

The Wegner Connection



Haga clic en "Translate" para ver este boletín en español u otro idioma.

A Note From Principal Janet Gruenwald

December, 2025

As we wrap up the first half of the school year, December has been a meaningful and joyful month at our school. Throughout the month, students and staff continued to focus on what it truly means to be respectful by showing kindness, using thoughtful words, and caring for one another in our classrooms and shared spaces. This focus helped strengthen our sense of community and reinforce the core values that guide us every day. Alongside this important learning, we enjoyed celebrating the season together with fun spirit days and special holiday activities that brought smiles, laughter, and school pride to our hallways. These moments of connection are an important part of making school a welcoming and joyful place for all.



As we head into the new year, we wish you and your family a safe, restful, and happy start to 2026. When we return in January, students will be focusing on being **ready to learn and doing their best**, especially as we begin ACCESS and MAP testing. We appreciate your continued partnership in encouraging students to come to school well-rested, confident, and ready to show what they know.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to a strong and successful start to the new year together!

Janet



Janet Gruenwald

Principal

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Important Upcoming Dates

12/20 - 1/4 WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL

1/13-1/14 MAP Testing K-5th

1/15 ACCESS Information Night for Families 5:30 - 7:30

1/19 NO SCHOOL

1/21 NO After School Clubs

1/27 ACCESS Testing Begins

2/11 PTO Family Valentine's Dance 6:00 - 7:30

2/12 NO SCHOOL

2/13 NO SCHOOL - PD Day

2/16 NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day

2/17 PTO Meeting @6:00

2/19 NO After School Clubs

2/26 End of Trimester 2

2/27 NO SCHOOL - Countywide Institute Day



****Important Calendar Changes****

Due to March 17th being an election day and schools being a polling place location, the following calendar changes needed to be made:

3/11 - **NEW DATE Math & Literacy Night 5:30 - 7:30**

3/12 - Regular Day of School, Students in Attendance

3/17 - NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences (Election Day) 1:00 - 8:00

BPAC PRESENTA...



Como padres de familia, está en nuestras manos guiar a nuestros hijos a triunfar académica y socialmente.

Sin duda alguna, la educación es el elemento clave que les dará las bases para convertirse en jóvenes exitosos en un mundo competitivo.

De nuestro involucramiento positivo en sus vidas dependerá que forjemos en ellos esas expectativas y prioridades que los llevarán por el camino de las buenas decisiones. **¡NO FALTEN!**

Habrá rifas!



Para apoyarnos como padres, los invitamos a 4 talleres dirigidos por el psicólogo y autor Dr. Ferney Ramírez.

✓ ENERO 20: Las 4 fortalezas que todo padre quiere ver en sus hijos

✓ FEBRERO 18: Valorate sin excusas, como criar un adolescente seguro de si mismo

✓ ABRIL 23: La familia que quiero para mis hijos: educando con amor, límites, y auto-disciplina

✓ MAYO 21: Quien dijo que no podías? Los grandes beneficios de ir a las universidad



NO HAY COSTO 5-7 PM

LEMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL EN LA CAFETERÍA

ENTREN POR LA CALLE HAZEL

HABRÁ CAFECITO CON PAN Y CUIDADO DE NIÑOS



Para registrarse, apunte a este código con la cámara de su celular o haga clic aquí: <https://forms.gle/hNsDbZRVP8nnoq7A8>

PTO Updates

Save the Date!

Our PTO is excited to announce our first event of the year! On Wednesday, February 11th, Wegner and the PTO will be hosting a Family Valentine's Day Dance! More information will come in January, so keep an eye out in our weekly messages and your child's backpack for information on the event and how to volunteer!

SAVE THE DATE!

VALENTINE

Family Dance

TIME

6:00 - 7:30

11 FEB

2026

PLACE

WEGNER GYM

FAMILY ♥ FOOD ♥ MUSIC ♥ ACTIVITIES

More information to come in January!





PTO Mission and Vision

As our PTO works to re-establish itself, one of the first steps was figuring out our mission and vision. Our vision statement shows what we hope for our PTO to become, and our mission highlights how we want to achieve that vision. Based on input from parents and staff, the following Vision and Mission statements were created.

✓ Vision Statement

We imagine a school where every family feels involved, valued, and informed; where students learn in a safe, joyful environment; and where every child has access to academic, cultural, and creative opportunities beyond the classroom. We envision an active PTO that builds lasting partnerships, supports teachers and staff, promotes transparency, leads successful fundraising, and creates enriching experiences. Together, we strive to build a strong, stable, and connected community for all.

✓ Declaración de Visión

Imaginamos una escuela donde cada familia se sienta involucrada, valorada e informada; donde los estudiantes aprendan en un ambiente seguro y alegre; y donde cada niño tenga acceso a oportunidades académicas, culturales y creativas más allá del aula. Visualizamos un PTO activo que construya alianzas duraderas, apoye a los maestros y al personal, promueva la transparencia, lidere recaudaciones de fondos exitosas y cree experiencias enriquecedoras. Juntos, nos esforzamos por construir una comunidad fuerte, estable y conectada para todos.

✓ **Mission Statement**

The Wegner PTO brings families, staff, and the community together to support every child's success. We promote a safe, welcoming environment, strong communication, family involvement, and enriching opportunities that help students grow and succeed. Our mission is to uplift the voices of families, celebrate our diverse community, and ensure students feel supported, connected, and inspired to learn.

✓ **Declaración de Misión**

El PTO de Wegner reúne a las familias, al personal y a la comunidad para apoyar el éxito de cada niño. Promovemos un ambiente seguro y acogedor, una comunicación sólida, la participación de las familias y oportunidades enriquecedoras que ayudan a los estudiantes a crecer y tener éxito. Nuestra misión es elevar las voces de las familias, celebrar nuestra comunidad diversa y asegurar que los estudiantes se sientan apoyados, conectados e inspirados para aprender.

Want to help us re-establish our PTO? We'd love to have you join our next meeting on Tuesday, January 20th! Babysitting and translating services are available for each meeting.

Wegner Updates

Golden Eagle Winners - Respect for Others

For the months of November and December, we recognized students who show respect for others through their actions and words. This month's Golden Eagles respect others' personal space, use appropriate language and polite words, speak positively about themselves and others, and think about how their words and actions impact others.

Congratulations to the following Wegner Eagles for being a model citizen for your peers!

Rachel Munoz - Kindergarten

Baani Dhillion - Kindergarten

Manar Alhammo - 1st

Julian Montoya Ramirez - 1st

Samantha Alvarado - 1st

Erick Antonio - 1st

Harmony Peter - 2nd

Giselle Gutierrez - 3rd

Miles Anderson - 2nd

Melany Celestino - 3rd

Jose Corona - 2nd

Yamilet Serrano - 3rd

Mia Jaimes Arce - 2nd

Valentin Jasso - 3rd

Tamadour Osman - 2nd

Kiana Tsai - 3rd

Andrea Olivares Reyes - 4th
Aylin Martinez - 5th
Abigail Reyes - 4th
Edwin Zavala - 5th
Janica Campos - 4th
Sandra Franco - 5th
David Hernandez Araisa - 4th



Congratulations, Mrs. Benitez!

Our Wegner teachers had a holiday door decorating contest this year, and students got to vote for their favorite. Congratulations to Mrs. Benitez's kindergarten class for winning this year's contest!

Wegner Band Caroling

Shout out to Ms. Antoshin and our band students for sharing the holiday spirit with a little caroling around the school!

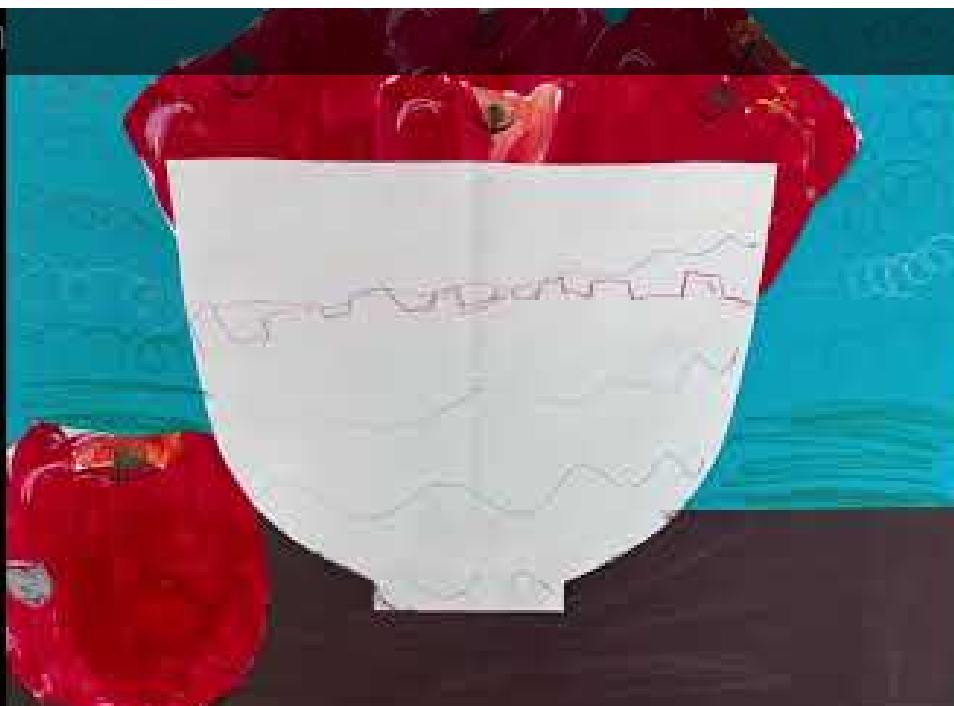
Band Caroling 2025



District 33 Art Gala

Congratulations to all the Wegner artists who were featured in this year's art show!

Peyton Barcham
2025 Art Show
1st Grade



Coach's Corner Newsletter

You can download a pdf version of the Coach's Corner by clicking the link below the images.



Coaches corner 12_2025.pdf

[Download](#)
440.1 KB

Grade Level Happenings

Kindergarten

We just wrapped up our unit on plants. We learned a lot about deciduous trees and evergreen trees. We also learned about what plants need to grow and how different people in history learned about plants, like George Washington Carver. At the end of the unit, we worked in the STEM lab with Mr. Boyk to look at real plants up close. We looked at bok choy, cabbage, and kale with magnifying glasses. Ask your child about the roots of the plants, they were so long they looked like hair all knotted together! Our next unit will be farms.

Our new heart words (high frequency words) for the month of December were: **he, me, be, see, of, and from**. Your child should be able to read and write these words. We are continuing to practice CVC words and have started learning 4 letter words. For example: kids, task, and bugs. Please be practicing reading and writing these types of words at home.



In math we have been learning about length and weight. We looked around the classroom for objects that were longer or shorter than other objects. We used our classroom scales to determine which objects were heavier or lighter than other objects. We will be exploring sets of numbers within 10 to determine if there is enough in January.

In dual classrooms, we are still working on syllables. We are also practicing writing two-syllable words with the syllable families we have learned. Keep practicing your escaleras at home!

1st Grade

In **Amplify**, we have just finished our Early World Civilizations Unit. To finish the unit, we learned about three popular world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Our next unit will focus on Early American Civilizations, specifically discussing the similarities and differences between the Inca, Mayan, and Aztec civilizations.



In **UFLI**, we are entering the VCe unit, or what the students like to call the magic e! We will learn/review long vowel sounds with words that end in e. Digraphs will still be included throughout this lesson; students should continue reading at home and looking for these new skills as they read.

We have just wrapped up Module 2 in **Math**, where we have been working on several different strategies for adding and subtracting with teen numbers. Our next unit will be on measurement and data.

We have enjoyed our December spirit days and look forward to continuing our learning in January!

2nd Grade



☆☆ The month of December has flown by! ☆☆ We have been working hard each day to show our core value of responsibility. In **Amplify**, Students have also enjoyed learning about Greek myths 🏛 and writing their very own stories! Along the way, we practiced important literacy skills such as sequencing and retelling events.

In **Math**, we continued working through Module 4, focusing on addition and subtraction within 200 and solving word problems within 100 +- . We learned how to compose and decompose tens

and hundreds, also known as regrouping when adding and borrowing when subtracting. This math work will continue after winter break, and students are making great progress! *

3rd Grade

In **Math**, we are concluding our third module, which focuses on multiplication and division through real-world problem solving. Students are strengthening their understanding of these operations in the context of word problems and early algebraic thinking. They are building skills that will support their learning throughout the year.



For **ELA**, we are wrapping up our fourth unit on Ancient Rome, where we learned reading and grammar skills while studying this civilization. Students explored how Rome grew into a powerful empire, its history, beliefs, and influential leaders, etc. We also examined how Roman ideas continue to impact our world today, including architecture and language. We also practiced expressing opinions and distinguishing between facts, myths, and legends.

In **Science**, students had the opportunity to visit the STEM lab, where they participated in hands-on activities involving magnets and other tools. These experiences have helped spark curiosity and deepen their understanding through active learning.

December is a busy and exciting month for 3rd grade, and many students are looking forward to the upcoming winter break!

4th Grade



In math we are finishing up our third module which was packed with many different topics! We dove deeper into multiplication and division as well as prime vs composite numbers, factors, and multiples. Our students have been working hard and we have loved seeing them make connections to all the math we have been doing so far this year.

In ELA we are also finishing up our third module. We have spent the past few weeks learning about poetry and writing poems of our own. We have talked about alliteration, figurative language, and anaphoras. We have loved doing something more creative in the classroom in this unit.

We have also been working on our social and emotional growth and knowledge in these past few weeks. Students have had a chance to do some reflecting about what they think is going well and what they want to see improved here at Wegner and will have the opportunity to be on the principal advisory committee to voice their concerns.

December has been super busy and we are all looking forward to the coming break and a time for some rest and rejuvenation!

5th Grade

In Reading, we completed our unit on Poetry. We got to read many poems including some by Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson. We practiced comprehension and wrote our own poems.

In Math, we have been working with fractions. We are learning strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with fractions. We have been working on creating common denominators and borrowing from whole numbers to subtract fractions.



In Science, we are learning about how matter is in everything and how matter can help other things grow. We are also learning about the food webs and the transfer of matter and energy.

Fun things are happening in specials!

Art



This month, artists have been working on building art skills and pushing through challenges. We all make mistakes, so we can practice overcoming frustration by turning our mistakes into something amazing! Instead of throwing a work of art away, we can pause and think...Could I erase? Turn the paper over? Change my mistake into something new? Or cover it up? A mistake can be a great opportunity for students to practice critical thinking and problem solving skills.

December 11th was our 1st Art Show of the 2025-26 school year. Thank you to all of the families and artists who came out to LMS to see the amazing things our students are creating in the art studio! I can't wait to see what our artists create next!

Call for donations! The art studio at Wegner is in constant need of sculpture supplies! We will gladly use toilet paper rolls and cardboard boxes! If you are able, start collecting and send them to school with your student in January!

PE

As a reminder, during these winter months, it is normal for students to wear boots to school. It is helpful if they can pack their gym shoes in their backpack to bring them to school. They can change into their gym shoes at school before they come to PE. Please help remind your children to pack their gym shoes.

We are working on our basketball skills in PE. Our focus is shooting with correct form, dribbling the ball, and making good passes.

Music

In Music, Kindergarteners have been practicing their steady beat at a variety of tempi and have just begun learning basic mallet technique at the xylophones.

First graders have been focusing on performing eighth notes and building confidence and endurance in rhythm reading.

Second grade has worked really hard on aural skills this past month. They reviewed Mi-Sol and learned their new solfege note, La.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders have continued their work on choral music. They have also begun reviewing solfege. Third grade is reviewing Mi-So-La and beginning Do-Re. Fourth grade is reviewing Do-Re-Mi-Sol-La and beginning high Do'. Fifth grade is reviewing Do-Re-Mi-Sol-La-Do' and beginning low Sol and La.

SEL / Health

In SEL/Health we all finished up our units on Nutrition and Healthy Eating. Hopefully we have all learned some great tips to make some good choices in our eating over winter break.

Right before break, we have been learning about some of the amazing holidays celebrated around the world this time of year! The students have been excited to share about holidays that they celebrate and learn about holidays that their friends celebrate as well!

Innovation Center

This winter, the library has been full of exciting reading and hands-on learning. Students across all grade levels explored award-nominated books and participated in creative STEM projects.

Library Lessons

K-3 students have been busy reading Monarch Award nominees! We aim to read 20 books this winter. Students will vote for their favorite book in March. Recently, students enjoyed *Just Snow Already* and *Knight Owl*. These stories sparked conversations about bravery, imagination, and winter fun!

In fourth and fifth grade, students continued their journey through the Bluestem nominees by reading *The Deep!: Wild Life at the Ocean's Darkest Depths* by Lindsey Leigh. They explored the ocean's layers, discovered fascinating deep-sea creatures, and examined how animals adapt to survive in extreme environments. They extended their learning by participating in STEM activities with Mr. Boyk. Fourth graders used virtual reality to experience the dramatic differences between the top and bottom of the ocean. Fifth graders created their own 3D-printed mash-up creatures by combining features of different ocean animals to imagine new species.



Book Clubs

Students wrapped up their first book! They had so many interesting predictions and discussions. After they finished their book, they worked on a project that connected to what they read. Third

graders who read *Area 51 Files* designed and 3D-printed their own aliens. Fourth graders read *Dogtown* and used Ozobots to code the adventures of Chance, Metal Head, and Mouse as they traveled to and from Dogtown. Fifth graders, inspired by *Millionaires for the Month*, created 3D-printed piggy banks and laser-engraved coins featuring their own faces and number values.

Technology

Wegner School is ending 2025 with a bunch of STEM activities!

Many of the Third Grade students got to see the power of magnets in person by creating their own magnet propelled cars. The students create their cars out of cardboard and 3D printed wheels.

The Fourth Grade students got to explore the deepest parts of the ocean using virtual reality.

K-2 Enrichment

Kindergarten students have been working on combining numbers and solving simple word problems. In reading, students are reading short passages and answering questions about what they have read.

1st grade math students have been working on number riddles and place value. Students have also been using Beast Academy for extra practice! In reading, students have been finishing up their scripts and puppets. Due to time constraints, we will have to finish filming after break.

2nd grade math students have been working on geometry as well as wrapping up decimals and adding three digit numbers. We will continue to dive deeper in geometry and fractions after break! In reading, students have finished up their comics on Book Creator. Students did a great job!

3-5 A&E

Reading Enrichment students have been busy reading their novels!! All groups have finished their first novel and are working on final projects to demonstrate their learning and understanding of their essential question.

3rd graders made digital books in Book Creator to show "how people protect themselves from danger." They also presented their books to the group.

After break, **4th graders** will be creating a puppet show to demonstrate "how people adapt and change over time."

5th graders made dioramas to show "how people can create peaceful human ecosystems."

4th grade math enrichment students are working with fractions and learning how to compare fractions with unlike denominators.

5th grade math enrichment students continue to work on their enrichment playlists.

5th grade accelerated math students continue to work hard on each of their unique curriculums. They especially love playing board games after finishing their work!

Reading and Math Intervention

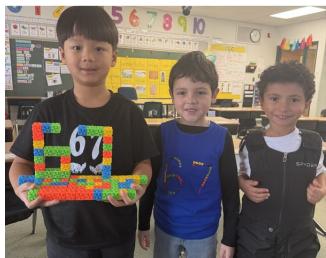
It was a pleasure to meet many of you during the parent-teacher conferences. It is always a great feeling to know that we are working together as a team to ensure your child reaches their full potential. Remember, the Reading and Math Hub is a digital space where your child can find games and activities to help them practice reading and math skills. Take a look at this month's fun activities, [December Reading/Math Resources Hub](#).

Student Services

Speech with Mrs. Gustafson - As we come to the end of December we have been working on some fun activities tied to our stories. The most recent story has been the Gingerbread Man and how he seems to outsmart everyone until the very end when he meets the fox. The fox has other plans... SNAP! SNAP!. Most of the students have opportunities to be exposed to new books and use vocabulary from the story we are reading. Books have a lot to offer for building language skills. If you can visit the library soon, that would be amazing.

The Special Education Teachers have been working with students towards accomplishing their IEP goals and progressing in their grade-level core curriculum. We were happy to see many Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please remember to reach out to your child's Case Manager if you have any questions throughout the school year. We wish you a happy and peaceful Winter Break and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on January 5th, 2026.

December Photo Album







Important School Year Information

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Student Attendance

School Hours: 8:40 - 3:25

Doors open for breakfast at 8:15

Doors open for all students NOT eating breakfast at 8:30

Why does attendance matter? Regular attendance is critical in ensuring excellent student performance. So when we're here, every day, ready and on-time... we move the needle on student success. So, let's show up TOGETHER!

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Student Absences

Please report your child absent by 8:30 AM

(630) 293-6400 ext 8207

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End of Day Pick-Up Changes

We know that sometimes families need to make alternate arrangements for student pick up at the end of the day. If you need your child take alternate transportation (walking, riding with a friend, etc.) please follow these procedures:

- A parent or guardian MUST notify the office of the change by 2pm

- A parent or guardian may send a note to school with their child, call the office, or send a ParentSquare message (by 2pm) if that's easier!
- Emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis
- **If someone is picking up your child from the office, that person MUST be listed as an alternate pick up person in PowerSchool.**
 - Please call or visit the office to add someone to your child's pick up list!
 - Anyone coming to pick up a child MUST have a photo ID so that we can match the person with the name in PowerSchool.

We take the safety of our students very seriously, which is why these procedures are in place. Thank you for your support in helping us keep students safe and minimizing any confusion at dismissal.

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Tardy Students

- If your child arrives to school after 8:40am, they must enter through the front doors.
- We will provide breakfast for tardy children until 9:15am
- CHILDREN WHO ARRIVE AFTER 9:10 WILL RECEIVE ONE OF THE COLD LUNCH OPTIONS.
- If you know your child will arrive AFTER 9:10 and would like to call ahead to request a specific lunch, you may do so until 9:10.

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Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch are FREE for D33 students. Each month we will send home a lunch menu showing the lunch choices for each day. Students are welcome to bring a lunch from home if you prefer.

Our main entrance will open for students eating breakfast at 8:15.
Students who are NOT eating breakfast should arrive at school at 8:30.

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Arrival and Dismissal

Visiting Wegner

District 33 is committed to securing all of its buildings to maintain a safe and appropriate learning environment for all of its students using the Raptor Visitor Management System. All visitors

(volunteers, substitutes, and vendors) who seek access to either the district office or to a school building when school is in session shall be required to ring a bell at the front entrance and identify themselves and their purpose for visit before being granted access. Once access is granted, visitors must present photo identification for the first visit. All visitors' identification will be checked against the sex offender databases in the 50 states. If the check comes back clear, a dated ID badge will be printed for the visitor to wear for that day's visit. The sex offender database will be automatically checked each time a visitor signs in at the office. When departing from the building all visitors will need to stop by the office to be logged out of the Raptor Visitor Management System. The ID badge must be returned prior to leaving.

Volunteer Information

One of our goals for Wegner is to create an environment where our families feel welcomed and we prioritize opportunities for families to be more involved in the school, including volunteer opportunities. It is important to know that any parent who wants to volunteer at Wegner, must complete the volunteer form.

If you anticipate being interested in volunteering during the school year, please read through the Volunteer Packet and complete the appropriate forms.

English Packet

Spanish Packet



Principal: [Mrs. Janet Gruenwald](#)

Asst. Principal: [Mr. Niko Bubaris](#)

Website: <https://wegner.wego33.org/>

Location: 1180 Marcella Lane West Chicago, IL 60185

Phone: (630) 293-6400



Janet Gruenwald, Principal

Wegner Elementary School