

**West Elementary BOE Report from Principal Amy Flinn and West Items for the Good
March 6, 2024**

Enrollment:

Third Grade: 121

Fourth Grade – 104

Fifth Grade – 127

Total – 352

New Students: 1 Fourth Grader

Withdrawn Students: 1 Third Grader, 1 Fourth Grader

West Building Leadership Team Updates

Our West BLT has been busy this year! Our focus as a building the past few years has been on the implementation of structured literacy (implementation of new core curriculum resource, CKLA, with a focus on all the elements of structured literacy for our students), as well as improving and revising our math instructional practices and core math curriculum. We have completed year one of implementation of Eureka Math Squared this year and have received Math Coaching from Great Minds Consultant and Trainer, Courtney Hickman. We will continue to focus on math implementation in 2024-2025 (along with structured literacy) and will continue to complete Guided Observations of math practices. Another primary focus this year that will take us into next year is the study and revamping of our Tier 1 practices for Behavior and Social/Emotional Learning and adding Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions for behavior/social emotional learning. You'll see evidence of this work in the BLT minutes below from February 28, as well as our BSEL Training Team meeting on February 19. We have plans to extend our work in this area building-wide next August with Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 training and implementation of supports for BSEL.

See attached: [West BLT Minutes from February 28, 2024](#)

See attached: [West BSEL Team Planning Minutes from February 19, 2024](#)

Classroom Walkthroughs

Spending time in classrooms is a priority for me as a building leader. I always thoroughly enjoy visiting our teachers' classrooms. It is wonderful to see our teachers in action and our students learning! I will continue to complete learning walks as often as possible, and we will review the data in teams and as a faculty.

Some of the expectations I have set for staff when completing walkthroughs (or, what I like to call "learning walks") include the following:

- **Learning objectives** should be posted for all content areas and communicated regularly to students.
- **S.T.O.I.C./CHAMPS** should be a regular part of every classroom environment. Teachers should review the components of S.T.O.I.C. and CHAMPS, as needed. One of the premises of STOIC is to be sure staff can get to any part of the classroom quickly and to observe student behavior closely. This requires teachers to be moving around the room and not sitting at their desks, both during instruction and independent work time. STOIC stands for structuring the classroom for success, teaching expectations, observing closely, interacting positively, and correcting fluently.
- **Student engagement** should be a top priority for everyone - this includes the regular use of Kagan Structures and multiple opportunities for students to respond, not just teachers asking individual students one question at a time.

Our staff does a great job of implementing these items! This is reflected in our data from our walkthroughs, as well.

West Elementary Items for the Good – March 6, 2024

- **MTSS Team Professional Development Update:**

The MTSS team has worked towards setting oral fluency goals for individual students on our data collection website, FastBridge. Any student receiving additional support in the area of reading is progress monitored once a week or once every other week, based on their tiered performance. Each intervention teacher meets with our students individually to share their growth and successes on FastBridge data. We find great motivational value in sharing this data with students.

Special Education Teacher Sara McCarter completed a webinar with IT Advanced Practices Summit for Visual Strategies, as well as a Visual Phonics training.

Erin Moody will be supervising an SLP-A student this spring from March-May, Angelina Settermbrino. Welcome!

- **Third Grade News:**

Mini Society

Third Grade students recently hosted their Market Day as a culminating activity to Mini Society! Each student has been working hard over the past 10 weeks to apply and interview for a classroom job, earn money to spend on their classmates' products, and create profitable products of their own to sell. Parents, siblings, teachers, and other community members were invited to come shop at Market Day, and it was a huge success! After Market Day, students were tasked with counting their profits and began thinking about how they can spend their earnings at our Ice Cream celebration this week.



Math Fraction Stations

Third Grade students just began Module 5 in Eureka Math Squared, Fractions as Numbers. Different math stations allowed students to begin formalizing their understanding of fractions by partitioning and recognizing fractional parts of concrete objects and pictorial models. From the implementation of these stations, students have been learning about equivalent fractions, counting by fractional

increments using number lines, and comparing fractional units.



- **Fourth Grade News:**

Fourth Graders have had several hands-on learning experiences this month. In social studies, our regions of the USA unit took us to the Southeast. One of the topics is natural resources. Students used chocolate chip cookies in a coal mining simulation.

In math, students used graham crackers to create fractions greater than one using fourths and eighths.

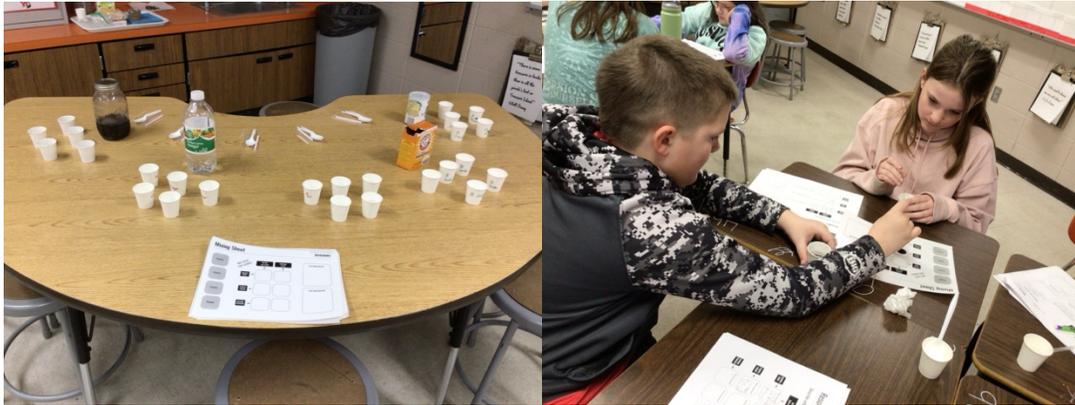
We have also enjoyed having two student interns this semester in Fourth Grade – Miss Shepard in Mrs. McIntosh’s room and Miss Halseth in Mrs. Greene’s room.



- **Fifth Grade News:**

- **Fifth Graders Study Chemistry**

Who would have thought that black bean juice, vinegar, baking soda, and baking powder could ignite such excitement? Our Fifth Graders have embarked on a journey into the world of mixtures and solutions. Through hands-on experimentation, we're unraveling the mysteries of detecting acids and understanding their properties. From fizzing reactions to color changes, every observation fuels our curiosity and deepens our understanding of the fascinating world of chemistry.



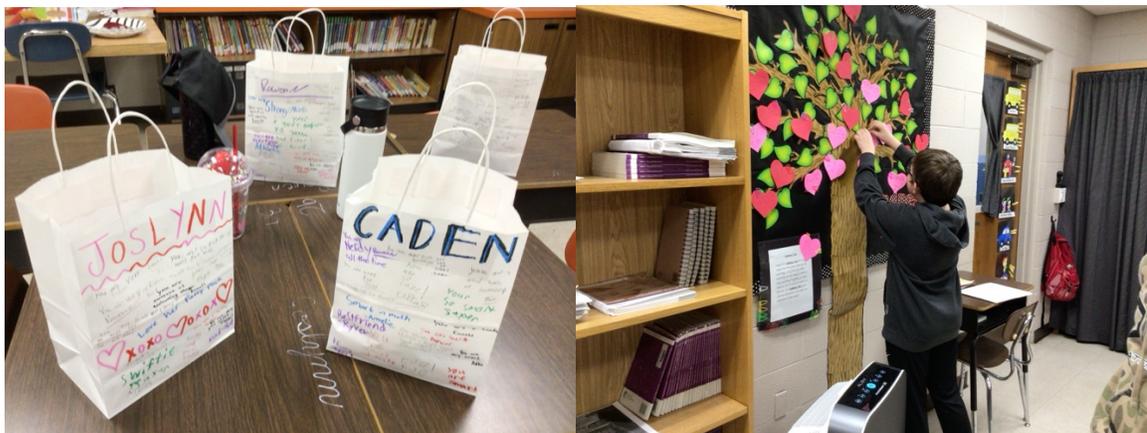
- **Fifth Graders Study Explorers**

Our Fifth Graders have just wrapped up an engaging exploration study, delving into the motivations and consequences behind it. Students examined the reasons driving explorers to venture into the unknown, uncovering a rich desire for trade and conquest and wealth. Using maps as their guide, they journeyed alongside these explorers, tracing their paths across continents and oceans. Through this experience, students gained a deeper understanding of the complexities and impacts of exploration throughout history.



Fifth Graders Spread Kindness to Classmates

In February, the Kindness Tree in our classroom flourished with "heartfelt" words of kindness for one another. The branches of our tree show a collective effort to nourish a classroom community where kindness blossoms. In addition, students exchanged valentines and put them into bags that had handwritten complimentary notes that reflected genuine kindness and appreciation for one another. Families joined in the festivities of our Valentine's Day party, and students went home with hearts full and spirits uplifted.



- **Fifth Grade STEM Club Session 2 for Spring 2024:**

We will be offering another six-week session STEM Club for our Fifth Graders this spring. Students will have the opportunity to explore paper airplane experiments, potato maze, learning about and utilizing a solar bag, 3D printing, and flying drones with real aerospace engineers! Thank you to Olivia Garrett for making this opportunity possible for our students.

- **News from West Specialized Staff for February 2024:**

Art News:

The students at West Elementary have been hard at work with a variety of topics during art class. Fifth Grade is currently in the process of drawing vintage cereal box mascots using the grid technique. After the drawing portion is completed and traced, each student within their table group will have an opportunity to finish the group work of art in their own style from colors to media choices.

Fourth Grade students have been working on their expressionism-based artwork from “The Cry” or more widely known “The Scream” work of art by Edvard Munch. The students are working with construction paper crayons on colored construction paper using colors that they associate with anger, fear, sadness, frustration, calm, quiet, and peaceful.

Third Grade is finishing up their sunflower watercolor paintings and will begin working with mosaics featuring product packaging boxes with an emphasis on cereal and mascots.

Counselor News:

During the month of February, the students finished Unit 3: Empathy and Kindness in Second Step.

For classroom lessons, students worked on completing their vision boards. Their vision boards included school/academic goals, career choices, and various bucket list items. They posted their vision boards on SeeSaw. I hope you find time for them to share with you their hopes and dreams for their future.

We will be finishing our Second Step lessons exploring problem-solving skills. Also, during our time together, students will be completing their Xello missions. After exploring career choices on Xello, all students will be creating a career project about a career that interests them when they grow up. Look for more information in the coming months.

Explore News:

Our goals for growth are on display in the specials’ hallway at West! Our Tower Garden is growing and as things warm up, we are beginning to plan how we will use our raised bed this year. We’ll be planting a pollinator garden and learning all about native plants and pollination.



Library News:

The Read-A-Thon was a great success! Together, our students read 223,844 minutes surpassing our school-wide goal of 150,000 minutes by over 70,000 minutes! Every single West Elementary student helped us reach this goal. We celebrated together in a school wide assembly with slime and awesome prizes donated by several local businesses and generous donors. Check out Mrs. Flinn's Blog to learn more and see pictures of the fun!

In our library class, students have been using the Caldecott award's selection criteria while reading to evaluate several books as part of a Mock Caldecott which in the end was awarded to Vashti Harrison for her book, *Big*.

In March, we will hold our 4th annual March Madness Book Bracket. Students will explore new book titles and vote to determine which title we should add to our library collection next.

Music News:

Fifth Grade students have been hearing about their different opportunities in music classes at the middle school. Soon, the band and choir directors will be visiting them at West to discuss whether or not they will choose to be in band and/or choir as Sixth Graders.

Fourth Grade students read the book Follow the Drinking Gourd. They learned to sing the song and how it was a part of the Underground Railroad. They also learned about Bass Clef Notes and how to identify them. For Valentine's Day, they performed the song "Love Somebody" and added an accompaniment on the barred instruments.

Third Grade students worked very hard to prepare for their music concert, "The Big Chill!" They also have been working on learning the "Star Spangled Banner". They also discussed how the song was written and how it became our national anthem.

P.E. News:

During the month of February, our main unit we participated in was Badminton. We taught students general rules and skills needed to be able to play a game. Badminton is a great family activity that can be played outside on rare days we don't have any wind here in Kansas. We will also be moving into one of my other favorite racket sports, pickleball. This is another great sport that has community resources available here in Wamego to participate in this activity. We look forward to using the pickleball courts on our Play Day for Third and Fourth Grade at the beginning of May!

Technology News:

Each grade level is continuing typing lessons through [typing.com](https://www.typing.com). Third Grade classes are strengthening their beginning typing skills through typing lessons. Each class is working towards end of year typing goals through practicing appropriate difficulty levels. They're also utilizing games in typing.com to reinforce home row recognition, as well as top and bottom row letters. Fourth Grade is encouraged to look down at their hands with less frequency. Fifth Grade has been challenged to cover their hands with computer paper while typing. Third-Fifth Graders are encouraged to practice two-hand typing. All grade levels have revisited their updated typing goals and noted their progress in both accuracy and Words Correct Per Minute. All grade levels have also strengthened their internet security strategies through the use of Interland.

- **West Elementary Read-A-Thon Success!**

Wamego West Elementary PTO extends a heartfelt thank you to our school community! We're incredibly proud of our readers and grateful for your support, which made our Read-A-Thon fundraiser a tremendous success. Our students read a total of 223,844 minutes and raised \$10,968.00 for our school, which is over \$1,800.00 more than last year!

Many thanks to our official business sponsors, WTC, BBN Architects, Orazem & Scalora Engineering, Dara's, Vision Source, Short Stop, BHS Construction, and Landmark National Bank.

We are also grateful for the fantastic prize donations from the following businesses and individuals, Midwest Dream Car Collection, The Sunset Zoo, AMC Theatres, The Dub, Flint Hills Discovery Center, Dicks Sporting Goods, Amanda's Cookie Colony, Poppy Tees, Books A Million, LEAP, BRB Contractors INC., Friends of the Wamego Public Library, Sue Patrick, Robin Butler, Kelli Eichman, Laura Sylvester, Jessica Cole, The Moms of Oz, Amy Flinn, and Dylan Waugh.

Our students had a wonderful time reading. We can't wait to host another Read-A-Thon next year!

Our Read-A-Thon Coordinator, Mrs. Hallie Hatfield, obtained over 150 raffle prizes for our students!

We are so grateful for the amazing job Mrs. Hatfield did to organize this fundraiser for our school. Our most important goal was to promote reading with a secondary benefit being the raising of funds. Our students really got into the reading component, and we are so proud of all of them!

The West Elementary 3rd Annual Read-A-Thon ended last week with a School-wide Celebration held on Friday, February 16 at 1:25pm in the West Gymnasium. Together, our students exceeded the number of minutes read last year by over 70,000 minutes! Every single West Elementary student helped us reach this goal! Thank you to all of our classroom teachers for logging minutes read here at school.

Thank you to all families who also signed up for a Read-A-Thon account and who spread the word to help raise funds for West!

Raffle tickets were earned for every 20-minute reading session logged. Raffle prizes and winners are as follows:

- **Starbucks Gift Cards** - Cowyn Baker, Karody Hirt, Cora Klein, Everly Wurtz, Allie Haskins, Victoria Smith, Braylynn Walsh, Skylar Riggins, Lily Wildin, Brecken Stueve, Brecklyn Goehring, Kitra Ward, Noah Petit, Erica Carlson, Luna Brashear, Stella Fiehler, Aubri Francis, John Maseion, Kailey Raub, U'Neek Brown, Ivy Feathers, Anna Geyer, Kaylee Sedillos, Harper Sibert, Vienna Moody, Joslynn Herechski, Jersie White, Cooper Baughman, Yndilon Garcia, Isabella Scott, Payton Lattimer, Amarri Sutton, Mollie Foster, Hayden Jones, Colton Parker
- **Remote Control Monster Truck** - Clayton Ivy, Hananiah Page, Judah Schiffner
- **Chiefs Poster and Prize Pack** - Parker Williams
- **Dick's Sporting Goods Gift Card** - Sawyer Lightfoot
- **Cash Money Prize** - Anora Hatfield
- **Dairy Queen Gift Card** - Monroe Nelson, Bennett Brazzle
- **Dodge Ball vs. Specials Teachers** - Madison Walsh
- **Poppy Tee's Red Raiders Hoodie** - Bryson Rookstool
- **Sports Car Fan Bundle** - Aaron Carndenas-Munoz
- **Scary Book Bundle** - Bailey Long
- **Video Game Book and Poster Set** - Zachariah Callaway
- **\$30 at the BOGO Scholastic Book Fair** - Lucy Williams
- **Sonic Gift Card** - Emmerie Munson, Violet Tolle
- **McDonald's Gift Card** - Lyamme Unruh, Laela Valdivia, Sarena Johnson, Journey Waugh
- **Tin Can Robot** - Sullivan Falco

- **KU Prize** - James Katt
- **Flint Hills Discovery Day Pass** - Adlee Geyer
- **Amanda's Cookie Colony Gift Card** - Evie Tolle
- **Girls Positively Poster Prize Pack** - Kaedra Valdivia
- **Guinness World Records Book 2024** - Bode Klein
- **Wamego Track Club Registration** - James Pearl, Evelyn Blackwell, Ellie Washburn, Jesus Franco
- **Wings of Fire Book Bundle** - Elora Clark
- **I Survived Book Bundle** - Aggie Montag
- **Roald Dahl Book Bundle** - Bridgette McNutt
- **Fourth Grade Free Homework Pass** - Kenworth Cottrell
- **Poppy Tee's Red Raiders T-Shirt** - Reagan Jones
- **Day Pass to the Dub** - Tynlee Biesenthal
- **Third Grade Free Homework Pass** - Aaron Dagenais
- **Sunset Zoo Family Day Pass** - Sam Wickenhauser
- **2022-2023 Yearbook** - Sernitie Rawhouser, Jaiden Armstrong-Elliott, Serinity Moeller, Amelia Breault, Emmalynn Sampson, Clifford Baughman
- **Matching Besties Corgi Poster Prize Pack** - Nia Dugan
- **Story Walk Title from Wamego Public Library** - Cade Campbell
- **Graphic Novel Book Bundle** - Harley Coppenbarger
- **Author Illustrator Set** - Emma Palenske
- **Pokemon Book and Poster Set** - Coraline Karnowski
- **Pen Bouquet** - Addison Campbell
- **Animal Love Book Bundle** - Brooklyn Schneider
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book Bundle** - Toni Gingles, Paisley Clower
- **Goosebumps Book Bundle** - Nolan Aldridge
- **Mike Lupica Sports Book Bundle** - Eddie Maseion
- **Chapter Book Bundle** - Pippa Pugh
- **Midwest Dream Car Collection Membership** - Isabel Santana
- **Sports Fan Poster Prize Pack** - Lizzie Miksch
- **\$100 Apple Gift Card** - Brooklyn Bailey
- **\$100 Apple Gift Card** - Hunter Ivy
- **Who HQ What Was History Book Bundle** - Charlotte Kreider
- **Nonfiction Sports Book and Poster Set** - Will Lutter
- **Shark Book Bundle** - Brantley Burnett
- **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Prize** - Destin Schultz
- **Nintendo Gift Card and Prizes** - Aidan Molden
- **Fifth Grade Free Homework Pass** - Declan Murphy
- **Who HQ Historical Figures Book Bundle** - Lillian Ford
- **Movie and Game Night Basket** - James Munz
- **Who HQ Famous Musicians** - Grayson Moody
- **AMC Movie Theatre Tickets** - Henry Kirby
- **AMC Movie Theatre Tickets** - Caden Herman
- **Bad Guys Book Bundle** - Ashlynn Hermesch
- **K-State Prize Bundle** - Jaxen Tilton
- **Rick Riordan Book Bundle** - Camden Bellinder
- **Harry Potter Artifacts** - Addison Haetten

Our top 100 readers will receive a free pass to jump at LEAP! in Manhattan, Kansas! Congratulations to the following students who all read 625 minutes or more!

- Parker Williams
- Rhett Daly
- Sam Wickenhauser
- Ryker Conaway
- Adelyn Rookstool
- Bridgette McNutt
- Hananiah Page
- Madison Walsh
- Emma Palenske
- Anora Hatfield
- Emmalynn Sampson
- Evie Tolle
- Aaron Dagenais
- Braylynn Walsh
- Bode Klein
- Arielle Dagenais
- Aubrey Walsh
- Nolan Aldridge
- Amelia Risser
- Madyson Marfield
- Trenton Markham
- Hadley King
- Claire Rossow
- Amelia Breault
- Bleu Nelson
- Brynn Markham
- Bailey Long
- Bellamy Osborne
- Jersie White
- Lillian Ford
- Sadie Williams
- Caleb Lancaster
- Lute Schwartz
- Austin Bailey
- Cade Campbell
- Core Klein
- Ellie Massey
- Alyssa Haselhorst
- Kelvin McNeil
- Joey Fry
- Prestyn Herman
- Eli Fry
- Violet Tolle
- Amelia Breault
- Nia Dugan
- Jaxen Tilton
- Sawyer Lightfoot
- Aiden Wingerter
- Sernitie Rawhouser

- Ty Brown
- Brantley Burnett
- Brodey Salas
- Blaine Schmidt
- Emma Woolard
- Emma Hall
- Callie Conwell
- Lincoln Ralston
- Elias Morgan
- Kenworth Cottrell
- Journey Waugh
- Pippa Pugh
- Noah Petit
- Hadlyn Martin
- Sophia Haselhorst
- KyLeigh Lucas
- Coraline Karnwoski
- Turner Cole
- Hailey Martin
- Eli Harger
- Jaidyn Weeks
- Colton Parker
- Kevlynn Coates
- Braylee Ferris
- Brooklyn Bailey
- Henry Kirby
- Hannah Martin
- Lawson Wollenberg
- Leo Pearl
- Charlotte Kreider
- Aubri Francis
- Payton Lattimer
- Killian McCarter
- Koy Simpson
- Kaylee Sedillos
- Olivia Adams
- Kaedra Valdivia
- Kitra Ward
- Kenedi Francis
- Brecken Stueve
- Brooklyn Schneider
- Isaac Amerin
- Anna Geyer
- Isaac Meitler
- Tynlee Biesenthal
- Reagan Jones
- Marina Sprenkle
- Emily Pickard
- Sawyer Fillinger

- Will Lutter
- Sophia Yarnell

Additionally, the class with the most reading minutes will enjoy lunch **AT Pizza Hut** here in Wamego in the near future! Congratulations to Mrs. Price's Fifth Grade class for winning this prize! Again, every single student helped us reach our goal. As a thank you to each student, they will all receive a gummy bear scented bookmark from the Friends of the Wamego Public Library. Students will receive their bookmarks when they go to library class.

To bring our Read-A-Thon to a close, our top three readers were given the opportunity to "slime" Mrs. Flinn in front of the student body during our celebration assembly. It was a crazy, fun afternoon and the students really got into the finale of Mrs. Flinn's "cruisin' for an ooziin". Congratulations to Parker Williams, Rhett Daly, and Madison Walsh for being our top readers who got to enjoy sliming Mrs. Flinn! Also, our USD 320 Elementary Teacher of the Year, Sara Greene, joined in on the fun! It was a blast!

A special thank you is extended to Librarian and Read-A-Thon Volunteer Coordinator, Hallie Hatfield! She did an amazing job facilitating our Read-A-Thon again this year!



- **West PTO Updates:**

PTO and Site Council have been moved to **Monday, March 25**. Site Council will be hearing from our Interventionists on ways for families to support their children's literacy skills acquisition. PTO will be planning for spring activities.

Classroom Basket Raffle - This has begun! Kelli Eichman will be getting laundry baskets for items that are brought to your rooms. Flyers were sent out to parents last Thursday, along with detailed information on this fundraiser. Basket assignments are as follows:

- [Arts and Crafts \(Beason/Eckart\); Cleaning \(Haynes\)](#)
- [Baking \(Linn\); Summer Fun \(Vanderpool/Kruse\)](#)
- [Family Fun \(Greene/Ruby\); Gift Card Tree \(Hirt/Meinhardt\)](#)
- [Movie Night \(Price/Rowe\); Snacks for a Year \(McIntosh/Blume\)](#)
- [Tailgating Fun \(Wilber/Williams\); Ultimate Sports Fan \(Townsend\)](#)

Parent Teacher Conference Meal - PTO will provide a meal for teachers catered by Smokin' Wille's on **Thursday, March 7** during conferences from around 4-5pm. The office will have a light meal for staff available after school on **March 5**.