



WESTERN HILLS ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear WHA Families,

As we start the second semester, we quickly welcome February! January passed quickly and we all had some readjusting to do after the long break. February will also move along at a fast pace but we are ready.

This month will be rather quiet with a few important activities that you need to know about:

February 1, Tuesday – Group Pictures will be taken. Teachers will decide the color of shirt that will be worn for this picture.

February 14, Monday – Valentine’s Day Students may exchange cards but there will be no parties

February 21, Monday – President’s Day Holiday – no classes

February 23, Wednesday – Progress reports go out

As the school year progresses we will continue to monitor the COVID virus as it progresses through El Paso and our schools. In making decisions about mask wearing, school closures and following other protocols as needed, I consult and refer to the El Paso Health Department and the information and data they provide. As a private school we are able to decide what rules and mandates we will put into place and follow. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is of the utmost importance and decisions are made for the good of all.

The staff and I will also ask parents to please keep your children at home if they have severe nasal drainage or a persistent cough. The ELC students received another copy of the “Illnesses chart”, please review this as it may help you in deciding what actions to take when your child is showing symptoms. There is one more thing I need you to make note of, very important! On **Thursday, March 3**, our PK-5 th grade students will have the opportunity to attend “Kids, Kows and More” at the county coliseum. Families will receive more information as the date gets closer but parents need to know that they must attend this field trip with their children and it will be an all-day event.

Parents as we continue to move through this semester please stay in touch with your child’s teacher and look for ways to help your child develop the skills needed to move on to the next grade level. The next grade level is right around the corner.

Blessings to all.

Sincerely,

Patricia Aguirre

Director



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

February is the month of love. Our class will be busy learning and celebrating Groundhog Day, 100 days of school. And Will be working with the heart shape, numbers 1-5, colors red and pink. We will Celebrate Valentine's on Feb.14&Feb.18. I want to welcome Liam and Audie to our classroom. Happy Valentine's Day to all.

My best ,
Mrs. Lorena Vázquez

We had a good month for January. Everyone was happy to be back. This is the month of friendship and love. We will be working with the colors red, pink purple the heart shape and letters U,V,W,X and numbers 1-6. We will also be talking about Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Dental Health, and the 5 Senses. We will also celebrate the 100th day.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Read-A-Thon. I would like to welcome Aviana Alcalá to our classroom. Birthday wishes to Maya Palacios and Maddox Bohannon.

Happy Valentines Day to all.
Mrs Marisela
Terrific 2's.



I can not believe that January is over already! I have really enjoyed getting to know all of the kids and learning about them. We are getting into a routine. In February we will be learning about friendship and love. We will introduce the letters n, o, p .q and we will also be discussing the opposites loud and quiet.

Thank you,
Mrs. Davie



Awesome 2-3 yr olds

February is a very special month, it is the month of love and caring. Our classroom will be busy learning and celebrating ground hog day, 100 days of school, read out loud day, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day and space. This month our classroom learning activities will be to review and practice our shapes, numbers, colors and to continue working on our alphabets.

Our classroom will have a small Valentine's Day party during the morning on Monday February 14th 2022. I will send more information through remind at a later date. There will be no classes on Monday February 21, 2022 in observance of Presidents Day.

My best regards,
Mrs. Carmen Lerma

PRE-K THROUGH 5TH

Dear Parents,

Wow, how quickly January has come to an end, the students had a wonderful time at our Polar Express event before the holidays and we would like to thank our room moms for making it all possible. The students enjoyed the movie, lunch, and a variety of crafts on this day. We would also like to thank you for your patience and understanding as a few adjustments were made upon returning to school.

As the new year began, students reviewed classroom expectations, numbers, letters, and sight words. They completed theme 4 to include letters K & L. In Theme 5 we looked at our neighborhoods and communities through different roles. Featured letters were M, N, O, and P.

We will begin Theme 6, "Living Things". This month we will learn about people, animals, plants, and insects and what they need to survive. We will also talk about how things grow and change. Our featured letters will be Q and R. We will be celebrating the 100th Day of School on Feb.10th students may wear a top with 100 items. Let's get creative! We will also celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb.14th students are encouraged to bring cards for their peers. This is a great time to practice writing their names a few cards at a time. Cards may be store bought or hand made. Our room moms will be coordinating a special snack for these dates. Please reach out to them if you would like to help.

Blessings,

Mrs. Mendoza, Mrs. Aguilar & Mrs. Mercado



Dear Parents,

February is a short month, but it will be full of learning and growth for third grade. In math, we are going to be working on multiplication with 2 and 3 digits, division, money, and then moving into fractions. The students will also be studying Presidents. They will be completing a research project, poster, and giving an informative speech on a President. This will be worked on both in school, and at home. There will not be school on February 21st in observance of President's Day. For Valentine's Day, the students will be creating a box for their cards. Please send a shoebox for this activity as soon as possible. Please send their Valentine cards to school completely filled out by the 14th. We will be providing a list of student names very in the coming days. Did you know your child is learning cursive? We have been having fun writing our spelling lists in cursive, and working on a handwriting notebook. The students will continue to learn about character traits, inferences, analogies, parts of speech, and text evidence.

What can be done at home to help with school? Please review work that is sent home.

Journaling at least 3 times a week, have them read and write about the character traits of characters they are reading about. Have them write about their days! Journals make for wonderful keepsakes. Have them counting money, and making change. These activities help reinforce, and make relevant the skills we learn each day in school. Last month, the children did a unit on "Arctic Animals." One of the experiments had them write a hypothesis about the function of blubber. They did a "blubber glove" experiment. Attached are some pictures from that activity, so much fun!

Thank you for all you do to support us in the classroom. Thank you for your help in the read-a thon!!

Mrs. Mora and Mrs. Billstone



4 th and 5 th Grade News,

WELCOME BACK! I am so happy to be back in class with all of the students. I have missed them and was ready to get back to "work". In Reading, we have started with two new novels. "Sugar" by Jewel Parker Rhodes (4 th grade), it is a tale of a strong spirited young girl who rises beyond her circumstances and inspires others to work toward a brighter future. We are also reading, "Elijah of Buxton" by Christopher Paul Curtis, this is a Newberry Honor winning book about freedom and maintaining it. Both of these books focus on contributions of African Americans to the U.S. I felt what better way to celebrate Black History Month in February than honoring these amazing authors. In writing, we are reviewing grammar and mechanics, as well as writing poems, descriptive, persuasive, narrative, and expository essays. In math it's all about the fractions, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of common and uncommon denominators. The student's are also working on organizing and analyzing data, and naming segments, lines, and angles. In science, the students finished up their review of energy, and have begun working with simple machines and static electricity. It was wonderful to get back into the lab. During science lab, the students created, power pulleys made from recyclable material. The pulleys really worked! Paper roller coasters, which included loops, slopes, and curves were also built to encourage the study of energy, and boats made out of cork that were maneuvered using static electricity. In social studies, we are learning and discussing the first colonies that would become the United States. We are reading about how Native Americans, Europeans, and African people populated the 13 colonies. It gives us a greater understanding of the events that shaped our country. In fine arts, the students are practicing and rehearsing for a play. "The Rainbow People" is play about unity and helps the students understand that when people work together, they can find the solutions needed that work best. The students have begun creating the scenery, made props, and are memorizing their lines. They are also learning two new songs, "Do Lord" and "Dry Bones" both of these songs are African American Spiritual Folk Songs that are uplifting and were created to express the communities new faith of sorrow turned to hope. Finally, the students are working on a Black History Month Project. They are using a poster to display an influential black American from the past 100 years. This project not only encourages them to work independently and research the person they picked but it also encourages the student to understand the importance of different cultures and to celebrate diversity.

January has turned out to be an amazing month. Many thanks to all of you for the participation in the read - a - thon, what better way to help the school then by reading and thank you for allowing me to be a part of your child's school year.

Respectfully,
Ms. Stegmiller

