

The Wegner Connection



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A Note From Principal Janet Gruenwald

September, 2025

We are off to a great start this school year! Your child has been spending time building relationships with new classmates and teachers, learning about routines, and practicing our Wegner Way Core Values. This year, to help reinforce our core values, we have adopted "Birdie Bucks" which students earn and use to shop in our school store or work towards whole school celebrations.



To start the year, we worked towards earning our first whole school celebration by filling our Eagles Nest with Birdie Bucks, and on Friday we finally did it! This Monday we will reveal the final clue to what our celebration will be, which we will celebrate during our next whole school assembly on October 10th! We encourage you to continue having conversations around those expectations and the Wegner Way with your children so that our school continues to be a place for our students to feel safe, valued, and welcomed.

Thank you for all you have done to help your child adjust to a new school year. I know that there is so much planning and preparation done at home to get your children ready to have a successful day. Mr. Bubaris and I are truly grateful for our partnership with Wegner families!

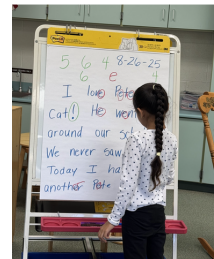
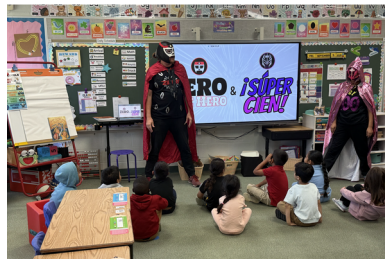
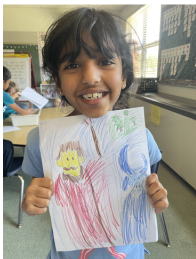
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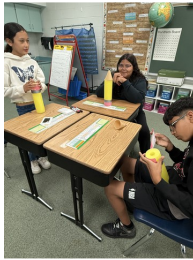
Important Upcoming Dates

9/29 Severe Weather Drill
10/1 Spirit Wear Orders Due
10/2 Fall Picture Day
10/7 3rd-5th Grade Field Trip - Concert at Wheaton College
10/13 NO SCHOOL
10/17 Law Enforcement Drill - More Information to Come
10/29 Trunk-Or-Treat 4:30 - 6:00
11/3 NO SCHOOL
11/4 NO SCHOOL
11/14 4th Grade Music Concert @10:30



August & September Photo Album

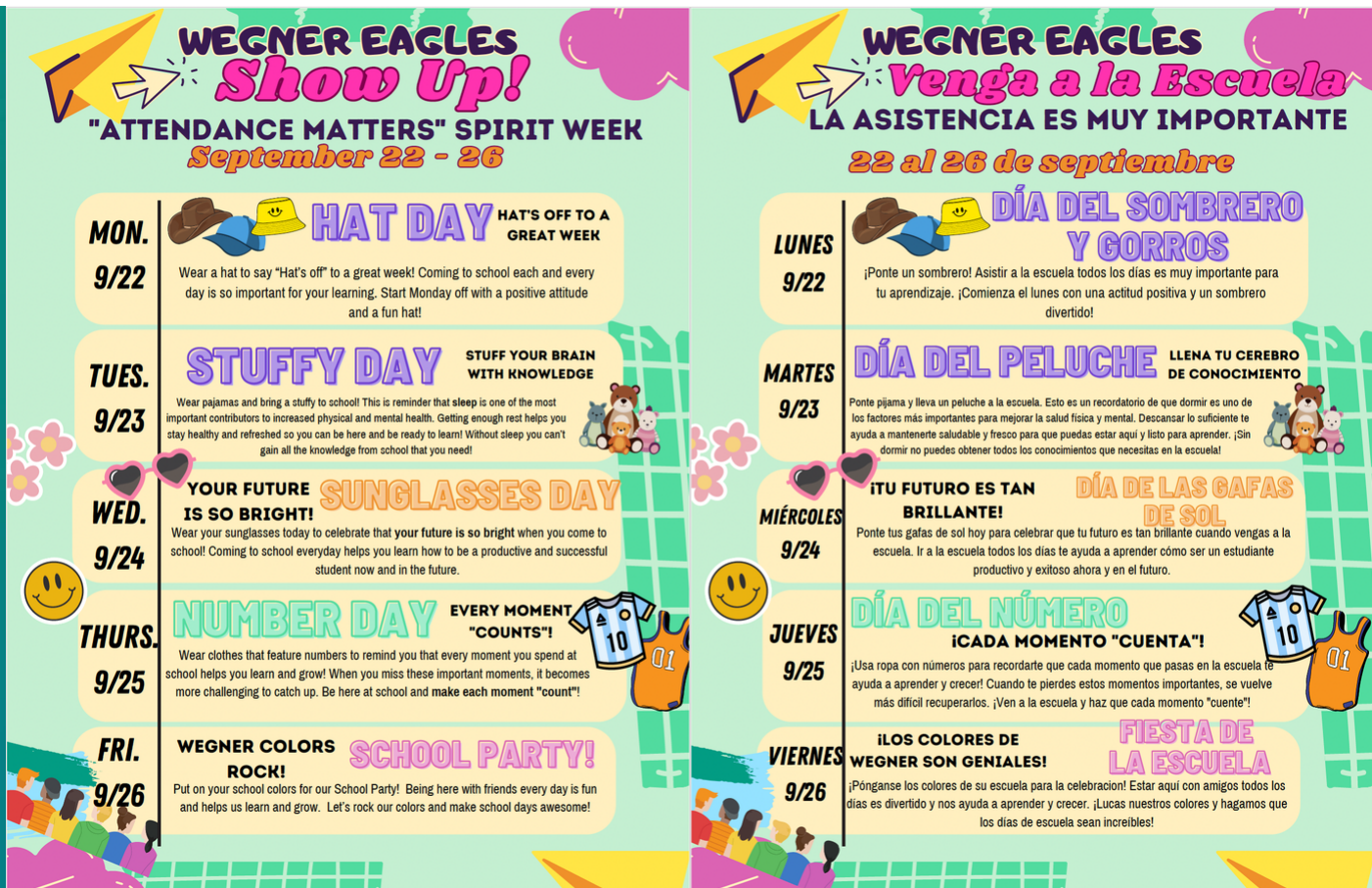




Wegner Updates

September Core Value - Readiness to Learn

This month our students have been focusing on the Core Value 'Readiness to Learn.' We've talked about our routines and expectations, learned our new schedules, and reinforced what it means to be a responsible learner. The final piece we're focusing on with students is how a big piece of being ready to learn is being in school. 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! This week we will have a special spirit week to remind students how important it is to Show Up for school. Check out the special theme days below!



Wegner Spirit Wear Sale

Our Fall Spirit Wear sale runs now through Wednesday, October 1st. Families should have received the order form in their student's backpack last week. If you need another copy, you can print it using the link below or ask your teacher to send another one home!

[Order Form](#)

Parent / Student Handbook

Each family is required to review the Parent-Student handbook with their child and return the signed form indicating the handbook has been reviewed. If you have not returned your signed form, please do so by Friday, September 26th. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or Principal Janet Gruenwald.

Picture Day / Día de Foto

Thursday, 10/2

Jueves, 10/2





Grade Level Happenings

Kindergarten

Welcome to kindergarten! This month kindergartners have been learning our classroom routines and expectations. In math we are learning how to classify objects based on their similar attributes (size, shape, color). We have also been practicing writing our numbers 0-5. In Language Arts we are learning all about nursery rhymes. Ask your child to say a few nursery rhymes for you. We love Ring Around the Rosie because we get to act it out in class! We are also learning how to produce the sounds (consonants and vowels) by positioning our mouth in the correct manner. We have been practicing the letter sounds and writing these letters: a, m, t, and s. It's been an exciting start to kindergarten!



1st Grade

In Amplify, we are wrapping up our Fables unit. Students worked hard to identify characters, settings, and plots of various fables. They learned about the moral or lesson of each and key vocabulary with each story. In UFLI, we are reviewing our short vowel sounds with words with 3 and 4 sounds. In math, we are working on adding numbers 0-10 with word problems, and visuals. We

are working on adding the numbers as well as finding the unknown number within the number sentence.



2nd Grade



Our Second Grade Scholars have had a great start to the school year! We have worked on building our classroom communities and getting to know each other. We started our phonics program, UFLI, as well as beginning and finishing our first literacy unit, Fairy Tales and Tall Tales. We wrapped up that unit with a Paul Bunyan style celebration of a directed drawing of him and delicious pancakes that weren't quite as colossal as he was!

Our first math unit, Sums and Differences to 100, was a great refresher of addition and subtraction. We have started unit 2, Addition and Subtraction of Length Units. This unit focuses on measuring using addition and subtraction. We have jumped right into ST Math and we are excited to see the progress we have made in puzzle completion independently and as a whole class. There are so many exciting things ahead for second grade!

3rd Grade

Terrific things are happening in 3rd Grade!

In **Math**, we've kicked off our first module, which focuses on multiplication, division, and their properties. One fun way we've been exploring these concepts is by creating and studying arrays. We're also building fact fluency and practicing through our learning program, Freckle.

In **Social Studies**, we've started our first unit on Culture. As we learn about different cultures around the world, students are also reflecting on their own culture. They've really enjoyed discovering how kids their age live in other countries!



In **ELA**, we wrapped up our first Amplify unit: *Classic Tales*. Over 15 days, we read *Wind in the Willows*, *Aladdin*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. Along the way, we practiced important reading skills such as comparing and contrasting, finding various themes, phonics, and comprehension. To wrap it up, students chose a theme displayed by the characters and wrote an opinion paragraph. Ask your child how they noticed themes like irresponsibility or hospitality in *Wind in the Willows*!

4th Grade

Our fourth graders have been hard at work since the start of the school year! We are nearing the end of our first math module working with place value as well as reviewing and reinforcing the standard algorithms for both addition and subtraction. For literacy we are reaching the end of



module one about narrative writing. Students have been working on all the parts of personal narratives such as included descriptive details, identifying character traits, and writing strong paragraphs. We have also jumped into the dictado and lotta lara to increase our reading fluency and dictation skills. We will soon be going on a walking field trip to explore some science themes outdoors which we are super excited for!

5th Grade

The beginning of the year has been busy in 5th grade!

In reading, we are working on personal narratives. We have been reading and writing personal narratives while focusing on the correct punctuation needed when including dialog. We have read a personal narrative about a Cuban Family having their first American Thanksgiving and the life experiences of Rosa Parks.



In science, we have been learning that everything is matter, as well as exploring the difference between a physical change and a chemical change.

In math, we are learning about place value, powers of 10, exponents, rounding, and decimal operations.

Fun things are happening in specials!

Art



Hello from the Art Room! For the first several weeks of school, students have been getting to know art room routines and expectations.

-Kindergarteners have been getting to know the art room, trying new art supplies and observing how artists use lines and shapes to make art.

-At the moment, 1st and 2nd graders are focusing on appropriate classroom behaviors and listening skills. We are also practicing drawing and collage techniques.

-3rd - 5th grade students have been practicing weekly drawing exercises in their sketchbooks in order to develop perseverance, craftsmanship, idea development, and observation skills. Students are realizing that when they have 5 minutes of required silent drawing time, their imaginations really begin to wake up!

Please consider saving cardboard tubes, cereal boxes, pipe cleaners, q-tips, cotton balls, etc. for our Wegner Artists!

Music

In Music, all classes have been working on maintaining a steady beat as well as learning “We are Wegner”, our school song, which is an arrangement of “We Will Rock You” by Queen. In Trimester 1, the primary focus for kindergarten music is vocal exploration, while grades 1-5 develop their rhythmic literacy.



Kindergarteners are learning to differentiate between and demonstrate the four voices (whisper, speak, sing, and shout).

First graders have begun basic rhythm reading including the quarter note and the quarter rest. Second graders are reviewing familiar basic rhythms and are now starting to read and perform half notes and half rests.

Third graders are reviewing all basic rhythms. They are beginning to read and play their first intermediate rhythm, beamed sixteenth notes.

Fourth graders are reviewing familiar intermediate rhythms in addition to all basic rhythms. They are beginning to read single eighth notes, eighth note rests, and beamed eighth-sixteenths rhythms.

Fifth graders are reviewing all basic and intermediate rhythms. This trimester they are beginning to identify, read, and perform advanced syncopated rhythms.

Want to hear our new school song?

Click the video below and see if your child can sing along with you!

We are Wegner

We are, we are Wegner.

PE

Grades 3 - 5 started off the year doing their fitness pre tests. They were tested on push ups, curl ups, back saver sit and reach, and PACER using the Fitnessgram. They have since been working in a soccer unit.

Grades K - 2 started working on their basic locomotor movements. These are walking, running, skipping, sliding, galloping, hopping, and jumping. They then moved to working on soccer skills. Focussing on kicking and dribbling.

SEL / Health

Hello Families! In SEL/Health we started out the year with some fun getting to know you activities in each class. Then the 3rd-5th grade students worked really hard on a fun activity about Things They Couldn't Imagine Their Lives Without and they had some great answers! In all grades we have started discussing Healthy Practices and Hygiene that they can be doing to keep themselves healthy and feeling good!

Innovation Center

At the start of the school year, students and staff were welcomed into our incredible Innovation Center! The core rule in the Innovation Center is simple: RESPECT. Students focused on understanding respect, particularly by following behavior expectations and caring for library books both at school and at home. Kindergarten-2nd grade students learned about book care through read-alouds and matching games. Each Kindergarten and 1st-grade student will receive a Library Book Bag during their first book checkout. They will use the book bags to safely transport their books to and from school, helping to prevent any damage. Meanwhile, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students reviewed library expectations and book care by playing Tik-Tac-Toe and Jeopardy games. We also had a successful book fair. Thank you so much for all your support!



Technology



Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! We started the year by reviewing the rules for using the iPads and Chromebooks.

The Second Grade students topped off their Fairy Tales unit with a visit to the STEM Lab. We used the virtual reality headsets to explore the setting of Fairy Tales.

Our Student Services teams are working hard with kids!

Speech & Special Education Teachers

Hello families! Speech services have been underway! We are all working on various skills. Some are working on building vocabulary and some are working on producing sounds. We are also working on some themes for September and October...APPLES! Questions or help needed in the area of speech and language...please don't hesitate to reach out to the school and ask for Mrs. Gustafson.

The Wegner LBS1's (Special Education Teachers) have enjoyed welcoming students to the 2025-2026 school year. This year, we have 2 new Teachers joining our Staff: Ms. Julie Horn, who will be working with 3rd grade and Mr. Riley Ricobene will be working with Kindergarten and 4th grade. Joining us again this year is Mrs. Beth Walrath (5th grade) and Ms. Ellen Gutierrez (1st & 2nd grade). The 4 of us are looking forward to helping students achieve to the very best of their abilities while fostering their enjoyment of school and learning. If your student has an IEP, please reach out to us at any time during the school year with questions, concerns or comments. We appreciate your input!

K-2 Enrichment

Enrichment groups have started in K-2! Kindergarten students work in centers in their classrooms during small group time. First and second grade students meet during WIN and guided math time.

First graders are working on asking and answering questions about a text in reading. In math, we are working on place value. Second grade students are working on finding the main idea along with supporting details in reading and place value in math.

3-5 A&E

Third grade reading enrichment students will begin to read the novel, "I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic". They will learn how to annotate the text as they read and will practice writing summaries of the text including important text details.

Fourth grade reading enrichment students will be reading the novel, "Pax". They will practice annotation skills and will learn how to compare and contrast characters.

Fifth grade reading enrichment students will be reading the novel, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe". They will practice annotation skills and will learn about the symbolism and themes throughout the novel.

Reading and Math Intervention

Hello Families,

We're excited to share that our math and reading interventions are up and running! Mrs. Janie Sikes is our building reading interventionist, working alongside a wonderful team of reading assistants, and Mrs. Adriana Medina is our building math interventionist. These small-group sessions are designed to meet students where they are and help build both confidence and essential skills. We're already seeing great effort and enthusiasm from the kids! If your child has been identified for Tier 3 intervention, you should have received a letter—Tier 2 letters will be going out soon. We'll continue to keep you updated and share ways you can support at home. Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning journey!

Community Information

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.

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.

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.

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