



Westridge Wildcat

January 30-February 3

Please call the Attendance Line for Absences and Tardies
303-982-3950 Option #1

Main Office Number 303-982-3975
Visit our Website!

<http://westridge.jeffcopublicschools.org/>

Monday, January 30, 2023	
Tuesday, January 31, 2023	3:00-4:00 Science Matters – Art Room 3:00-4:00 Taekwondo - Gym
Wednesday, February 1, 2023	
Thursday, February 2, 2023	Two Hour Delayed Start 3:00-4:30 KidStage – Music Room
Friday, February 3, 2023	3:00-4:00 Imagine Arts - Art Room

[Westridge Family Calendar 2022-2023](#)

Retirement Announcement

Dear Parents,

The time has come for Mrs. Wachsmuth to retire at the end of this school year. After 33 years teaching in Jefferson County Schools, I have decided to leave teaching and follow some of my other dreams. I feel very lucky to have found a career that has challenged me, and that I loved coming to every day. I have really enjoyed teaching your children, some of their brothers and sisters, and the many children that have come through Westridge in the past 23 years, as well as Mrs. Funk our kindergarten teacher. When my previous students start getting jobs at the same school I am teaching, it is a pretty good sign that the time has come to retire.

It has been a great community to work in, and I have so many fond memories of the children and my work here. I feel teaching was my calling, and I have put my best effort into it and got many rewards back, such as the love of your children and the flicker of light in their eyes whenever they learn something new. I want to thank this community for their support. Mrs. Thanos will be interviewing candidates for my position at the end of February for the 2023/2024 year.

Love,
Mrs. Wachsmuth

Hiring Update

We have hired our new Health Aide! Heather Valle is joining us with experience as a health aide. She was Westridge's health aide a few years ago. She starts February 2!

Kindness Week

We are going to celebrate the Random Acts of Kindness's kindness week February 13-17. I want to share with you the spirit week to help with your planning for that week. I'll be sharing more about other ways we will celebrate.



Westridge Elementary

Spirit Week



February 13-17, 2023 is Random Act of Kindness Week through the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation. Let's celebrate by having a spirit week!

Monday

Dress Happy

Spread positivity and do the things that make you happy!

Tuesday

Mismatch Day

Accept each other for our differences! Love and appreciate all.

Wednesday

Dress Like a Superhero

Be a kindness superhero by having courage to be kind to someone!

Thursday

Wear Westridge Red

Say Hello to someone new!

Friday

No School

Spread kindness at home!



Teaching Your Student Empathy and Kindness

GENERAL INFO:



Empathy - the ability to share and understand the feelings of another

Compassion - empathy in action (doing something to help someone else)

Kid Definition: feeling someone else's feelings in your own heart

STRATEGIES:

- 1) Have conversations about seeing kindness and being kind. Ask your student, "Did you notice anyone being nice to someone else today?" followed by, "How were you nice to someone today?"
- 2) Kickstart a family kindness campaign. Do one kind thing for someone each day--this can be inside the home, for a neighbor, or for the community.
- 3) Check out the [Random Acts of Kindness](#) website to find other ways to inspire & practice kindness.
- 4) Teaching Empathy: [Boys vs Girls](#)

SYMPATHY VS EMPATHY



RESOURCE LINKS:

Videos About Empathy

Elementary

[Sesame Street Empathy](#)

[Science of Kindness](#)

Middle & HS

[Empathy vs. Sympathy \(Brene Brown\)](#)

[Science of Kindness](#)

For Parents

[Empathy vs. Sympathy \(Brene Brown\)](#)

[Raising Caring, Respectful & Courageous Children](#)

[Raising Kind Kids](#)

[Grow Kinder Podcast](#)

[Teaching Empathy & Compassion Podcast Episode](#)

BOOKLIST:

[Books on Empathy and Compassion \(Ages 3 -13+\)](#)

[Books to Develop Empathy \(Middle School\)](#)

[Books on Friendship and Self-Awareness, Bullying, Recognizing Our Own Emotions and Regulating Emotions, Mindfulness, Growth Mindset, and Resiliency/Acceptance \(Elementary\)](#)

[Empathy Board](#)

Grub Club

In 2015, there were more than 2,400 students in Jeffco Schools who didn't have a permanent home or a hot meal to go home to at night. As educators we know this affects their ability to perform in the classroom, and as human beings we know what this can do to a student's spirit. Every spring, educators in Jeffco lead Grub Club in order to ensure all students experiencing homelessness in Jeffco can have food throughout the school year.

Jeffco Schools is partnering up again with the Jeffco Action Center **now through March 17, 2023** to help ensure these students have food. In order to support students, Westridge will be collecting **snack-size trail mix, snack-size chips/pretzels, granola bars, fruit snacks, fruit cups**, and monetary donations (see flyer for QR code). A collection box will be located inside the front doors so staff, students, and parents can drop off donations.

GRUB CLUB FOOD DRIVE

benefitting
the ACTION CENTER
COMMUNITY · COMPASSION · CONNECTION



HELP US COLLECT

- Snack Size Trail Mix
- Snack Size Chips or Pretzels
- Granola Bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Fruit Cups

Any snack size item is welcome and needed!

**December 13, 2022 -
March 17, 2023**

**Blue Heron
Mount Carbon
Powderhorn
Westridge
Colorow**

Snack Size Trail Mix



Or scan to donate \$\$ directly!





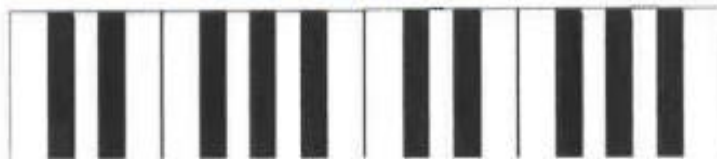
Pianos To The People

The American Samaritan Pianos to the People Scholarship program offers a unique opportunity for families. It provides a free piano to a child from an eligible family. The program aims to enrich lives through music and it is open for all children 14 and under. This is a wonderful chance for a child to learn and grow with music. Parents are encouraged to apply and take advantage of this opportunity.

To be apart of this amazing opportunity visit our website, go to the initiatives, click on Pianos to The People and fill out the application form

Americansamaritan.net

ReBecca.americansamaritan@gmail.com



Westridge PTA Happenings

January 25, 2023

Westridge PTA Value Statement

The mission of Westridge PTA is to connect and appreciate the parents, teachers and students of Westridge by supporting their growth and potential through engaging activities, empowering them to use their passion and talent to better our school and community. We give support to engaging activities, which build positive relationships, ignite innovation, and support all types of learning.



Tuesday PTA meetings in the Westridge library! Come hear the latest and meet new people too!

Next meeting: Tuesday February 7th

FUN Family Food Fundraiser!

Say that 3 times fast!



Details soon

Dates to know:

Friday, February 3rd:

SPIRIT DAY!!!

Monday, February 6th:

Panera Bread Spirit Night

Tuesday, February 7th:

PTA MEETING 6:30 pm in school library

Friday, February 10th:

Westridge Valentine's Day Dance and Silent Auction

Friday, February 24th:

Westridge MOVIE NIGHT@ 6pm!



mark your calendar!

Panera
FUNDRAISING



Help support us!

WESTRIDGE ELEM PTA

20%
OF SALES
WILL BE
DONATED

February 6, 2023
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm MDT
8501 West Bowles Avenue Unit 1-D476

Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App,
or at the kiosk in-café.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the café or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

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*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. **Services vary by café.

Sock Hop Reminders:

Don't forget to pay ahead and skip the line the night of the
Sock Hop:

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/TF43A2GPQ5V0T/checkout/7SYITFH6QKXQGCZC2AK7XSQG>

We love volunteers and need them to make this event
work. Please consider helping by signing up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4BACA822A4FDO-westridge>

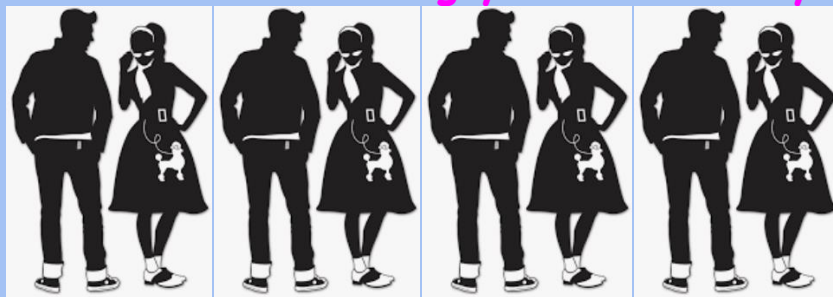
-This is not a drop off event - head on in with your kiddo and
make it a family event

-Couples are parent and child pairs

-Because we have a beautiful new hardwood floor in the gym
we are asking no heels be worn to the event

-Stop by the library to check out the Silent Auction

We look forward to seeing you on February 10th!





The Parent/Teacher Association is hosting a silent auction and we are currently seeking donations.

100% of the proceeds go to the PTA and will allow us to continue supporting our faculty and staff - so they can continue doing their great work of keeping our students safe, supported and educated.

There are several ways to donate - help fill a classroom basket, provide a service (EX: if you own a lawn mowing business, you could donate some free mows), donate new items, or make a monetary donation <https://square.link/u/5USzVoxq>.

The silent auction will be held in the Library during the Sock Hop dance.

Below are the basket themes per grade:
(You can send donations with your child to school and the teacher will collect or contact Matt Pollett for pick-up)

Kindergarten: Cozy night in
1st: Go outside and play
2nd: Gardening
3rd: Outdoor adventure
4th: Staycation
5th: Colorado awesomeness

When: February 10th – During the Sock Hop
Where: Westridge Elementary - In the Library

If you'd like to make a donation or have any questions, please contact Matt Pollett at 217-871-6262 (text or call) or pollettm@hotmail.com.

Participation is 100% optional.

WESTRIDGE MOVIE NIGHT

Brought to you by the Westridge PTA

Friday, February 24th

Doors open at 6:00 pm - FREE movie at 6:15 pm



- In the gym - bring your pillows and blankets -
- Concessions stand for popcorn and snacks -
- Children **MUST** be accompanied and supervised by an adult -

We hope to see you there!

**Getting to Know You:
Our New Westridge Principal, Mrs. Amanda Thanos!**



Amanda Thanos

Do you want to learn more about our Westridge staff members? You can view all of the bios [here](#).