

LBMS collaborative time topic of presentation

LBMS Principal Paul Wilson and Assistant Principal Sue Palchesko recently presented at the state conference for middle school administrators. The two presented on "Working Collaboratively for Student Success."

Wilson and Palchesko dis-

cussed how LBMS developed a building-wide collaborative time twice a week to help teachers focus on student achievement and best practices.

The process, which began last year, developed into a positive

culture shift at LBMS.

Among the changes prompted at the middle school through collaborative time include schedule adjustments, including an advisory period and a focused intervention and enrichment period.

Reminder of calendar shift to support construction

This fall, students in grades 1-12 will begin school on Thursday, Aug. 16. Kindergarten students will begin on Friday, Aug. 17. The school year will end on Thursday May 30, 2013. Preschool students will attend school Aug. 21, 2012, through May 23, 2013.

In addition, the 2013-2014 school year will be pushed back. School will not begin until after Labor Day in 2013 and students will remain in school until mid-June 2014.

The calendar shift is necessitated by the district's Master Facilities Plan Phase I building construction projects.

The long summer in 2013 will extend the construction season for both sites, allow crews to demolish the old high school and create parking lots and landscaping, and allow the district to prepare to open the new middle and high school buildings, which is expected in the Fall of 2013.

Westlake Education Foundation offering student mini grants

The Westlake Education Foundation (WEF) is offering Student Mini-Grants for K-8 WUSD students. For the 2011-2012 school year, the WEF has allocated \$2,500 to fund these grants with no one individual grant exceeding \$250 per applicant. Student Mini-Grants will be

awarded for academically based programs including summer camps offered by museums, science centers, libraries, schools and universities such as art camps, science camps, leadership conferences and the like.

Pick-up an application

package at your school office or on the website at www.WestlakeEducation-Foundation.org. Applications are due March 30, 2012.

Questions? E-mail president@WestlakeEducation-Foundation.org.

Super Heroes invade WCSD Preschool classes

Many of our preschoolers are busy and completely at ease with the opportunities to play out their feelings and fantasies. Their pretend play is filled with rich language, familiar themes, and wonderful interactions.



But then one day during circle time a preschooler announces, "I'm a Super Hero, not Gavin!" Our preschool teachers are not shocked, because today super heroes are everywhere!

Super heroes have invaded the preschool classrooms sometimes bringing aggres-

sive themes and actions. Our preschool teachers are not squelching the creativity and spontaneity the children are expressing.

Instead, they calmly and gently guide the play toward another resolution that puts the "power" into the children's own character. You might hear, "what if instead of Dynaboy" doing the rescuing, you are the

hero? You are strong, kind, and a great helper!

You will also see wonderful props and costumes in the dramatic play areas. In addition, you will hear super hero stories being shared during group times. The preschoolers have especially enjoyed the super hero stories about firefighters, police officers, brave animals and Mommies and Daddies.

Bassett teacher featured in Channel 3 promotional ads

If you were watching Channel 3 over the past few weeks and thought you saw a familiar face in a promo for the station, you would be right.

Bassett first-grade teacher Jenny Larcey was filmed browsing through a basket of books and answering the question "What will you do today?" by saying "Grow my students as readers."

A friend tapped Larcey for the spot, which has aired mornings during the "Today Show" and afternoons during "Ellen" and "Dr. Phil."

So, what will you do today?



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