



# Conrad Weiser West PTO

December 2016

## From the Principal's Desk...Mrs. Jennifer Hassler

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The season of joy is upon us. As dreams of sugarplum fairies, gelt, and twinkling lights dance in the brains of CW West students, school is still in session and learning expectations have not been diminished. Our school calendar has 40 weeks of instruction each year. Teachers need all 40 weeks to expose their students to the standards mandated by the state of Pennsylvania. This can become a challenge on days when the holidays are looming.

Although the vocabulary words of choice in education have become assessment, accountability, and perseverance, I have been reminded lately that our clients are children. Children who are filled with the potential for joy. When schools approach learning with a mindset for creating excitement and happiness, daunting tasks become enjoyable.

In *Joy: A Subject Schools Lack*, by Susan Engel, the author suggests that schools often approach learning like taking a dose of medicine. It is necessary although yucky tasting. She recommends thinking about learning as food. When you eat something delicious and healthy, you want more. When we teach our children to love learning, to ask questions, be curious, and find joy in the experiences of the classroom, they will want to learn for the rest of their lives.

So our mission at West in December is to encourage academics through the eyes of a child. We can't afford to lose these weeks of instruction, but our teachers are encouraged to use the added merriment of the students as a fuel for present and future learning.

As for parents and families, if you view small moments in your child's life as learning experiences, you can surely find them in a flock of migrating birds overhead, a giant moon in the night sky, or a holiday recipe. Take notice during the next several weeks how the capacity for joy is so easy for kids. And then consider the impact we could have if we attach that feeling to something as critical as learning. We would not have any boundaries.

### Important Dates:

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1/19	West Winter Wonderland
1/30	7:00 PTO Meeting in Library
	Childcare in Auditorium

### Save the Date

**January 19, 2017 1:00-3:00**

**West Winter Wonderland**

**Families will be invited to participate in an afternoon of JOYFUL learning, lunch, and books for readers of all ages.**

**All ages are invited to attend. Flyer with details to be released soon.**

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## REMINDER

To stay up to date on the CW West PTO and all of our happenings or to join the PTO:  
Please text @cwwwpto to 81010

Also, be sure to join our Facebook page: CW West PTO

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## Introducing the new CW West School Counselor...Mrs. Oxenreider

Mrs. Oxenreider is our new school counselor. Mr. Foster has taken a position in another school district, and Mrs. Oxenreider worked very hard, for several years to obtain a Master's Degree in School Counseling from Kutztown University. His resignation and her completion of program were a fortunate coincidence for West. Mrs. Oxenreider already knows our families and she has very strong roots and connections in our school community. You may not know this, but she is also a veteran who served overseas in Operation Iraqi Freedom and worked as a counselor in the Berks County Prison. She has a wealth of knowledge and experiences to bring to West as our counselor.

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## HOLIDAY WORKSHOP



Hopefully all of your children brought home some wonderful crafts from our Holiday Workshop. It was a great week and the kids had an excellent time being creative. We would like to thank Shannon Kramer for all of her planning to make this week a success! If anyone would have an interest in being a part of the planning for next year's Holiday Workshop please email Alison @ [kjsjr@comcast.net](mailto:kjsjr@comcast.net)

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## BOXTOPS

Keep saving your boxtops! Our next contest will be in February.

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## UNITED SCRIP FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who have purchased gift cards through our United Scrips Fundraiser. Be on the lookout in the new year for our next sale.

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The PTO would like to wish all of our West Families a wonderful Holiday Season and best wishes throughout the New Year!

