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scoop.

(See it here first.)



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*message and data rates may apply

calendar

march 2-5	“The Play That Goes Wrong” MWHS Spring Play	Mound Westonka High School Theatre will present the comedy “The Play That Goes Wrong” at the Westonka Performing Arts Center.
march 9	Cantus in Concert At the Westonka PAC	Join Cantus for “I Hear America Singing,” a joyful examination of the role work has played in our lives in years past and how work might evolve in the future.
march 14	All-Community Facilities Presentation	Superintendent Kevin Borg will present the school district’s facilities priorities from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Westonka Performing Arts Center.
april 13-16	“Willy Wonka, Jr.” Grandview Middle School Spring Musical	The Grandview Middle School Troupers will present “Willy Wonka, Jr.” at the Westonka Performing Arts Center.
may 31	MWHS Graduation For the class of 2023	The Mound Westonka High School class of 2023 commencement ceremony is open to graduates’ families and friends and will also be streamed for public viewing.

headlines & happenings



WELCOME TO THE WINTER 2023 ISSUE OF THE WESTONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER.

Westonka welcomes class of 2036

Members of the Westonka Public Schools class of 2036 got their first look at kindergarten at Westonka’s National Blue Ribbon schools. A total of 140 future kindergarten students and their families visited Hilltop and Shirley Hills primary schools during Kindergarten Round-Up events in January. Learn more about Westonka kindergarten at www.westonka.k12.mn.us/kindergarten.

School board member Dave Botts announces retirement

In January, long-time board member Dave Botts announced his retirement from the Westonka School Board due to family medical circumstances. Botts (pictured below in white at his first board meeting in January 2000) was a member of the school board for 23 years, including 19 years as chairman, making him the longest-serving school board member in the over 100-year history of the school district.

By state statute, the Westonka School Board is required to appoint an interim board member to serve the remainder of Botts’ term of office, which ends January 1, 2024. Please visit the school board page on the district website, www.westonka.k12.mn.us/schoolboard, for information regarding the application timeline and selection process to fill the board vacancy.



Save the date: All-community facilities presentation March 14

The Westonka School Board Facilities Committee has spent the past year identifying and prioritizing facilities improvement needs around the district. The board is seeking community input on these priorities at an all-community facilities presentation March 14, 2023 at the Westonka Performing Arts Center. Learn more inside >>

Westonka educators receive MTSS training

Westonka educators participated in an all-day training Jan. 23 on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) through the University of Minnesota’s Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement. MTSS is an integrated, comprehensive framework that focuses on the alignment of systems necessary for all students’ academic, behavioral and social success.

Hawkettes claim jazz, high kick conference championships

The Mound Westonka High School dance team was named Wright County Conference champion in both jazz and high kick in January. The Hawkettes placed fourth in both disciplines at last year’s state dance tournament and are working toward a return trip to state this winter.

school finance update

opportunities for all

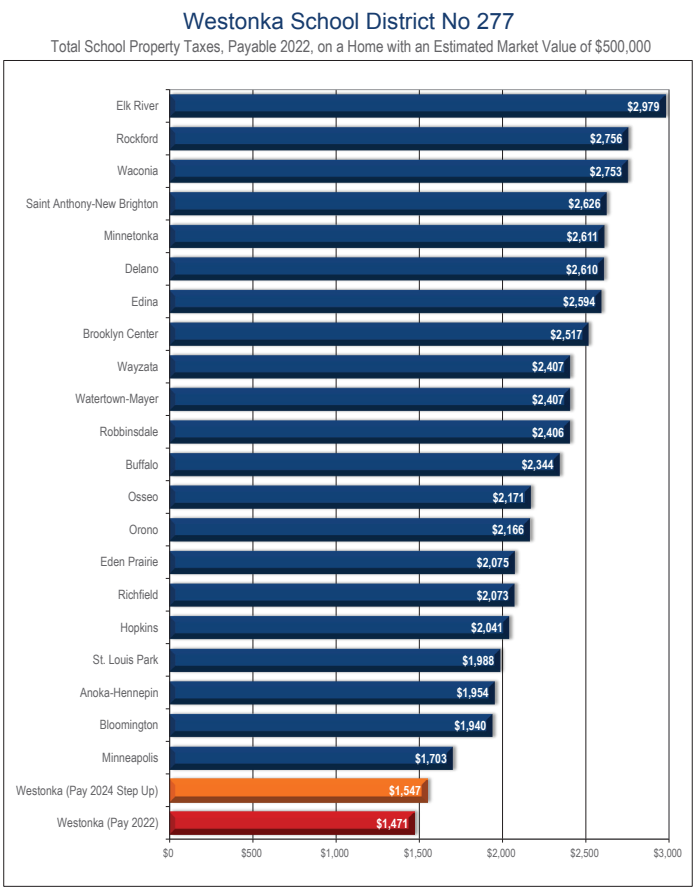
THE WESTONKA SCHOOL BOARD IS
COMMITTED TO BEING RESPONSIBLE
STEWARDS OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

Lowest school taxes in Hennepin County

With the lowest total school property taxes in Hennepin County and test scores consistently ranking among the top in the state, Westonka Schools continue to be a great return on your investment.

Grateful for our community’s support

Westonka residents have a long history of supporting their local public schools. Thanks to the community’s generous support of a 2019 referendum, Westonka Public Schools will see an increase in its operating levy for the 2024-25 school year. This increase will generate approximately \$1 million in additional revenue for day-to-day operating expenses—including staffing, transportation, utilities, classroom supplies, mental health services, and other supports to student learning—and will help combat inflation. Even with the voter-approved 2024-25 levy increase, Westonka will *still* have the lowest school taxes in Hennepin County.



Westonka Activity Center hosts community pickleball tourney

The Westonka Activity Center hosted the third Westonka Pre-Winter Pickleball Classic in November 2022. The WAC welcomed 112 competitors - ages ranging from 19 to mid-60s - playing in either the women’s doubles, men’s doubles or mixed doubles brackets.

The Pickleball Classic is an annual fundraiser for the WAC, providing funds for materials and equipment not covered in the facility’s budget. The local pickleball community and the Mound Westonka High School DECA program provided the volunteers needed to conduct a successful event. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the top finishers in each level, and participants and volunteers enjoyed a variety of gift cards provided by local businesses.



Westonka welcomes new WAC coordinator

Gary Pioske joined Westonka Community Education and Services as Recreation & Activity Center Program Manager in November. Pioske comes to the position with 30 years of experience in youth sports and recreation and program management with the YMCA and most recently with ISD 728.

In his new role, Pioske oversees the Westonka Activity Center and community education youth recreation and athletics programming, as well as Westonka Public Schools facility scheduling.

all-community presentation

setting the stage

The entire Westonka community is encouraged to attend a special presentation surrounding the future of Westonka Public Schools’ facilities on Tuesday, March 14 at the Westonka Performing Arts Center.



Save the Date: March 14, 2023 All-Community Facilities Presentation

What: Join Westonka Public Schools Superintendent Kevin Borg for a presentation and discussion of the Westonka School Board Facilities Committee’s prioritized list of needed facilities improvements, which includes: districtwide security upgrades; the redesign of Mound Westonka High School to enhance the learning environment and improve functionality, safety and pride; and other deferred maintenance across the school district.

When: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Where: Westonka Performing Arts Center, 5905 Sunnyfield Road E, Minnetrista, MN 55364

Community theatre finds home at the Westonka Performing Arts Center

Founded in 2018, Westonka Community Theatre is dedicated to providing quality theatre experiences for residents of all ages. Ninety-one Westonka community members plus additional volunteers made up the cast and crew of the successful 2022 run of “Beauty and the Beast” at the Westonka Performing Arts Center, which sold 2,330 tickets.

The July 2023 production of “Bye Bye Birdie” will mark WCT’s fourth summer musical. Auditions for that show will be held in April. By this summer, WCT will have also put on three Children’s Playhouse theatre productions and three winter shows.

WCT’s goal is to foster, promote and increase the public knowledge and appreciation of the arts and cultural activities in the Westonka community through theatre. To learn more, visit westonkacommunitytheatre.org.

