

# West Side Smoke Signals

...a monthly school newsletter.

February, 2021



## Principal's Corner:

This month I wanted to take a few moments to discuss standardized testing and the state required test, called the Georgia Milestones Assessment System.

As required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a federal law, students in US public schools participate in annual standardized assessments to measure their academic progress. According to the law, students must demonstrate that they are on grade level in reading and math in certain gateway grades in order to be promoted to the next grade. You can find more information about testing requirements at: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaassessmentfactsheet1207.pdf>

In Georgia, the required assessment is the Georgia Milestones Assessment System for students in grades 3-8. Georgia law, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, requires that all students in grades three through eight take the Milestones in the content areas of Reading/English language arts and mathematics. The state of Georgia also requires that we test all students in grades 5 and 8 in the subjects of science and social studies. You can access further information about the Milestones and all the standardized tests currently required for Georgia students at the Georgia Department of Education's testing web page at: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx>

At West Side Elementary, we have been working extremely hard for the past few months to prepare your child to master the Georgia Standards of Excellence that will be evaluated on the Milestones test in April. You can help your child do his or her best on these tests by making sure that he or she continues to be at school on time each day, completes class work and homework assignments, and is well rested and ready to learn each morning. During testing week in April, please help your child by making sure he or she gets plenty of rest, eats a good breakfast, and has a good, stress free morning. If you have questions or concerns about the Milestones test and promotion requirements, please make an appointment to discuss them with your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time. As always, my door is open to you as well.

As a former coach, I like to think of Milestones week as the championship tournament that our students have been preparing for over eight months. While some students will be more nervous than others and some will have better testing sessions than others, all of our students deserve the opportunity to show their best on the test! I am excited for this year's chance for our students to display their academic excellence.

Robert Mountjoy,  
Principal

## Parent's Corner:

Thank you all for joining us for our POWWOW night! We had a remarkable turnout! Our parent involvement at WSE continues to grow and that is a wonderful thing! Studies have proven over and over that children are more successful when their parents/guardians are involved in their school! Did you know that you can request a meeting with your child's teacher any time during the year? You can call the office or email your teacher to set up a meeting.

WSE PIC,  
*Stephanie Bower*

## Media Moment:

Parents,  
Please make sure students are reading and returning library books in a timely manner. We have students with books out since last spring. Be watching for notices as to what books your children have out. At home, look under beds, under and behind sofas, on personal book cases, in closets, in your car, at grandparent's, at the babysitter's etc.  
Thank you.

Please see the back for more

## Please consider supporting WSE Business Partners!

We have some wonderful business partners at West Side. They contribute their time and donations to our school each year. Some of our partners are mentors to students. When asked for help or assistance with most anything, they are there to support our school.

Below are donations made from: Mark Collins / Peavine Baptist Church donated money to go toward the development of a "Secret Garden" project our Horizon Classes are planning.

6th Cavalry Museum, Catoosa County Library, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, DBW Properties, First Volunteer Bank, Kiwanis Club of Fort Oglethorpe, The McCallie School, MedSTAT, Metro Boiler Tube, New Heights Baptist Church, Parkway Baptist Church, Ringgold Telephone Co., Village Print Shop, West Side Baptist Church, Live & Love Ministries, Peavine Baptist Church, H&R Block-Gloria McIntire, Coca Cola Bottling Co., Triple A Painting-Scott Adkins, Boynton Methodist Church, Willard Law Firm, True Life Chiropractic, Venue Church, Modern Woodmen of America, FNB Fort Oglethorpe, Barnes & Noble, Walmart.



### **Other Important News:**

All transportation changes must be made in writing, signed, and dated. We cannot accept any changes over the phone or through Class Dojo. These procedures are in place to ensure the safety of our children. Thank you for helping us in this matter.

Please make sure your child's name is on their book bags, lunch boxes, and jackets. This greatly helps in locating your child's lost belongings.

In the event of an emergency, it is very important that we are able to reach you. Please contact the office if your home or cell phone number has changed.

### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

February 12-16: No School

February 18: 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

March 12: End of 9 weeks

March 26- April 6: Spring Break

April 19-23: Milestone Testing (Grades 3-5)

May 14: Field Day