



The Welby Way

BEE LINE

THE LATEST NEWS AT WELBY WAY CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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www.welbyway.org

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Smarter Balanced Assessments

A Message from Assistant Principal, Helen Kim

Spring is just around the corner, and so are the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAs). For three years now, our 3rd-5th graders have taken the SBAs for English Language Arts and Math, as a part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) testing system. These assessments are aligned with the CA Common Core State Standards, which drive the curriculum in our state and prepare our students to be college and career ready. If you would like more information on the SBAs, you can read this document written specifically for parents of 3rd-5th graders

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/sbparentgde35.pdf>.

In addition to the SBAs, our 5th graders for the past few years have taken the California Standards Tests (CSTs) for science, which was a paper-based assessment on the previous California Science Standards. This year, however, in place of the Science CSTs, our 5th graders will be taking the new California Science Test (CAST) online. The CAST is our state's new science assessment based on the California Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This year's CAST will be the pilot test, which means that the scores will not be published. It will be a preliminary test to study the feasibility and quality of questions prior to full-scale administration. The first full operational test will be implemented in the year 2018-2019. For more information, www.nextgenscience.org/parent has great information for you. We will also be holding Parent University classes about NGSS and the shifts in the science curriculum next school year.

Important Dates!

- 3/7: POWW Parent Mixer in Library @ 8:00 a.m.
- 3/8: Lifetouch Spring Pictures 3rd/4th grades
- 3/9: Lifetouch Spring Pictures K, 1st, 2nd grades
- 3/10: 4th Grade Gold Rush
- 3/15 & 3/16: Pizza Cookery Restaurant Night
- 3/18: Mother/Son event @ The Stadium
- 3/21: POWW Board Meeting @ 8 a.m.
- 3/21: Site/Governance Council Meeting @ 7 p.m. in the Library
- 3/24: Talent Show
- 3/27 - 4/3: Book Fair in Library
- 3/30: Open House from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 3/30: Minimum Day, dismissal @ 12:30
- 3/31: School Closed Cesar Chavez

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our two **Odyssey of the Mind** groups that competed at Westlake High School on February 27. The “Catch Me if You Can Group” team, Nimran S., Matthew B., Remy K., Neel T., Micah K. W., and Serj P., won 1st Place in their problem division. The “Odd-A-Bot’ team, Krishiv M., Leah L., Mia H., Enoch C., Elissa H., Loc H., and Lana T. won 2nd Place in their problem division. The teams competed against nine other teams in their divisions from schools around the Los Angeles and Ventura area. Both teams will now compete in the statewide competition on March 25 in the city of Brentwood in Northern California. We commend these hard working students who have been preparing since September for the competition. Their commitment, as well as their parents’ commitment, is much appreciated by the whole Welby Way family. We are so proud of you and wish you best of luck in the next step of your “odyssey”.

In preparation for this new science assessment, Welby Way has moved in the direction of vamping up our science curriculum and instruction. Most recently, we purchased FOSS conversion kits, which help to “NGSS-ify” our current science program. Our teachers have received

professional development on the new material and the Next Generation Science Standards. They have also begun to implement the eight science and engineering practices. In addition to teaching science concepts, our teachers create opportunities for students to use their knowledge to investigate the natural world through scientific inquiry and to solve real-world problems through engineering design. We at Welby Way are excited for this new direction in science instruction and assessment. Students will experience meaningful experiences in which newfound knowledge will be embedded into their worldview and prepare them for a global economy.

Both the SBA and CAST are computerized assessments, but this format should not be new to any of our Welby Way students. Throughout the year, our 3rd-5th graders have been taking practice SBAs in both reading and math. Additionally, our 5th graders will be taking a practice CAST before the actual one is administered in April or May.

Although our students receive a good deal of practice here at school, there are additional practice opportunities for you to use at home.

- Go to <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests/>.
- Click on “Go to the Tests.”
- Sign in (no need for a username or password).
- Choose the grade level and begin exploring.

There are Practice Tests, Training Tests, and/or Performance Tasks available for each of the grades 3 through 12 in both English Language Arts and Math. Each Practice Test has about 30 questions, and the Answer Key can be found in the FAQ section of the web page cited above. I want to encourage you to explore and discuss the Practice Test questions with your child. More practice and discussion can result in greater preparation for the actual test.

Testing will begin in late April or May and continue until the end of the school year. You will know your child’s testing dates about a week before testing starts for your child’s class. Parents have the

option to write a letter to the school and have your child opt out of testing. The letter must be received before testing begins for your child. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or the office.



***** **POWW Updates** *****



SHAMROCK GRAMS: New to Welby this year are Shamrock Grams. Sponsored by POWW, these grams are similar to our old Candy Grams. They will be on sale on the outdoor stage before and after school on March 9 -10 and March 13 -14. Cost is 2 for \$1.00. The grams will be delivered to classrooms on Friday, 3/17.

MOTHER/SON EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 18: Welby's Annual Mother/Son Event will be held on Saturday, March 18 from Noon – 4:00 p.m. at The Stadium in Westlake Village. Lasertag, Dodgeball, Archery Tag and a Gaming Room. RSVP's must be made no later than Friday, March 10. Cost is \$60 per Mother/Son couple. Prices go up by \$5 after March 10.

WELBY WAY TALENT SHOW – MARCH 24 Welby Way's Talent show is set to hit the auditorium stage on Friday, March 24. More details will be coming out soon.

POWW PARENT MIXER ON MARCH 7: Please come and join us for an informal mixer hosted by our POWW Board members and Principal Yoo on Tuesday, March 7 at 8:00 a.m. in the library. Come find out more about POWW and the many different ways you can get involved. Meet our board members who will be able to answer any questions you might have. Refreshments will be served.

OUR LOST AND FOUND SHEDS ARE OVERFLOWING. Please have your students check to see if there are items that belong to them. Please label all items that come to school with your students name and room number.

BOX TOPS: Thank you Welby families and all of the Box Top elves that helped trim and package out our latest shipment! We collected 8,536 box tops this year. Way to go and keep collecting – each one adds up!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WELBY WAY WEBSITES:

www.welbyway.org and www.parentsofwelbyway.com



(Contact the Beeline Editor at kristy.haystack@gmail.com)