

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear WES Families,

Our students continued to treat one another with respect and kindness as our school transitioned to optional masking. Students understand that people in our building may wear masks or not wear masks for a variety of reasons and all have respected the decisions of others in our building. We are so happy to be taking steps towards returning to normal.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

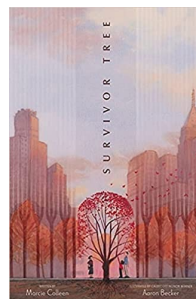
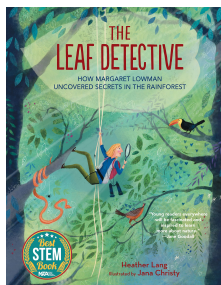
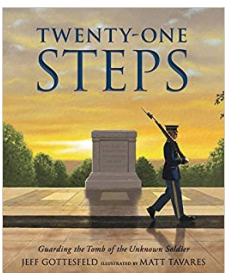
Our school wide parent/teacher conference night will take place on March 24 from 3-7PM. Teachers have been sending home sign up sheets for conferences. We have continued to offer the following options for conferences: virtual, in person and phone conferences to accommodate the busy schedules of our families. Our teachers are looking forward to discussing your child's 2nd trimester progress along with sharing recent assessment data with you as we recently completed the DRA progress monitoring assessments.

Art Show

March is Art Youth Month and in celebration our district holds an art show at the Oakland Public Library. Kindergarten to High school art will be on display at this show. The art is on view when the Oakland Public Library is open. Our district art teachers will be putting up the show this Tuesday. The students who have been selected to have their artwork showcased will be notified on Monday. The art will be up for the month of March. We hope you will stop by to see all the outstanding pieces of art that our RSU 18 artists have created.

March Madness Kick Off

On February 28, we kicked off our annual Nonfiction March Madness Tournament during our Be the Light Virtual Assembly. This is such an exciting time of year because our students have an opportunity to read a variety of nonfiction books and have a chance to vote on which titles will advance to the next round. We have a diverse collection of titles and topics this year. **Here are a few of my favorites:**



Be sure to check in with your child(ren) each week to see who they are rooting for in each round. The 2022 Williams Elementary Nonfiction Champion will be announced in April.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 7: PTA meeting at 6PM - here is the link to join the virtual meeting: <https://meet.sangoma.com/400315731532#1042>

March 8: Early dismissal - Teacher Workshop. Students will be dismissed at noon.

March 16: Hat Day - WES Koala Project Fundraiser

March 17: End of 2nd Trimester

March 18: No School - Teacher Workshop

March 24: Parent/Teacher Conferences 3-7PM

March 25: Report Cards will be sent home



WES Library News!

The Black Bear Book Award Program started in January and is in full swing. As always, this is a voluntary reading program where students may choose to read from a selected group of books the district elementary library staff have selected. The list consists of fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels. Our librarian, Mrs. Smith, has been reading some of the nonfiction titles to classes during their scheduled Read-ins. If a student chooses to read a Black Bear book, they write their name and the name of the book they read on a bear cut out which is then added to the bulletin board in the library. Every student will have their name put into a drawing for copies of the Black Bear Books to keep. Every time a student adds a "bear" to the bulletin board, their name will be added to the drawing again.

The Koala Project

Recently, a small group of students submitted a proposal for a special fundraiser to support the koalas in Australia. The project came about as a result of a student reading the book, *Wildlife Rescue Koala Hospital*, from our Williams Elementary School library. In the back of the book it shared ways to help the koalas. Our students are motivated to adopt a koala at the Koala Hospital. We will be having a special Hat Day fundraiser on Wednesday, March 16. Students may make a donation to the Koala Project to wear a hat on March 16. Our adoption helps with “the rescue and treatment of sick and injured koalas and release back to their home range where possible. Your adoption also assists with the conservation and expansion of habitat, collection of information for research relating to habitat, disease, nutrition and habits of wild koalas. It also helps to provide educational material to increase public awareness of all aspects of the koala,” (<https://www.koalahospital.org.au/page/adopt-a-koala/>). Thank you in advance for supporting this special service project.



Congratulations to Our Newly Announced Eagles!

Grade 3: Gianna Soucy

Gianna was nominated by a classmate and her teacher, Ms. Kinney. Gianna’s classmate said that, “Gianna is always listening to the teacher and always follows the rules.” Ms. Kinney appreciates Gianna’s hard working attitude. She works to her best ability and strives to work out difficult problems. Gianna is also very helpful and kind to those around her. She comes in each morning with a smile on her face and ready to learn! Way to go, Gianna!

Grade 4: Owen Laplante

Mrs. Mayo would like to nominate Owen Laplante this week for Eagle of the Week!!! Owen is a very hardworking, responsible, kind and caring student who is always willing to help his peers. He always puts in his best effort on all of his classwork and homework. Owen takes his time to work carefully and takes pride in everything that he does.

Grade 5: Quinn Lary

This week’s Eagle of the Week is someone who is passionate about learning, loves his classmates, and gives 100% effort on every assignment. I am so happy to nominate Quinn Lary for this award. His classmates have noticed what a good friend and student he is. Quinn never hesitates to ask questions or lend a helping hand. One of Quinn’s best qualities is making people laugh. We are so proud of you, Quinn! Keep being you.

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith, Principal