

## West Elementary BOE Report & West Items for the Good

May 7, 2025

Submitted by Principal Amy Flinn

**Enrollment:** No change from April, 2025

Third Grade: 123

Fourth Grade – 129

Fifth Grade – 99

Total – 351

### **West Elementary BOE Report from Mrs. Flinn:**

Our West Elementary Staff had our last faculty meeting of the year on **Wednesday, May 7**. We spent our time planning professional development for 2025-2026, specifically around the effective Unit and Lesson Internalization Process for our core literacy curriculum, CKLA, and reflecting on our progress toward our building goals, which support the USD 320 Strategic Plan. We also spent some time finalizing details to wrap up the current school year. More information on our time together is shared below.

- **Vision for Effective CKLA Implementation Training - Amy Flinn, Sara Greene, Cheryl Price**
  - Amy Flinn, Sara Greene, Cheryl Price and other USD 320 staff attended a cohort training with Greenbush in Lawrence on **February 27** for districts that have adopted and implemented CKLA. It was excellent. We have continued to meet with this group via Zoom for three additional training sessions.
  - At our faculty meeting, we shared some of what we learned and plans for more conversations about how to use this training with building teams to strengthen our core instruction in literacy.
  - We reviewed the [Unit Internalization Process](#) and the [Lesson Internalization Process](#) and plan to incorporate these processes into our PD time for next school year on the PD4U days (afternoons).
  - Specifically, we are going to start with the Unit Internalization Process, which includes the following steps:
    - **Unit Internalization:**
      - ***Identify the Unit Topics/Themes***
      - ***READ THE TEXTS*** - Read all the complete core texts in the unit. Don't try to "read along" with the students. Teachers need to read the essential texts ahead of time from start to finish and understand how the text deepens student comprehension/background knowledge.
      - ***Analyze the Assessments/Tasks*** - Teachers take the mid-unit assessment and end of unit assessment ahead of time. Provide exemplars of how you would want students to respond.
      - ***Review the Targets/Standards*** - CKLA aligns with the KS Standards. We CANNOT omit units! Teachers need to understand the main subjects or themes, understand how the topic fits, recognize the core concepts, identify how topic(s) build on prior knowledge.
- **Follow-up to WES Goals for 2024-2025**
  - **Basic 5 Observations - Data Review**
    - [Basic 5 Spring 2025](#)
    - We noted that our staff is doing a great job with the rate of positive to corrective feedback to students, as well as providing multiple Opportunities to Respond (OTRs).
    - We will continue to complete the Basic 5 Observation process during the 2025-2026 school year to collect data on Positive to Corrective Feedback, OTRs, and On-Task Behaviors.
  - **eWalkthrough Data 2025**
    - Mrs. Flinn shared that she has completed 300+ walkthroughs of West classrooms this school year.

- We reviewed our data and identified multiple celebrations, including the regular posting and communicating of learning goals/objectives/intentions, high levels of OTRs, and high percentages of classroom instruction focused on higher levels of thinking in the analyzing/evaluating range.
- ***Kagan Implementation***
  - PLC Teams – We completed a Round Robin Record of all of the Kagan Structures used this year in West classrooms.
  - Kagan Coaching – We will be providing Kagan Coaching again next school year to all instructional staff. Implementation of Kagan Structures is expected of all WES teachers on a regular basis in all classrooms.
  - Structure of the Month (SAM) Club for 2025-2026 – Will be offering this at WES after school. Molly Townsend will facilitate this after school group for additional training and professional development opportunities for staff with respect to Kagan implementation.
  - “Kagan Mentor Buddy” for Teachers for 2025-2026 – We will assign a Kagan “mentor” buddy for each teacher next school year to help with the implementation process.
- ***Positive School Culture – Keep building upon what we have achieved this year!***
  - Next year – Focusing on “School Pride”
  - Taking care of our building – including classrooms, bathrooms, playground, exterior, etc.

## Items for the Good for West Elementary

5-7-2025

- ***Sara McCarter Recognized as USD 320 Elementary Teacher of the Year***

On Saturday, April 12, teachers that were named their district's "2026 Teacher of the Year" for Region 1 in Kansas were honored at the annual banquet held in Salina, Kansas at the Tony's Pizza Event Center. Kansas Commissioner of Education, Randy Watson, was in attendance and presided over the event.

We are so proud of our very own Sara McCarter, Special Education Teacher at West Elementary, for being selected as the USD 320 Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2026. Mrs. McCarter will attend the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network Conference in Wichita in September of 2025 to be placed on a team with other Kansas Teacher of the Year nominees to travel to other districts over the course of the 2025-2026 school year and learn more from the best in our business. Generally, these teams of Kansas Teacher of the Year nominees include eight teachers from our region. There are four regions that Kansas recognizes for the Kansas Teacher of the Year Program.

Mrs. McCarter has been an educator for 22 years. She has participated in numerous professional development opportunities and taken many different graduate level courses to strengthen her skill set and knowledge in working with students with exceptionalities. Mrs. McCarter is truly a life-long learner and loves to gain more knowledge and skills to better serve the students in her care. She is one of the most committed educators I have worked with in my 30 years as a building principal. She is always looking for ways that she can better meet the needs of her students and creates multiple materials and schedules to support the students on her caseload. It is truly remarkable what she does in a day. McCarter has a heart for this work and it shows. We appreciate all that she does and we are so thankful to have her on our team!

Congratulations, Sara McCarter for being named the USD 320 Elementary Teacher of the Year! We are so proud of you!



- ***Transition Support for Incoming Third Graders and Outgoing Sixth Graders***

We always try to provide transition opportunities for our students coming into Third Grade, as well as for our Fifth Graders going into middle school. These activities include the following:

- Second Grade Transition Visits for Identified Students with High Anxiety - These have already taken place between our Special Education Staff at Central and West.
- Second Grade Visit to West - Tuesday, May 13 from 10:15-11:45am. Meet with teachers, tour school, meet with Mrs. Flinn.
- Sixth Grade Orientation/Parent/Student Meeting - May 1 from 6:00-7:00pm at WMS.

- Fifth Grade Transition Visit to WMS - Tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 19 from 11:30am to 1:20pm.

- ***Third Grade Citizens Make a Difference***

Third Grade students recently completed a social studies project that encouraged them to think about how they can be good citizens by helping their community. Through thoughtful discussions, students explored the idea that anyone—no matter their age—can make a positive impact. Students learned how to contribute to the common good both at school and in the wider Wamego community.

As part of the project, students identified areas in the community they believed could be improved. They were then grouped according to their interests and completed a STEM project, creating models that represented their visions for a better Wamego.

Some of their innovative ideas included building a YMCA or indoor recreation center, adding an animal park, and designing a family-friendly walking/bike path along the Kansas River. Other groups envisioned community gardens, handicap-accessible playgrounds, and new daycare centers.

The students' creativity and commitment to their projects were truly inspiring. They took great pride in their work and demonstrated how even the youngest citizens can help shape a stronger, more inclusive community.





- ***Third Graders Explore the Scientific Process with Peep Package Parachutes!***

Third Grade students recently engaged in a hands-on STEM activity to learn about the Scientific Process by becoming parachute engineers! In this spring-themed challenge, students took on the role of the Easter Bunny, designing parachutes that could safely deliver treats to children below.

The learning began with a video introduction about how parachutes work. Students then brainstormed design ideas, created detailed sketches, listed required materials, and wrote procedures for their projects. Working in teams of three, students used communication, creativity, and critical thinking to bring their parachutes to life using limited materials.

On Friday, April 19, the big test day arrived! Each parachute was attached to a small package and dropped from a height of six feet. Students collected data across three trials, making design improvements between drops to increase flight time and effectiveness.

The activity concluded with group and class reflections using the Kagan Inside-Outside Circle structure. Students shared their successes, challenges, and discoveries, learning from each other's designs and problem-solving approaches. This project not only deepened their understanding of the Scientific Process, but also fostered teamwork, perseverance, and real-world application of STEM skills.



- ***Fourth Graders Dissect Cow Eye in Science Class with Help from WHS Students***

This week, our Fourth Graders had an exciting opportunity to learn from WHS Teacher, Beth Schiel, and seven of her high school students during our Living Things science unit. They visited our classrooms to help students explore how the human eye works—by dissecting cow eyes!

In class, we've been learning about how our eyes function and what can cause vision problems. As part of our "Eye Model" activity, students build a model of a human eye using a magnifying lens to represent the cornea. They investigate how the shape of the lens relates to its job in the eye and observe how the size of the pupil affects how much light enters.

The high schoolers led the dissection and shared their knowledge of the pupil, cornea, lens, retina, iris, and optic nerve. Our students got an up-close look at how all these parts work together to send messages to the brain. It was an awesome hands-on experience that really brought the lesson to life!

Thanks again to Ms. Schiel and her students for making it such a meaningful day for our kids.





- Fourth Graders Recreate “Boston Tea Party” as Culminating Activity to CKLA Unit**

To celebrate the end of their ELA unit on the American Revolution, Fourth Grade students participated in a fun and memorable "Boston Tea Party" event! Students sipped hot tea from real teacups and enjoyed delicious scones provided by the district kitchen, creating an authentic colonial experience. To wrap up the celebration, they watched an episode of *Liberty's Kids* focused on the Revolutionary War, created war hero caricatures, and completed a lantern craft to represent Paul Revere's midnight ride. It was the perfect way to blend learning with a bit of 18th-century flair!





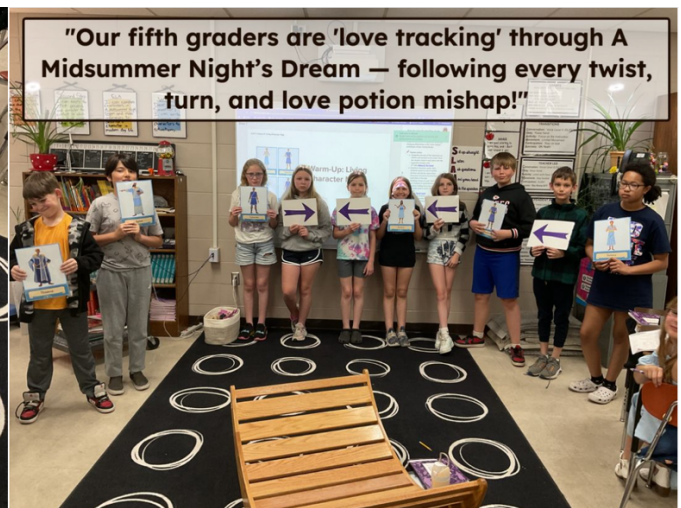
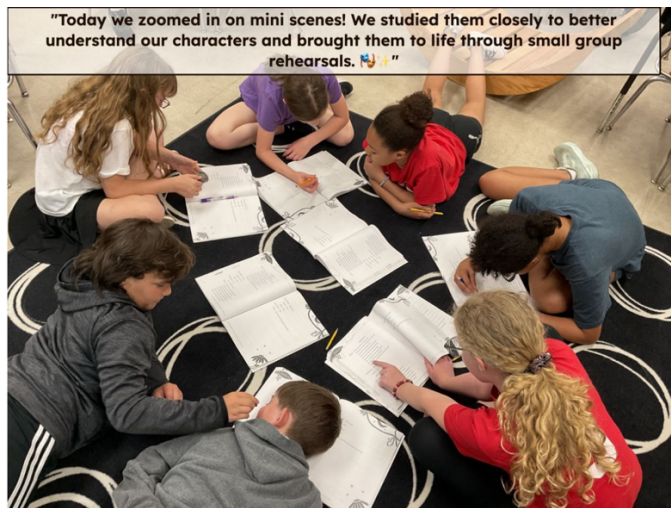
- **Fourth Graders Host 50 States Showcase**

After months of dedicated research on the regions of the United States, Fourth Grade students proudly shared their hard work at the Annual 50 States Showcase! Each student selected a specific state to explore, diving into topics such as Climate, Culture, Landforms, Landmarks, and Products/Resources. They organized their findings into well-structured paragraphs, created detailed posters featuring their writing and images, and even crafted dioramas of their chosen state at home. Students researched a famous person from their state, wrote scripts from that person's perspective, and dressed in character for the big event! Family members, friends, and the entire West Elementary community were invited to attend and celebrate the impressive work of every student.



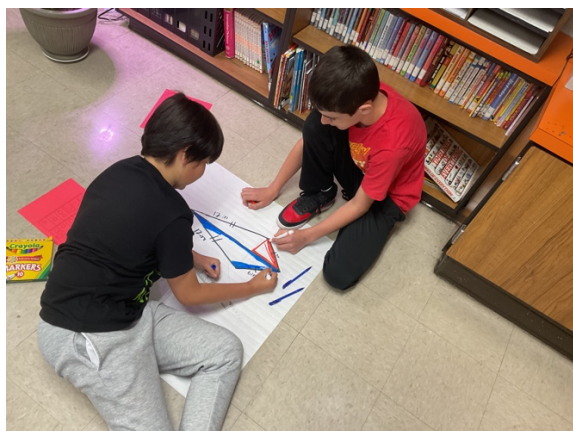
- **Fifth Graders Study Shakespeare in Language Arts Class**

Our Fifth Graders have been having a lot of fun studying Shakespeare! We have been getting used to the old-fashioned language, showing what we know about the characters by writing diary entries from their points of view, and practicing drawing conclusions and making inferences. We have also been working hard to memorize Puck's speech from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It has been exciting to bring Shakespeare's world to life!



- ***Fifth Graders Explore Geometry in Math Class***

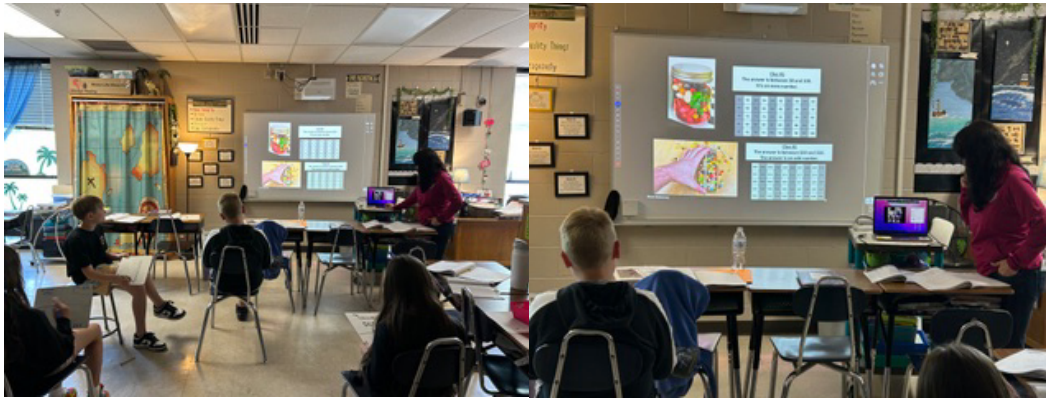
Our Fifth Graders have been busy exploring geometry, area, and volume! We studied the properties of different shapes and recreated them on big pieces of chart paper. Using our iPads, we designed our own cereal boxes by following specific measurements. To learn about area, we used paper squares to cover different spaces — and when we finished, we had a blast throwing the paper in the air like confetti!



- ***Mrs. Beason's Fifth Grade Class Partners with MVA***

Ms. Lori Rice, former West teacher and current teacher at Manhattan Virtual Academy, recently visited Mrs. Beason's Fifth Grade to collaborate. MVA online students met with in-person reading group students at West Elementary and together the students tackled an engaging estimation activity! This is the second time for the collaboration; earlier in the year they did a reading comprehension activity with their combined groups. On Monday, April 21, students learned about visually organizing items into groups of 10 and 100 to think about estimating. Students selected a small jar or large jar of jellybeans and used clues to determine the correct amount. Students also participated in a pattern-finding input/output math activity. It's amazing to see different strategies and hear thoughtful reasoning, no matter where students are learning from!





- **West Elementary MTSS News**

- **LETRS Training:**

Mrs. Ross and Mrs. McCarter are finishing up the first part of the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) professional development program, demonstrating their commitment to advancing literacy instruction. This foundational phase provided educators with research-based knowledge on the science of reading, equipping them with essential strategies to support students' language and reading development. Their dedication to enhancing instructional practices reflects a strong investment in student achievement and a continued pursuit of excellence in education. With this solid foundation in place, they are looking forward to beginning Part 2 of the program next year and deepening their understanding and application of effective literacy instruction.

- **Language Sample Collection and Analysis with People who use AAC Systems:**

Mrs. Moody and Mrs. McCarter recently participated in a professional development session focused on language sample collection and analysis with individuals who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems. The training provided by Infinetec was called *Language Sample Collection and Analysis with People who use AAC Systems* with Gail VanTatenhove as the trainer. This training provided valuable insights into evidence-based methods for capturing and interpreting language use among AAC users, enhancing educators' ability to support diverse communication needs. By developing their skills in analyzing spontaneous language samples, teachers are better equipped to inform instruction, set meaningful goals, and monitor progress for students using AAC. Their active engagement in this specialized training reflects a strong commitment to inclusive education and to fostering effective communication for all learners.

- **West PTO Update**

**We had our last PTO meeting of the school year on Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00pm.**

- **End of Year Assessment Celebration** - Final schedule is complete. Activities include the following: Inflatables, Snow Cones, Dodgeball Tourney, Kickball, Gaga Ball, STEM Bins in Library, 9-Square in Lunchroom, School Scavenger Hunt. Breaks will be provided to classroom teachers for 25 minutes by other staff (**ALL STAFF REVIEW SCHEDULE TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE**). Each class can pick a dress up theme. Teachers are responsible for taking their students to all of the activities! Be sure to leave space for all staff to have an opportunity to sign up for the "extra" activities!
- ***Classroom Basket Raffle*** – We had a great response! We were able to create 16 baskets (originally had only planned for 10). Lots of people are purchasing tickets. We'll draw for winners on **Friday, May 2**.

- **Teacher Appreciation Week** - Jenny Donnelly is the chair and has some fun things planned. See next item for details!
- **Fifth Grade End of Year Celebration** - Chairs are Angie Collins, Ashley Cottrell, Michaela Bellinder, and Kiley Moody. We will be taking Fifth Graders to the K-State Union for bowling and games from 9:00-11:00am. We will return to wash hands/use restrooms at school and then bus students to the park for a pizza lunch. Corey Reeves will be our “Emcee” for the afternoon and DJ music for the students in the park pavilion. The first hour post lunch will be “Survivor” games between students. The last hour and 15 minutes will be free time for students to dance, play games like pickleball, kickball, football, basketball, etc., use the Splash Pad, and just “hang out” with their classmates. We will bus back to West at 2:45pm.
- **Budget Approvals (PTO approved these items last night):**
  - New basketball goals for the playground (adjustable, 72” glass backboards, etc.). We will be removing the old basketball goals and painting a new court.
  - Pickleball Nets for playground - remove old tetherball poles and place them in this area.
  - Maintenance will be painting a new basketball court and will paint a pickleball court on our concrete playground area.
  - Add another seating area in the glass alcove outside of the front doors on the inside of the building. This will include seats and a table.
  - Items I have purchased from existing funds:
    - Raspberry Pi for Lunchroom TV to show slideshows that we show in the main hallway
    - New balls for the playground
    - Snack pantry, coffee bar, and soda/drink cooler for PLC Teaming room
    - New chairs for PLC Teaming room
- **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week - May 5-9, 2025**  
PTO will be providing some fun surprises for our staff next week! The theme is “Teachers Are Like Good Books - They Can Change You Forever”. Here is what you can expect:
  - **Monday, May 5** - *Green Eggs and Ham* - Breakfast of yummy scones provided!
  - **Tuesday, May 6** - *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* - Cookie Bar!
  - **Wednesday, May 7** - *The Giving Tree* - Thank you for all you do! Enjoy a fun drink station.
  - **Thursday, May 8** - *I Know an Old Lady That Swallowed a Pie* - Create your own mini pie! Make sure to chew!
  - **Friday, May 9** - *Pizza and Taco: Too Cool for School* - Pizza Party for lunch!
- **Final Central/West Site Council Meeting April 29**  
We had our last Site Council meeting of the year on Tuesday, April 29. We reviewed our data from Central and West on the Family Engagement Survey and shared our goals that have been set using this data. We also shared our top 10 short-term facilities goals and our top 3 long-term facilities goals for each building. We are hoping we can increase attendance at Site Council meetings for the 2025-2026 school year, as we normally have very few parents attend.
- **6th Annual FFA Ag Day Olympics at West April 15**  
It was another great day for some FFA Ag Day fun at West Elementary School on a beautiful April 15 spring day! Tuesday was our 6th Annual FFA Ag Day Olympics, hosted by the WHS FFA and Sponsors, Andy Morton and Leah Euler. The WHS FFA Officers planned the day for our students and did a nice job planning engaging, hands-on stations that taught our students more about the important field of agriculture.

Each class rotated through eight different stations over the course of about 70 minutes. The stations included such topics as Horse and Goats, Livestock, Baler and Tractor Safety, Milking Station, Ag Games Station, Ear Tag Drawing and Ear Tag Notching, Plants Station, and Challenger Workshop. Students loved the hands-on activities and learned more information about agriculture and various aspects of the world of agriculture. It is important

for our students to understand more about this topic, as agriculture is a top industry in our state, country, and world.

We appreciate the efforts of our local FFA students, along with their sponsor, Mr. Andy Morton and Mrs. Leah Euler, on providing this unique learning opportunity for our students. It was definitely a worthwhile, fun day for all!



- ***Third and Fourth Graders Enjoy Play Day Fun!***

Our Third and Fourth Graders enjoyed beautiful mornings for their annual "Play Day" at the Wamego City Park from 9:00-11:00am on May 5 (Third Grade) and from 8:30-10:30 on May 6 (Fourth Grade). I want to give a huge shout out of thanks to our awesome P.E. Teacher, McKenzie Ontjes, for organizing this event, and thank you to every parent and staff volunteer that helped in any way, from taking items to and from the park, supervising a student group, providing our snack and/or first aid station, and providing additional supervision! It's safe to say our students had a wonderful time and were tired the evening of their event!





- ***Talent Shows Friday, May 9 and Monday May 12***

Our Talent Shows will be held on **Friday, May 9** (Fifth Grade) and **Monday, May 12** (Third/Fourth Grade) during specials. These have been confirmed by Mrs. Hermesch.

- **May 9** - Fifth Grade - 8:10-9:35am (Only Fifth Grade will watch in the gym. We will Zoom to other grades.)
- **May 12** - Fourth Grade - 11:30am-1:15pm (Only Fourth Grade will watch in the gym. We will Zoom to other grades.)
- **May 12** - Third Grade - 1:25-3:10pm (Only Third Grade will watch in the gym. We will Zoom to other grades.)

- ***USD 320 Retirement Reception - May 14***

We are so excited to honor and recognize our USD 320 retirees at a reception on **Wednesday, May 15** from 3:45-5:00pm at the PLC Building. Congratulations to Erin Bender, Shelly Corp, Carole Hay, Cindy Johnston, Robin Laughlin, Maria Paz, Diana Phillips, Mary Poe, and Tara Roberts! We are so happy for you all!

- ***Senior Drive By***

Our seniors will be driving by on 6th Street on **Friday, May 16** around 9:00am. I'll be announcing when it is time for students to move to the sidewalk. Your class can make posters or simply wave and cheer. Yes, this is during our celebration, so if it conflicts with your dodgeball time or your inflatable time, you just won't participate.

- ***Team Leaders/Secretaries for 2025-2026***

- Third Grade – Team Leader - Stephanie Linn; Secretary - Cathy Wilber
- Fourth Grade - Team Leader - Mikala Vanderpool; Secretary - Saige Halseth
- Fifth Grade - Team Leader - Cheryl Price ; Secretary - Bri Rowe
- Specialized Team - Team Leader - Marcia Hermesch; Secretary - McKenzie Ontjes
- Sped/MTSS Team - Team Leader - Abby Ross; Secretary - Amanda Remmert
- Title I Team - Team Leader - Courtney Simpson; Secretary - Jenny Donnelly

- ***Back to School Night/Parent Night 2025***

We will be having this event on **Tuesday, August 12**. The schedule (at this time) is as follows:

- 5:15pm - Fifth Grade
- 6:15pm - Fourth Grade
- 7:15pm - Third Grade

Students will drop off their supplies/backpacks and then be dismissed to a specified location with other staff. Teachers will present to their parents/guardians for about 30 minutes with each session lasting no more than 45 minutes total. We are still working on details of what we will be doing with the children that attend during that time, but we will have a plan by August! Again, our entire point is to get as close to 100% attendance as possible!



- ***Specialized Team News for April 2025***

**Art News from Mrs. Havice:**

We have been working on finishing up our projects over the course of the school year. As each student finishes at their own pace, they have been using their knowledge and artistic skills applied towards a grade level specific project.

Third Grade will be working on Cerealism, which picks up with a mosaic type piece of art involving a cereal box based on the artist Michael Albert. They will be working on this in their table group in order to team build and develop a plan that all members will be needed to carry out. This will also allow them to connect their CKLA knowledge from earlier in the school year when mosaics were discussed and apply it to art.

Fourth Grade is working on drawing toucans using a step-by-step drawing method that allows them to make individual choices, as well as learn to make small adjustments with their work along the way. They are focusing on the drawing, tracing, and adding color through mixing multiple colors with crayons and/or colored pencils.

Fifth Grade has been exploring drawing using grids as a way to bring accuracy to their drawings of items they are unfamiliar with how to draw. This is an extension of their recent unit work with CKLA and the various artists associated with the Renaissance. The students have been exploring this using silly pictures as a way to help them draw one piece at a time to create a larger work of art.

**Counselor News from Mrs. Butler:**

After finishing up our Second Step lessons, the students have been working hard to complete their career exploration research project. The students have chosen a career that interests them to research. They used Xello to research the career of their choice.

After researching, students began working on their final presentation. Third Grade students are working on a career self-portrait in PicEdu. In Fourth Grade, students will also be using PicEdu to present their information. Our Fifth Grade students will be presenting their research in Google Slides or Book Creator. All presentations will be posted to Xello for future reference.

**Explore News from Mrs. Hatfield and Mrs. Spearie:**

Our tower garden is on the grow, and with the last frost behind us, we're gearing up to plant a deliciously educational pizza garden in our raised garden bed at West. Meanwhile, in celebration of Earth Day, our students have been digging into LEGO's Build the Change program, where they explore big ideas around climate change and biodiversity.

**Library News from Mrs. Hatfield:**

This April, all our students at West cast their votes for the William Allen White Children's Book Award, which is the oldest statewide children's book award in the United States. The White Awards Program was established to encourage the children of Kansas to read and enjoy good books. In order to be eligible to vote, all students had to read at least two books from the master list. Students' votes from across the state will be compiled at Emporia State University and the author of the winning book will visit Kansas to accept the award in the Fall!

Additionally, this month our school's BOGO Book Fair was a great success, bringing joy, excitement, and a love of reading to our school community.

**Music News from Mrs. Hermes:**

Students have been very excited to hear about the Talent Show for this year. Parents are invited to attend. Please check in with the office before going to the gym.

- Fifth Grade - Friday, May 9, 2025 - 8:10 - 9:30 am
- Fourth Grade - Monday, May 12, 2025 - 11:30-1:15 pm
- Third Grade - Monday, May 12, 2025 - 1:25-3:10 pm

All classes have worked on recorders this month and are really sounding good!

Third Grade worked on pitches B, A, and G. A few songs they played are *Hot Cross Buns*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Gently Sleep*, and *Frog in the Meadow*.

Fourth Grade worked on pitches B, A, G, Low E, Low D and High C. A few songs they played are *Old MacDonald*, *Lullaby*, *French Song*, *Rain Rain* and *Hi! High C*. They finished with the Jamaican Folk Song, *Lost my Gold Ring*, by playing in three part harmony.

Fifth Grade worked on pitches B,A,G, Low E, Low D, High C and High D. A few songs they played are *Skin and Bones*, *Hosisipa*, *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, *This Little Light of Mine* and *Good Night Ladies*.

Fifth Grade classes have also prepared a few songs to sing at our area nursing home and care facilities in May.

### **Physical Education News from Mrs. Ontjes:**

April has been a busy and exciting month in P.E.!

We kicked things off with *Nine Square in the Air*—always a student favorite! This was their second time playing it this year, and it was amazing to see how much they’ve improved since the first round.

Next, we wrapped up our track unit, which was full of energy and fun. Students had the chance to try long jump, high jump, and even javelin throwing (with pool noodles!). It was great to see how engaged they were with the different events—and even more exciting to see some students come in with prior knowledge and skills!

To close out the month, we’ve been reviewing throwing and catching, and tying it all together by playing wiffle ball. It’s been such a joy to watch the students work together as a team and cheer each other on.

We’re looking forward to all the fun May has in store—especially our upcoming Play Day at the park. We can’t wait to see you there!

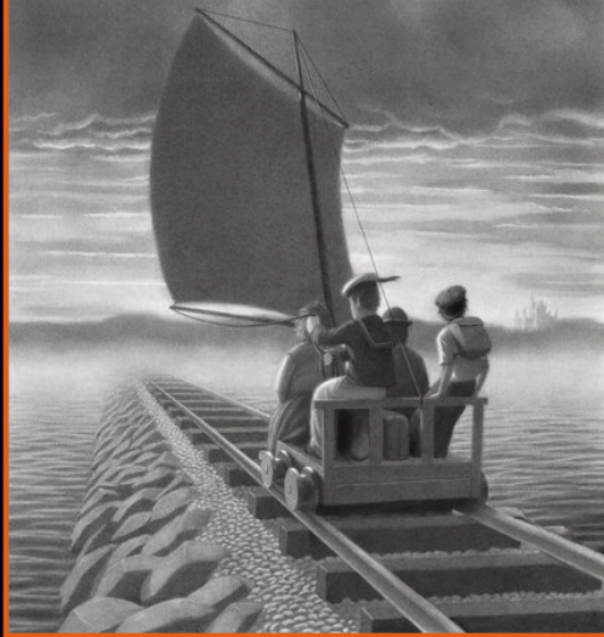
### **Technology News from Mrs. Spearie:**

Fifth Grade continues to work on their research projects on a family trip to a national park. They have composed slides on interesting facts about their park, history, culture, events, wildlife, and native plants. They found accommodations near their national parks and created an appropriate packing list. They continue to use online resources such as the national park service’s website to find reliable information. In addition, they are working on learning how to format text and images in slides.

In Fourth Grade, we began a new project called [“The Mysteries of Harris Burdick”](#) by Chris Van Allsburg. After reading the story prompts, students selected an image that has an accompanying title and line. Their task was to use inferences from the picture, title, and line to create their own mystery stories. After writing their story, they began to type them into Book Creator and format their eBooks.

Third Graders finished up their books in Book Creator. They learned how to use all the tools such as text box, images, pen tools, and emojis. They personalized their backgrounds and fonts. At the end of the month, they practiced typing their email addresses to create pixel art in Excel.

THE MYSTERIES OF  
**HARRIS BURDICK**



CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG