

Greetings from WWG Schools,

Please bring on the rain! Every day that goes by gets a little trickier for the crops but keep the prayers coming and hopefully we'll get a couple inches to fall in the next week. Fortunately, science is keeping pace with developing crops that don't need the rain that they did 20 years ago when I think of '76, '89, and '93. But look on the bright side; we are saving a lot of gas in our lawn mowers!

The Westbrook Area Education Foundation held a meeting last month and I am excited to see some major changes coming. We have enlisted the services of former all-star teacher, techie, writer Shannon Helgeson to put out a web page for the foundation as well as beginning a Facebook page. Many area communities have an education foundation or a community foundation and they have had great success in getting the message out to alumni and locals about their needs and wishes. The Westbrook Area Foundation is a stand-alone foundation not associated with any "larger" organization. This foundation is separate from our Walnut Grove Area Foundation which has the sole purpose of aiding the entire Wg community including school, city, organizations, etc. The Westbrook Area Education Foundation has had great success since its inception nearly 20 years ago. Donations and estate gifts have helped the Westbrook Education Foundation make incredible purchases including a new stage curtain, a grand piano, auditorium chairs, gymnasium bleachers, a greenhouse, a digital sign on Westbrook Main Street, and improvements to the bus garages. Piggybacking on this spirit of generosity have come donations directly to the school from private individuals / estates like Patricia Rick, granddaughter of Frans E. Nordstrom (WG alumni) to purchase SMARTBOARDS and Air conditioning for the Walnut Grove Library as well as donors coming forward for a digital sign in highway 14 in Wg and the installation of double doors in the choir room to house the grand piano. Our Westbrook Area Education Foundation Board has representatives from across the Westbrook area representing alumni of the 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's. Board members include: Jim Dibble, Marlowe Nelsen, Gene Kronback, Bruce Jorgenson, Jim Schmidt, Melissa Grams, and Maury Keuhl. These fine individuals are rooted in the district and want what's best for kids. They have an ear to the ground and an ear for listening to your ideas as well. Give them a pat on the back for volunteering their time to help out this area and its students. We will get the web page and Facebook page off the ground late summer / early fall and I expect great things to come! I love a quote I heard a few years back: "People do not give to organizations because they have needs; they give to organizations because the meet needs." The Westbrook Walnut Grove School gives every single student an unmatched opportunity to participate in the arts, athletics, and all academic areas. The district is a second home for all students, especially those students at risk. The district is also the single largest employer in town and out of a rough number of 100 employees only 5 live outside the school district! Can you believe it!

On the school side, we are nearing completion of our summer cleaning and floor waxing, painting and room moving. Our buildings and grounds folks have a system that is rivaled only by the military in terms of organization and attention to detail. The grounds look as nice as possible with such little rain. The new paint on the WG lunchroom exterior puts the finishing touches on a building looking like its 15 years old and the new landscaping project in the Westbrook gymnasium cove will hide the ugly dumpsters and provide an attractive outside area for the public. We have staffing nearly filled and the students are only weeks away from fall sports beginning. I always welcome your comments and

look forward to visiting any club to share what's happening at the school. I have set or should say reset a goal to be out more in all the communities as I was the first few years. You may email me at [lwoelber@mntm.org](mailto:lwoelber@mntm.org) or text / call me anytime at 507-828-6608.

Thanks and have a great rest of July,

Loy Woelber