

# The Wegner Connection



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

## A Note From Principal Janet Gruenwald

**November, 2025**

Parent / teacher conferences are just around the corner. Attending parent-teacher conferences is a great way to stay connected to your child's learning. It gives you and your child's teacher(s) a chance to talk together about your child's progress, celebrate their strengths, and identify any areas where they may need extra support. These conversations help us work as a team to make sure your child feels confident and successful at school. If you have not scheduled a conference, please reach out to your child's teacher as soon as possible.



This month has been filled with learning, reflection, and giving thanks. As a school, our focus has been on our Core Value of "Respect for Others." Our goal has been to help integrate language around what it means to be respectful, and making sure the words and language we use show respect and kindness. To help reinforce this, we integrated "Thankful Thursday" themes to have students practice and be more aware of how their words and actions demonstrate kindness and respect. Our older and younger students paired up for their first Buddy Classroom activity, where they worked together to share what they are thankful for. You can see our whole school "Thankful Turkey" when you stop in for conferences this week!

November is a time for giving thanks and Mr. Bubaris and I have a lot to appreciate. We would like to thank you all for the opportunity to lead our amazing school. We are so fortunate and grateful to our wonderful staff for all their hard work, and our students for how hard they are working to be

responsible learners. We are especially thankful for our parent community for all the support you provide both staff and students. The partnership between home and school is key, and we appreciate you!

Janet

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## *Important Upcoming Dates*

**11/17** Picture Retakes  
**11/17** Winter Coat Distribution Begins  
**11/18** PTO Meeting @6:00  
**11/20** Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences - NO Puente, NO Clubs,  
NO After School Band/Orchestra  
**11/21** NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
**11/21** Report Cards Go Live in PowerSchool @4:00  
**11/24-11/28** NO SCHOOL  
**12/9** CAP Presentations - 3rd Grade  
**12/11** D33 5:00 - 6:30 @Leman  
**12/16** PTO Meeting @6:00  
**12/20 - 1/4** WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL  
**1/15** ACCESS Information Night for Families



# **Wegner PTO** **Parent Meeting**

**Tuesday,  
November 18**

**6:00 - 7:30  
at Wegner**



**Join us for our next PTO meeting of  
the year! Together we're planning an  
amazing year for our students!**

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# **Reunión del PTO de Wegner**

**Martes, 18  
de noviembre**

**6:00 - 7:30  
at Wegner**



**¡Acompáñanos en nuestra próxima  
reunión del PTO del año! ¡Juntos  
estamos planeando un año increíble  
para nuestros estudiantes!**

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WEST CHICAGO  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
*Empower the Learner • Guide for the Educator*

# 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!**

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, limites, y auto-disciplina

✓ MAYO 21: Quien dijo que no podias? 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>

Habra  
rifas!



## Wegner Updates

WEGNER *EAGLES* 

**SPIRIT**

==> **DAY** <==

**FALL COLORS DAY**

WEAR YOUR  
FAVORITE **FALL**  
**COLORS** TODAY!

**TUESDAY, 11/18**



### Golden Eagle Winners - Readiness To Learn

As a building, we focused on the core value of: Orderly Transitions during the month of October. Students who show orderly transitions:

- line up immediately in a single file line
- carry their own materials
- stop at the hallway stop signs
- keep their eyes forward
- respect personal space
- use the appropriate voice levels
- speak about appropriate topics
- are friendly & positive

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



Charles T Wegner Elementary School

# GOLDEN EAGLE

## **Kindergarten & 1st Grade**

**Ali Sher Rizvi - Kindergarten**

**Peter Gernand - Kindergarten**

**Christopher Osorio - Kindergarten**

**Anyelin Mendez Salinas - 1st**

**Irving Lopez Cruz - 1st**

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Charles T Wegner Elementary School

# GOLDEN EAGLE

## **2nd & 3rd Grade**

**Rutdairys Bolivar Acosta - 2nd**

**Rayna Hamm - 2nd**

**Dylan Medina - 2nd**

**Laila Calderon - 2nd**

**Miguel Nunez - 2nd**

**Adrian Watson - 3rd**

**Vivian Pontecorvo - 3rd**

**Mateo Soto - 3rd**

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# GOLDEN EAGLE

## 4th & 5th

**Abby Alverio - 4th**

**Charlie Gamblin - 4th**

**Juan Salas Pineda - 4th**

**Yanely Garcia Solis - 4th**

**Jennifer William - 5th**

**Reymal Marcano Acosta - 5th**

**Cristofer Trujillo - 5th**

## Coach's Corner Newsletter



### PREPARE FOR CONFERENCES

### PREPÁRESE PARA LAS CONFERENCIAS

#### Before the conference

- Ask your child how she feels about school.
- Ask your child if there is anything that they want you to talk about with their teacher.
- Tell your child that you and the teacher are meeting to discuss his/her progress.
- Check your child's grades and ask your child questions about their assignments.
- Make a list of topics/questions that you want to talk about with the teacher.

#### During the conference

- Be on time for the meeting.
- Relax and be yourself.
- Ask the most important questions first.
- Take notes on what you want to remember.

#### After the conference

- Talk about the positive points of the conference with your child.
- Talk about the areas of concerns and help make a plan to improve in those areas.

#### Potential Questions

- Is my child reading at grade level?
- What is my child doing well in? What needs improvement?
- Is my child finishing classwork and homework?
- Does my child take part in class discussions or activities?
- How is my child doing in math? Are they on grade level?
- What can I do at home to support their learning?

#### Antes de las conferencias

- Pregúntale a tu hijo/a cómo se siente en la escuela.
- Pregúntale si hay algo que quiera que hables con su maestro/a.
- Dile que tú y el maestro/a se reunirán y asegúrese de que pueda asistir.
- Revisa las calificaciones de tu hijo/a y pregúntale sobre sus tareas.
- Haz una lista de los temas que quiere tratar con el maestro/a.

#### Durante la reunión

- Sé puntual a la cita.
- Relájate y sé tu mismo/a.
- Haz las preguntas más importantes primero.
- Toma notas de lo que quiera recordar.

#### Después de la reunión

- Habla sobre los puntos positivos de la reunión.
- Habla con tu hijo/a sobre las áreas de preocupación y ayúdalo/a a crear un plan para mejorar en esas áreas.

#### Preguntas posibles

- ¿Está leyendo mi hijo/a al nivel de grado esperado?
- ¿En qué está destacando mi hijo/a? ¿En qué necesita mejorar?
- ¿Está terminando su trabajo en clase y las tareas?
- ¿Participa en las discusiones o actividades de clase?
- ¿Cómo le va en matemáticas? ¿Está al nivel de grado?
- ¿Qué puedo hacer en casa para apoyar su aprendizaje?



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



**Preparing for Conferences Newsletter.pdf**

**Download**

224.9 KB

## ***Grade Level Happenings***

### ***Kindergarten***

We started the month of November with a trip to Brookfield Zoo! We had a great time looking at animals and the weather was perfect. I keep hearing from the students that they loved the dolphin show!



In our Amplify reading unit, we read different stories. After listening to all of the stories we went to the STEM lab with Mr. Boyk and completed STEM challenges based on the stories. One of the stories we read was "The Three Billy Goats Gruff". In the STEM lab our goal was to build a bridge that held as much weight as it could. The kindergartners did a great job problem solving to make their bridges stronger with each try.

We are continuing to learn letter names and sounds and use those sounds to read and write CVC words. We are using those CVC words and heart words (high frequency words) to read sentences. In dual classrooms we continue learning to read and write sílabas.

In Math, we learned about 2D shapes (triangle, rectangle, square, and hexagon). Do you know what shape has three sides and three corners? We also learned about 3D shapes (cylinder, cone, sphere, cube). 3D shapes are solid shapes that have 3 dimensions. Do you know how many flat surfaces have a cube? Our next unit is measurement. The kiddos are very excited!

### ***1st Grade***

In Amplify, we are starting to learn about Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. Students are comparing and contrasting different components of these two civilizations including, farming, cities, writing, leaders, and religion. In UFLI, we are learning about consonant digraphs, while still practicing reading fluency, writing and our heart words. In math, we are using strategies to make ten to help add three numbers together. Also working on math stories for both addition and subtraction with numbers 0-20.





## 2nd Grade



Fun! Fun! Fun! Second grade has had such an exciting past couple of weeks!

To wrap up our Ancient Greek Civilization unit we created our very own "Potato Olympics"! Each student had their very own potato athlete. We had opening ceremonies, where students introduced their potatoes and the country they represented. Potato athletes then participated in a series of events, and had the opportunity to win gold, silver, and bronze medals. We had such a GREAT day!



In math, we are currently working on module 4, addition and subtraction to 200 with word problems to 100. We'll be busy working through this module until after winter break.

## 3rd Grade

In math we are wrapping up our second module that focuses on place value and measurement. We will be starting our third module soon! The new module will be focusing on multiplication and division.

For Amplify, we are finishing up our third unit on the human body systems. Students got to learn all about the different body systems and how they all work together to help us move. Our next unit will focus on The Ancient Roman Civilization.



In science we are learning about invisible forces. Students had the opportunity to design their own bridge and test how much weight it could hold without it collapsing. Students were very curious to see all the different designs that their classmates came up with.

November is a very busy month for 3rd grade and we are ALL very excited for Thanksgiving break!

## 4th Grade



For Math, students are on Module 3, continuing to work on multiplication strategies in word problems. We will be starting our division lessons in the coming weeks.

For Amplify, students are working on the Empires in the Middle Ages unit, part 2. Particularly, the decline and fall of the Roman Empire which led to the Islamic Empire

For Science, students are continuing to learn about the concept of ENERGY and will continue this up to Thanksgiving break.

4th Grade students and teachers are SUPER EXCITED for Thanksgiving break!

## 5th Grade

In 5th grade we just wrapped up ancient civilizations in reading. We learned all about the Maya, Aztec, & Inca civilizations. Next up is poetry where we will be reading and writing different styles of poetry.

Our field trip to the Field Museum was a great opportunity to see the artifacts of ancient civilizations as well as many other amazing exhibits. Thank you to our amazing volunteers, we all had a great time!!!



In math, students are learning algorithms and strategies for multiplying and dividing large whole numbers and decimals.

Also in 5th grade, we just wrapped up our exciting Social Studies unit on revolutions! Students have been learning about major turning points in history, including the American, French, Mexican, and Russian Revolutions. To show what they've learned, students are now working on a creative project building a timeline that highlights key events, important leaders, and the lasting impact of one of these revolutions. We can't wait to see their hard work and creativity come to life as they connect the past to the present!

## Fun things are happening in specials!

### Art



-Please sign up for Artsonia! This is a digital portfolio program that allows students to share their artwork with family near and far! Click on the website to sign up!

<https://www.artsonia.com/connect/36DSRR9N>

Code: 36DSRR9N

-Volunteer Opportunities! Please reach out if you would like to volunteer in the art room! Come see what is going on in the art room!

- Please consider saving cardboard tubes, boxes, cereal boxes, clean plastic items, etc. for Wegner Artists! We are masters at turning trash into incredible art!

-Upcoming Art Show info: Students can now submit artwork for *consideration* for the first art show of the year! December 11, 2025 is "Gala 33" at Leman Middle School. Due to space limitations, not all art is automatically in the art show. If your artist is interested, please encourage them to submit their best and favorite original artwork!

### PE

We are working on jump rope in all grades. Grades K - 2 are focussing on jump rope skills with an individual rope. Grades 3 - 5 are doing group jumping with a long jump rope as well as individual jumps.

## Music

In Music, K-2 students have continued to work on keeping a steady beat and basic rhythms. This month students have started working on two new shaking and scraping instruments, the maracas and the cabasas. They have also begun working on the mallet instruments with an emphasis on proper mallet technique and aural skills. The 2nd Grade Tigers will perform the school song on boomwhackers at the end of the month.

3rd-5th grade students have been refining their mallet techniques on the

glockenspiels and xylophones. They have also begun to work on choral music, focusing on melody and diction, singing in both English and Spanish.



## SEL / Health

All grade levels have finished up our unit on Mental Health and Wellness and did great! We learned what our body feels like if we are angry and ways to help calm down. We have started our unit on Nutrition. All grades will be learning about making healthy food choices.

K&1- Healthy vs. Unhealthy

2&3-Learning about the different food groups

4&5- Learning more about reading food labels and what vitamins and minerals the different food groups can provide your body.

## Innovation Center

### DiNovember and the Traveling Mural Project

We celebrated DiNovember with dinosaur-themed books, displays, and activities across all grade levels. As part of our celebration, students contributed to the nationwide Traveling Mural Project, where ten schools work together to create a shared community mural. Our students contributed to the Wegner mural by coloring dinosaurs, fossils, and bones. Pieces of our mural will soon travel to other parts of the country, and in return, we will receive sections created by partner schools. We look forward to sharing the completed mural later this school year.

### Book Clubs Have Begun

Our in-person book clubs are up and running.

- 3rd Grade: Area 51 Files
- 4th Grade: Dogtown
- 5th Grade: Millionaires for the Month

Students meet weekly to read and discuss assigned chapters. They will create a final project after finishing their book.

## Technology

November is shaping up to be an exciting month in the STEM Lab!

The Second Grade students are studying Ancient Greece. The students built soldier transport boats out of popsicle sticks, aluminum foil, paper, and bubble wrap. The fastest boat crossed the "Aegean Sea" in 1.1 seconds.

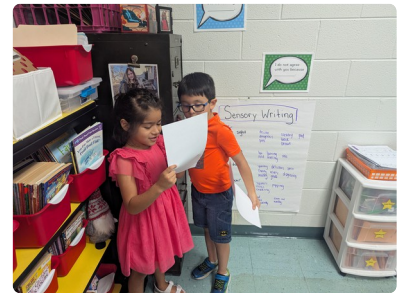
The Fifth Grade students are building forts for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. These forts have to withstand a wind storm, an earthquake, and an "attack" from the British Army.

The Third Grade students are going to complete the magnet-propelled car challenge. They have to build a car out of household supplies (cardboard, tape, popsicle sticks, etc.). Then we will use opposing sides of magnets to repel/propel the car down the track.

## K-2 Enrichment

Students in 1st and 2nd grade ELA groups have begun doing research for final projects. Be on the lookout for some great products!

Second grade math students are finishing up learning about money and decimals. Students will move on to geometry next. First grade math students have been working on place value and problem solving.



Second grade math students have been working on triple digit addition and subtraction. Students have also been working on word problems and error analysis problems.

## 3-5 A&E

It's been so much fun reading and discussing some amazing novels with the reading enrichment students this month!

5th grade finished *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and are working on creating their end of novel projects.

4th grade is close to finishing their novel, *Pax*. They are excited about the puppet show we will be creating for their end of unit project.

3rd grade is doing a wonderful job reading *I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic*. They have been practicing using text evidence to describe the main character and will be practicing writing paragraphs soon.

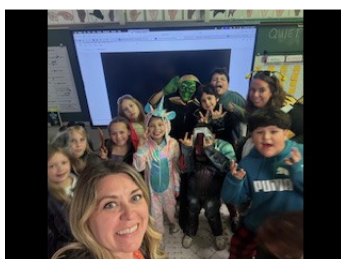


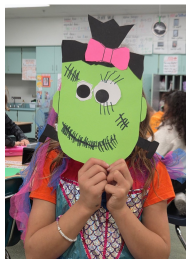
## Reading and Math Intervention

As promised, [here](#) is the reading and math resource hub! 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. It's like an online classroom of resources that we have chosen to support what students are learning in intervention. If you need help with accessing these resources or have questions, please visit the reading/math at-home help table during parent-teacher conferences! We will continue to add resources to the hub as the school year goes on. Thank you for your help at home. We truly appreciate your partnership in helping your child learn.

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## November Photo Album





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## *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***

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## ***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