

# WESTERN NEWS

October 2014

## IMPORTANT DATES

Lexington Pride

- Oct. 3:** Interim Reports Sent Home
- Oct. 7:** Meeting @ Central starting at 7:00 pm
- Oct. 7:** Third Grade Reading OAA
- Oct. 20-24:** Book Fair
- Oct. 20-24:** Student/Parent Lunch Week
- Oct. 22:** Book Fair Extended Evening Hours from 4:15-7:00 pm
- Oct. 29:** Early Release @ 2:15 pm
- Oct. 24:** End of the 1st-Nine Weeks
- Oct. 31:** Fall Party and Costume Parade @ 1:30 pm
- Oct. 31:** Grade Cards Go Home

## NEW INTERIM REPORTS AND GRADE CARDS...

This report will give you an idea of the progress of your child in school. Our goal is the same as yours—to provide each child with the opportunity to grow and develop to the fullest extent possible. This year, your child will receive a standards-based (grade level goals) interim and report card that uses a P, M, and L reporting system that monitors student growth in addition to the letter grades you are accustomed to seeing.

The letter explanations are as follows:

**M** = Meeting grade level expectations

**P** = Progressing toward grade level expectations with assistance

**L** = Limited skills, frequent support needed

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are continuing with the Interims Policy we began implementing last school year. Therefore, only students who have a "D" or "F" in a subject will be receiving a paper interim. Interims are scheduled to go home on Friday, October 3rd, 2014.

All parents are given access to ProgressBook/GradeBook, which gives you instant and continuous access to your son or daughter's grades. Our encouragement and simple expectation is that you will continue to monitor your child's grades and progress through this outlet. Please also note that Login Information is only sent home with NEW students. Please continue to utilize the login information you have had in the past.

If at any time, you would like a printed version of your child's grades and are unable to access the internet, please contact the office or your

child's teacher and we will surely provide you with a copy. Our goal is

not to inconvenience anyone, we are simply attempting to conserve our paper use and encourage everyone to utilize the system that is in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me further with any additional questions or concerns.

Thank You,

Mrs. Eggerton



# THIRD GRADE



## READING OHIO ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENT OAA

October 1, 2014

Dear Parents:

Starting Tuesday morning, October 7, your child will be taking the Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment Test (OAA). This is a test required of all third grade students in the state of Ohio. Each year the third grade students are required to be tested using this assessment in the area of reading as a requirement of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (TGRG) and score a 394 or above to meet the requirements of the TGRG. The students from Western Elementary School have always performed well on the reading OAA, and I know we will see the same results from this third grade class as well.

The third grade teachers and I am asking for your support on this testing day. We would appreciate your assistance with preparing your child for the test in the following ways. First, be sure that your child receives a good night sleep the night before the test. This allows your child to be focused during the test. Next, be sure that

your child eats a well-balanced breakfast. Please, note that breakfast will still be available at school the morning of the test. However, a nutritious breakfast allows your child to think more clearly and will allow for sustainability throughout the day. Lastly, encourage your child to perform their best on the test. If your child does not score at a 394 level or above they will have another opportunity in the spring to improve their score. Therefore, we simply ask them to show their Lexington pride by doing their best work.

A good education comes from the school and the parents working together, so I want to thank you for all of your support. If you have any questions concerning the OAA, please, feel free to contact me at 884-2765 ext. 5400.

Sincerely,

Genelle R. Eggerton  
Elementary Principal



# GRADES K-2



## Identifying students as “Not on Track”,

as required by the State, is new. Should you receive a letter identifying your child as being “Not on Track”, I encourage you to contact your child’s teacher and/or principal for a more detailed summary of what our assessments indicate to be areas for improvement. We will immediately engage in helping your child move towards being “On Track” with additional classroom instruction and/or reading intervention. I recognize that it may be a worry to think that your child is “Not on Track” after being in his/her new grade level for a few days. **Do not jump to the conclusion that “Not on Track” status, based upon initial assessments on the first days of school, means that your child will not be successful in school.** I have great confidence that with good teaching and support, we can help all of our students grow to succeed!

## Dear Parents:

Two years ago, Governor John Kasich signed Senate Bill 316 into law. Senate Bill 316 includes changes and reforms that directly affect elementary schools throughout the State of Ohio:

Districts are required to conduct reading assessments on all students in grades Kindergarten through Third Grade by September 30.

As a result of those assessments, teachers must identify students as “On Track” (meaning that their performance is meeting expectations for students entering the current grade level) or “Not on Track” (meaning that their performance is not meeting expectations for the grade level to which they are entering).

School districts are required to notify parents of students identified as “Not on Track” with a letter following the completion of assessments.

A plan for student intervention and monitoring growth and progress must be completed and updated throughout the year.

Beginning this school year, third graders who do not reach the State determined success mark of 394 on the Ohio Achievement

Assessment will not be able to be promoted to fourth grade.

At Western Elementary School, diagnostic assessments are not new. Our classroom teachers already complete individualized student assessments during the school year and use the results of those assessments to plan for teaching and intervention to meet each child’s unique needs.

Our school has always provided a variety of intervention supports in reading. We believe that addressing reading concerns early is the best path to overall student success.

We take the responsibility to support your child’s learning very seriously, and we are grateful for your partnership in making sure that our students are well prepared not only for tests now, but also for their success in college, careers, and the workplace beyond K-12 schooling. Please, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you might have about the legislation and its requirements.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eggerton

