops in Minnesota, our students were in the top 4 % of 639 national and international middle school academic teams.

Congratulations to 7th grader, Michael Erickson for receiving an Award of Merit at this years MN Scholastic Art Award competition. This year there were over 1,100 art works submitted into the competition and only 300 were selected by a juried show to receive recognition. Mike's self portrait using only his finger prints was one of this years recognized pieces.



Westwood Middle School has plenty of athletics and activities to enjoy!

- **Current Sports:** Boy's Basketball - 3 Remaining Home Games (Feb 10th, Feb 24th and March 5th)
- **Current Activities:** *Power Up, Lego Club, Ski and Snowboard Club, Cooking Club, Soundtrax, Jazz Band, Tae Kwon Do, the Spring Musical, and Encore.*

For more information about activities and sports please consult the school webpage:

http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/schools/wms/wms_athletics.asp

Or contact Tyson Crockett @ tcrock@district16.org

Counselor's Corner

- Power Up students must turn in their permission slip by February 12 to attend the field trip to Feed My Starving Children on March 16
- Current 8th grade students will be registering February 17 - 19 for their high school courses
- Student Ambassadors will be meeting on March 2nd for their monthly meeting
- Summer Session will be offered June 15 - July 2 for current 6th and 7th graders. Classes meet Monday through Thursday each week from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Information will be forthcoming in mid-March if your student has been recommended for the program.

Helpful Hints from our School Nurse, Ann Bryz-Gornia

Some frequently asked questions....

Q: I know someone who was tested for whooping cough (pertussis). What is this?

A: Whooping cough affects the lungs. It is a bacteria that is spread from person to person. People with whooping cough (pertussis) have a severe cough that lasts 4 to 6 weeks or longer.

Q: How can whooping cough (pertussis) be prevented?

A: Make sure your child is vaccinated on time. Tdap is required before starting 7th grade and has the pertussis vaccine combined with tetanus and diphtheria.

Other ways to prevent whooping cough include avoiding close contact with others who are coughing or appear ill, wash hands often, stay at home if ill, cover your cough with a tissue or cough into your sleeve, seek medical attention if you have a prolonged cough or have been around someone who has pertussis.

Q: What other vaccinations (shots) are required?

A: Beginning for the Fall of 2009, incoming 7th graders must have a second varicella shot along with the Tdap.

Q: I cannot afford to have my child immunized. What options do I have?

A: Anoka County has an immunization clinic. The next clinic dates are Thurs., Feb. 26, 2009 and Thurs., March 26, 2009, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Anoka County Human Service Center at 1201 89th Avenue NE, Room 325 in Blaine. A \$10.00 donation per shot is requested. Please bring your child's immunization record with you. Call the Immunization Hot Line at 763-323-6100 for information.

Our website will bring you up to date
on district school events!

Check it out!

springlakeparkschools.org

Did you know that the announcements that are read to our students each morning are also posted on our web page? There is also a months worth of Archived Student Announcements you can review.

Log on to the district webpage, click on Schools and then select Westwood Middle School. Select Announcements. From there you can click on Archived Announcements to see previous days. Many parents have found this to be a very helpful tool for staying in touch with our day to day activities.

Yearbook Orders End Soon!

The deadline to order your child a WMS Yearbook is Thurs., Feb. 12, 2009.

To order your yearbook, please log on to the middle school webpage and click on "Order Your 2008-2009 WMS Yearbook Today" and follow the easy instructions.

That's all there is to it! Your child will enjoy his/her yearbook for years to come!

Mark Your Calendar!

Thurs., Feb. 12	Early Release Day - WMS Students will be released at 12:40 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 13	NO SCHOOL - Staff Inservice
Mon., Feb. 16	NO SCHOOL
*Mon., Feb. 23	* Parent Meeting , 6:30 p.m., Team Teaching Room
*Please Note: The topic for the February 23 Parent Meeting is to review the 8th gr. Explore Test. This meeting is for 8th gr. parents only.	
Thurs., Feb. 26	7th gr. Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria
Tues., March 3	8th gr. Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria
Thurs., March 5	Trimester II ends
Fri., March 6	NO SCHOOL - Staff Inservice