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Philip Salemi, Superintendent

Superintendent's Corner - February

Dear District 92½ Community,

I want to thank all of the parents, teachers, and students that completed the 5Essentials Survey. The survey closed on January 31st. Participation rates were as follows: students - 92%, teachers - 84%, and parents - 23%. The information we receive from the survey will help us plan moving forward. Results should be made available sometime in May. We will be sure to share the results with you once we have them.

By now WMS parents/guardians should have received their child's report card. They were sent home with students on January 19th. (Please note K-5 students will receive Report Cards on March 2nd as they are on trimesters.) Your child's report card can bring feelings of happiness, excitement, and pride in their work; however, it can also cause concern and frustration as well. In either case, you should take the time to speak with your child about setting new goals for the upcoming marking period as well as reflect on past work, achievements, and hardships. Most important it is a time for parents to communicate a path for future growth.

Our Board of Education and I had the pleasure of listening to a presentation by our 6th grade students at our January Board meeting. Our 6th grade social studies teacher Mr. Alajoki and a group of his students presented a project they were working on about climate change. The students spoke passionately about the impact climate change is having on our environment. They provided us with a lot of useful information. They also provided the Board with strategies that we can implement in our District to prevent climate change. I commend the students for taking the time to learn about issues that impact our society. I applaud their efforts for trying to make a positive difference and for being advocates for change.

As we continue to battle the elements of a Chicago winter, it is essential to remind you of information on the emergency closing of school. Every effort will be made to keep schools open. However, in cases of extreme weather conditions, I will take action necessary to protect the health and safety of all students and personnel. In the event it is necessary to close the schools, the district will post an emergency closing message on the District website (www.sd925.org) and utilize the District's phone and email emergency system so that all district family homes should receive a phone call and email. It is imperative that you keep the school offices informed of all phone and email contact changes. Another resource to check for school closings is by going to the web address: www.emergencyclosings.com (search by "Facility Info" Westchester Public Schools).

We hope you have a safe, warm February. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at psalemi@sd925.org or call 708-670-1927.

Sincerely,

Philip Salemi
Superintendent