

P W PRINTS

April 2022

[FRIDAY] Apr 1

Kindergarten Round-up @ 9:00-11:00 PM

No class for current kindergarten students.

[TUESDAY] Apr 5

PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM- Westridge Library

[THURSDAY] Apr 14

Music Concerts:

Kindergarten- 6:00 PM

First Grade- 7:00 PM

[FRIDAY] Apr 15

No School- Teacher Inservice

[FRIDAY] Apr 22

Mid-Quarter

[FRIDAY] May 6

Westridge Carnival

[FRIDAY] May 20

Westridge Field Day

**Westridge Elementary
Mission Statement:**

In an effort to create life-long learners, the staff at Westridge Elementary School working closely with parents and community strives to realize each child's fullest potential in the areas of personal, social, intellectual, emotional, and physical development.

Dear Westridge Families,

I am excited to announce that we are going to be able to welcome parents to eat with their child at school and parent volunteers back into the building starting on Monday, April 4th. If you are wanting to have lunch with your child, please remember the following:

- Please notify the office on the day that you wish to have lunch with your child.
- Parents may bring outside food into the cafeteria for themselves and their own child.
- Parents will be invited to sit at the visitor table with their child.
- If planning to eat a school-provided meal, orders should be called into the school office no later than 9:30 AM on the day of the visit. Meals will be charged at a rate of \$3.85/adult and \$2.65/child (for any non-school children) to your child's lunch account. Cash payments are not accepted.
- Upon arrival, all visitors must first go to the main office to sign in and receive their visitor badge.

If you are wanting to volunteer in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher to notify them of your interest.

We are also excited that we will be able to start mixing students across classrooms and grade levels again. This will allow us to get back to some of the regular school practices, such as all-school assemblies.

If you have any questions about the restriction changes, please feel free to reach out. As always, thank you for your continued support.

I will announce any staffing changes in the May newsletter.

Mr. Broshar
Principal
Westridge Elementary



Lunch Accounts:

EPS is partnering with SchoolPay for student lunch accounts. To add funds, go to www.schoolpay.com and log into your user account. If you do not yet have a SchoolPay account, [instructions to create one can be found by clicking here](#). You will need your child’s five digit student ID code to set up the account.

Family Assistance Opportunities:

Family assistance programs are available to any of our Westridge families. If you are interested, please click on the link below to identify the different programs and indicate which programs you are interested in signing up for. [WR Family Assistance Opportunities](#)

Recess & Lunch Times

Grade	Recess	Lunch
Kindergarten	10:25-10:45	10:45-11:05
First Grade	10:50-11:10	11:10-11:30
Second Grade	11:15-11:35	11:35-11:55
Third Grade	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:20
Fourth Grade	12:05-12:25	12:25-12:45
Fifth Grade	12:30-12:50	12:50-1:10

You can find more information about Westridge Elementary online.



<https://www.elkhornweb.org/westridge/>



<https://facebook.com/ElkhornPSWR/>



@ElkhornPS_WR

P W PRINTS



Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30.**

We look forward to seeing you in person!

Nicole Everingham
Westridge PTO
402-659-6495

You can find more information about the Westridge PTO online.



<https://sites.google.com/westridgepto.org/westridge-elementary-ptopage/home?authuser=0>



<https://www.facebook.com/westridgeelkhorn/>



WOMENADE CLOTHING DRIVE

Please drop off your donations at any Elkhorn Public School during the week of May 2nd through May 6th.

This is a great opportunity to go through your closet, to move on your gently used garments, and to help families in our Elkhorn community.

If you would like to help, we need volunteers to transport donations from the schools to the COPE facility, to help set up the clothing "store", and to staff the Grand Opening.

Transport Clothes - www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fafaf2ea02-womenade1

Set up "store" - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fafaf2ea02-womenade2>

Staffing for Grand Opening -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fafaf2ea02-womenade3>



A Note from the Nurse...

- If you received a **health screen referral letter** within the last few months please visit the appropriate medical professional and have them complete the bottom portion of the letter and return it to school with your child.
- Please continue to notify the office if your student has had an exposure to someone with COVID-19 and follow [district guidelines](#) if your student has had an exposure or is symptomatic.
- ***It's time to start scheduling your child's school and sports physicals!***
 - Students who will be entering **Kindergarten** in the fall or who are **new students from out of state** will need to submit a **physical exam and vision exam** (including test for strabismus, amblyopia, and acuity) dated after **February 17, 2022**, as well as a current immunization record including the Kindergarten booster shots. Here is the [Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations](#)
 - Students entering the **7th grade** in the fall will need to submit a **physical exam** dated after **February 17, 2022** and an updated **immunization record** including a **Tdap booster**.
 - Students wanting to participate in a sport at the middle school or high school level must have a **sports physical** completed sometime after **May 1, 2022** and uploaded to [rschool](#).



*****7th graders still need to submit a physical exam to the front office as well, as these are different systems.***

Forms can also be uploaded to PowerSchool during the registration process in August but please click "Actual Size" or use the scan feature when uploading with a smartphone.

Thank you!

Amy LaughlinHardick

alaughlinhardick@espne.org

District Reminders

Tech Savvy Parent Tip: Balancing Technology Use

Parents often look for new ways to create a balance between learning and using technology appropriately, and participating in other activities that are essential to a child's development. Finding that balance between the two can be the difference between a healthy relationship and an unhealthy reliance. Several strategies exist to ensure that a healthy relationship with technology is built beginning with the early stages of use.

Understand your pattern of use and create boundaries:

Most people don't realize the amount of time they spend using technology unless it is pointed out to them. Take an inventory of your family's use and understand when, why, and how you're using technology. Is all of it necessary? Are you and/or your family benefiting from that time spent with technology? Understanding your pattern of use is the first step in creating boundaries that both you and your family can stick to.

Be intentional in determining downtime: Being constantly connected can hinder active learning, as one becomes passive in taking in new information because he or she is constantly "learning" new things. Taking a step away from technology and the absorption of information allows one's brain a needed break and creates an active learning environment. By being intentional in determining technology downtime, you are giving your brain that break to be able to focus on other things.

Be the example and set the expectation: Kids learn by following an example - following the same technology use rules you set for your children is the best way to show them a healthy relationship with technology. Setting usage time limits, creating intentional face-to-face opportunities, and implementing device-free zones are all ways to ensure too much time isn't spent on technology for entertainment purposes.

SmartGen Society:

Smart Digital Family Plan

SmartGen Society is an Omaha-based organization focused on bringing preventative and proactive resources to offset negative implications of social media use in youth.

One feature of their resources is a Smart Digital Family Plan, which encourages families to have meaningful conversations about the use of technology in their homes and guides those conversations through several social media and technology issues.

View the full plan [here](#).



Westridge Parent Teacher Organization
3100 N 206th St, Elkhorn, NE

Feb 1, 2022

Dear Westridge Supporter:

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Westridge Elementary is organizing a Spring Carnival on Friday, May 6th. The carnival's purpose is a fun occasion for students and family members; as well as, to become better-acquainted and foster school spirit.

Westridge is located in the heart of Elkhorn, making our students' families strong potential customers and clients for local businesses. We have over 350 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The Westridge PTO thanks you for your past support and is asking for donations to use in a silent auction or raffle for this year. We are looking for donations of gift cards, products, services, or even financial contributions. The silent auction and raffle are fundraisers and will support extra family activities, additional field trips and improved classroom technology. It has been a difficult two years and we are hoping to celebrate our success in coming together as community to support our students.

Please send your tax-deductible donation to Westridge Elementary School at 3100 N. 206th Street, Elkhorn, NE 68022, by Monday April 4th. It would be extremely helpful if you would indicate the value of the donation. Our PTO would love to assist in picking up items that are inconvenient to mail.

You are very important to us! We will proudly acknowledge, at the carnival and in our school newsletter, all businesses and individuals that have graciously supported us. Westridge PTO is a 501c(3). Each donor will receive a letter of acknowledgement, verifying receipt of your donation upon the conclusion of the carnival. That letter may be used for tax purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina at 402-960-3121 or via email at cjschwart@hotmail.com -OR- Nicole at 402-659-6495 via email at neveringham@collectiveforyouth.org

Thank you in advance for your generous investment in our community,

Christina Griffin
Auction Chair

Nicole Everingham
Westridge PTO President

Check us out at <http://www.elkhornweb.org/westridge/>



~School Supply Support~

Need assistance getting school supplies for next year? We'd love to help!

Contact your child's Classroom Teacher or your School Counselor to sign up for assistance from our school supply drive, provided by Womenade of Elkhorn.

*please let us know by April 15th

WESTRIDGE PTO

March Meeting Agenda

1. **Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022
2. **Meeting Location:** Media Center
3. **Meeting Time:** 6:30pm
4. **Call to Order:** Welcome and introduce attendees. The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.
5. **Minutes:** Erica reviewed and got approval of the February meeting minutes by Brenda and Megan.
6. **Officers' Reports**

- a. **Principal's Report:**

Important Dates:

- Friday, March 11th – No School
- Monday, March 14th – Friday, March 18th – No School for Spring Break
- Thursday, March 24th – Math Night
- Friday, March 25th – Report Cards get sent home
- Monday, March 29th – Kindergarten Roundup Parent Meeting from 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- Friday, April 1st – Kindergarten Roundup from 9:00am – 11:00am. If you have not registered your child yet or know others who have not, please do so. We will start sending out reminders and other communication to families who have registered, so you do not want to miss out on any communication.
- Friday, April 1st – No School for CURRENT Kindergarten students

Talking Points:

- The District Calendars for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 were tweaked a bit and updated. So, make sure to go to the Elkhorn website and look at the most current calendar.
- The last day of school is based on the amount of snow days that we have. Currently, our last day is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th. However, if we have 2 or fewer snow days, we will move it up a day to Wednesday May 25th. If we have another snow day, we will keep the last day as is. If we have 3 or 4 more snow days our last day will get extended by a day. We will know more by mid-April and be sure to get that communication out. Last day is also an early release day.

Questions:

- Will EPS be offering the Summer Enrichment program where students come to the school for 1-hour blocks?
 - We are hoping to bring it back, but at this time no that is not offered. Online it shows that the 2022 classes are cancelled.

- b. **President's Report:**

1. **Upcoming events** – We have a full rest of the school year with many events. When we come back from Spring Break, we will have our Staff Appreciation week followed by our online auction which will be going on over Easter weekend. Raffle basket information will be coming home for carnival soon and the Carnival will be happening on Friday, May 6th. We will not be having any other fundraisers between now and the end of the year besides our food nights. We are excited to finish strong and have a fun end of the year.
2. **Book Bingo** – We have decided that we will not have Book Bingo this year. Relevant has a full spring calendar and looking at dates it was hard to fit a date in. So, we will hold on to the books and pull them out next year for this event.

- c. **Vice President's Report:**

d. Treasurer's Report:

- 1. Financial Overview for February** – We are starting to pay for the auction site, we bought Student Council new shirts (which I hear turned out very nice), kindness reimbursement, \$1,000 book room books and Sam & Louie's teacher dinner for conference meals all came out. We did receive an employee match for Walk-a-thon which was a nice surprise.
- 2. 2022-23 Budget Meeting** – If you would like to be at this meeting, please let me know and I will be sure to add you to the Zoom invite, which will happen sometime in March. This is the meeting where the current and incoming board will meet to set the budget for next year. We look at the current budget and then come up with the new budget that we will then present during the April PTO meeting.

7. Committee Reports

a. Restaurant Night Fundraisers: (Angie Lake)

- Thursday, March 24th – Panera (144th & Maple) from 4:00pm – 8:00pm. This is the same night as math night, so after the event make dinner easy and go pick up Panera!
- Wednesday, April 20th – Chipotle (177th & Center)

b. Staff Appreciation: (Melanie Ferguson and Megan Cain) – Staff Appreciation week will be the week that we return from Spring Break, which is Monday, March 21st – Friday, March 25th. There is a super fun theme picked out with lots of fun treats planned for the staff as well as some student involvement.

c. Carnival Silent Auction: (Christina Griffin) – We have a good start and have secured some really great donations for the auction which will be taking place over Easter weekend. We could use help if anyone knows of any business owners or owns their own business and would like to donate anything to the auction. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

d. Carnival: (Ashely Holtz) – We have secured 3 food trucks as well as games and 5 bounce houses through Fun Services. Raffle basket information will be sent out to students before Spring Break. Some basket themes include Coffee/tea, Grilling, Superhero, Princess, Baking, Mexican and Italian. We will also be raffling off lunch with the principal. There will be a sign-up genius for parents to volunteer to help during the event. National Honor Society will also be coming to help for volunteer hours. If you pre-purchase tickets/wristbands there will be a discount. If you purchase at the event, it will be cash or venmo only and the price will be slightly more. The carnival will run from 5:00pm – 8:00pm and we are hopeful that we will not have to split into sessions based on family last name. We also offer our 1 hour "Special Hour" before the carnival officially starts for students that need a quieter/less busy atmosphere.

e. Yearbook: (Erica Henderson) – We will be opening the online yearbook store soon and it will be open until the end of March. There is an additional \$1 supply chain surcharge that the yearbook company is charging at checkout which will make the yearbooks \$21. You also have the option of purchasing Love Lines for \$5.

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

- ##### **a. Elections for the 2022-2024 PTO Board** – In March of 2020 we looked at the by-laws and changed board member positions from a 1-year term to a 2-year term. It was also amended that a President needs to have been a previous board member. As per Robert's Rule of Order we will ask for nominations for each position. If 2 people are nominated it will go to a secret ballot. If only 1 person per position is nominated, we will ask for a vote by show of hands.
- Erica nominated Jessica Loontjer for President. She accepted the nomination.
 - Andrea nominated Angie Lake for Vice President. She accepted the nomination.
 - Ashley nominated Erica Henderson for Secretary. She accepted the nomination.
 - Andrea nominated Nicole Everingham for Treasurer. She accepted the nomination.

- “Do you as our members accept these nominations?” All hands of those in attendance were raised for a 100% vote.
- The board has been chosen.

b. Walk-a-thon fund allocation – We discussed a few options of what to do with our Walk-a-thon funds and a few ideas that were brought up were:

- 1. Xylophones for Music** – Mrs. Colwin took the time to create a proposal of how to use these funds to purchase additional xylophones for the students. She did receive a grant and was able to purchase some, but the remaining items on her wish list will be around \$2,000 - \$2,500 (depending on shipping and tax). Brenda motioned to purchase the xylophones and it was seconded by Megan.
- 2. Library furniture** – Mr. Broshar and Mrs. Albritton have been discussing and looking into some new furniture for the library. Northridge Middle School had some great pieces that included a 3-piece rounded couch, ottoman as well as some cool individual chairs that can be moved around. We are waiting to get a final quote back but estimate that it will be around \$10,000 - \$15,000. We can bank funds from this year’s Walk-a-thon and then raise the additional next year to be able to make this purchase.

10. Announcements: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30pm. The May meeting will be moved to the second week, so that it is after carnival. The new date is Tuesday, May 10th.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm and was approved by Christina and Brenda.

WESTRIDGE PTO

Board and Chair Information 2021/2022

President	Nicole Everingham	neveringham@collectiveforyouth.org
Vice President	Ashley Holtz	asholtz01@gmail.com
Treasurer	Andrea Bakenhus	westridgeptotreasurer@gmail.com bakenhusa@gmail.com
Secretary	Erica Henderson	ehenderson008@gmail.com
Book Bingo	Amy Walker	amy.walker@bethanyfirststeps.org
Carnival	Ashley Holtz	asholtz01@gmail.com
Carnival Auction	Christina Griffin	cjschwart@hotmail.com
Directory	Andrea Bakenhus	bakenhusa@gmail.com
Facebook	Ashley Holtz	asholtz01@gmail.com
Kindness	Brenda Dangberg	bdangberg@gmail.com
Restaurant Nights	Angie Lake	angiem.lake@gmail.com
Scholarship	Jessica Loontjer	jloontjer@gmail.com
Social Media Graphics	Dani Hatfield	hatfield.dani@gmail.com
TAGG/Amazon Promotions	Megan Scobie	megan.ruby@gmail.com
Teacher Appreciation	Melanie Ferguson Megan Cain	Melanie.ferguson2009@gmail.com mlhedberg2@gmail.com
Walk-A-Thon	Makayla Wentzell	makayla_wentzell@hotmail.com
Yearbook	Erica Henderson	ehenderson008@gmail.com