




Welcome to another Westwood ZOOM community meeting. I am Heather Lourcey.

I hope that everyone is doing well during this very difficult time in our country and the world. I appreciate everyone's time this evening.

It is our community that makes Westwood a special place.



THE WESTWOOD SCHOOL

Let's Move Forward Together

With Nimble Response Today, Tomorrow & Beyond

Agenda

- Living our values & beliefs
- Year-end wrap up
- Summer 2020
- COVID-19 Safety
- Fall 2020 Plans & Considerations
- Ideas & Resources Parents Can Use Now
- Q&A



Here is our agenda – We are going to go through some slides and then take questions.

Post Event Note: An FAQ including questions from our June 11 & early May live online events can be found at <https://westwoodschool.org/wp-content/docs/COVID-19-Response/LetsMoveForwardTogether-FAQ.pdf>

*“...creating respectful, inclusive classrooms,
celebrating diversity in all its forms,
crossing cultural boundaries,
and modeling engaged citizenry,
Montessori educators nurture students
who will transform the world and
make it a better place for their generation
and the generations that follow.”*
- American Montessori Society



First, we must acknowledge the anguish the black community is suffering right now. Westwood administrators have been collaborating and reaching out to some of Westwood’s Upper School students to simply listen.

It is core to Westwood’s mission to assist students to develop the skills to be respectful, celebrate diversity and inclusion and strive for social justice – people who choose to do the right thing.

We are re-affirming our commitment to inclusivity, diversity and equitable treatment for our black community. We will work together each day to truly listen to each other, strive to understand and take appropriate action.

Post Event Note: See also the 6/16/2020 email from The Westwood School Administration with the subject line: “Westwood's Commitment to Equality and Fighting Injustice”

Year-End Wrap Up

Let's Move Forward Together

"What if after this we have created leaders who will heal our world & take care of our Earth."

Cassi Mackey, M.Ed.,
Principal Montessori Education Centre



Westwood has faced some challenges this year. Our community worked hard to end the school year on a high note which I believe we accomplished. Still, it is natural for parents to ask... "What if my child falls behind in their education as we shelter at home?"

A fellow Montessori educator, Cassi Mackey, suggests we ask a different question... "What if after this we have created leaders who will heal our world and take care of our Earth. Our hope is that this will turn into a bright light in our world."

Like Maria Montessori, we embrace the importance of what our children have learned from home. We believe rather than falling behind, you have helped your children take advantage of a rare opportunity to learn and practice skills they will use for a lifetime – creativity, communication, critical thinking, independence, confidence and resilience. Later, there will be a link to her article which you might be interested to read.

Academics

Educating the "Whole Child"

communication

creativity

critical thinking

resilience

independence

confidence

➔ **Let's Move Forward Together**

➔ **Our Actions:**

Learning from home meant making changes to how we get together as parents, teachers & students to talk about student progress

Empowered students to ask parents & teachers for support

- ✓ Students led **Upper Elementary** Conferences based on guided self-reflection
- ✓ Facilitated dialogue between **Middle & HS** students/parents based on guided self-reflection

Annual 3rd Grade Spelling Bee
Science Fair
Upper School House Games & Final Exams

👍 **How we are making a difference:**

- Guided & encouraged development of life skills (i.e. independence, communication, critical thinking)
- Increased student independence & confidence surprised both parents & teachers
- Ability of upper elementary, middle school and high school kids to get work done on their own – without close parent monitoring
- Continued academic traditions important to our students



Learning from home meant making changes to how we get together as parents, teachers and students to talk about student progress.

In online conferences, students were able to self-reflect on their progress and parents and teachers were able to have conversations about the student's time learning at home – both strides made, and necessary adjustments to be made in the year ahead.

We heard many comments that our students increased their independence and confidence - this sometimes surprised both parents and teachers.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the online conferences –they are an important part of communication between parents and teachers and the development of our students.

While the delivery methods had to change, we were still able to keep important traditions like the Spelling Bee, Science Exhibit and Upper School house games.

It's no wonder many parents are proud of the independence their child has shown.

Emotional & Community

Taking Extra Care to Stay Connected



➔ Let's Move Forward Together

➔ **Our Actions:**
Our team took extra care to help our community members feel loved and stay connected during difficult times. Creating memorable yet safe in-person events for our staff & families was vital. It helped bring closure to a difficult school year. We were able to look back on the positives and celebrate our community

👍 **How we are making a difference:**

Created special memories

- Lower School teacher/student parades
- "Drive-in" Prom
- Cherished Graduation ceremony in Upper School courtyard

Brought the celebration to your door

- "Celebrate Mom craft making kits" to Lower School families
- Cookies to High School families for awards ceremony
- Senior door decorations

Choreographed virtual celebrations

- Lower School promotions
- Upper School annual awards
- 8th Grade promotion video



The Westwood staff knows how stressed learning from home has been on everyone. And to help students, families and our team feel better, we wanted to do everything in our power to make the end of the school year special.

Thank you to the entire Westwood team who went above and beyond to help our community celebrate and make special memories.

We brought the celebration right to your door with Mother's Day craft kits, cookies and senior door decorations. We had many different virtual celebrations and finally ended the year with in-person parades, the prom and senior graduation.

I don't know how the Midway courtyard was so dirty that it had to have 3 power washes – the final one done over many hours by Westwood staff with a special shout out to Mr. Dalrymple for paving stones and a final clean-up.

And, a special thank you to all the decorators -- especially those who blew up and tied hundreds of balloons. The courtyard looked beautiful!

Summer FUN 2020

Extending our blended
Montessori & IB approach
into summer for
Ages 3 – Rising 11th Graders

Let's Move Forward Together



It's hard to believe after the Spring we all had, that we have been able to open for Summer. So let's get some Summer fun started! You can't imagine how happy the kids are and how happy we are to see them. There are some great things about being online, but nothing will ever replace watching children run and laugh on the playground. It fills up your soul.

Thank you to the Summer team for turning on a dime and making changes to keep campers safe and still have fun. You can see here, we have camps for younger children, lots of options for our Upper School students and an expanded Olympia Summer Academy for more academic pursuits. We'd love for you to join us, and please share the invitation with your friends and family.

Post Event Note: Click the logos below for information online about Westwood Summer Camps. July 10 is the deadline to apply for Olympia Summer Academy.



Safety Update

Keeping our Campers & Community Safe

We're Listening to the Experts

We've enhanced the way we do safety to align with guidance from authorities and experts in COVID-19, childcare and education. Examples include the following

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Considerations for Youth and Summer Camps
- Texas Childcare Licensing
- TEA Summer Program Operational Considerations
- Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC)
- Guidance from other state, county and local authorities

Let's Move Forward Together

COVID-19 2020 Summer Safety Update

Let's keep our campers & community safe

BEFORE You Come to Camp
Let's Each Do Our Part



Arriving & Leaving
Changes to Drop Off & Pickup



DURING Camp
We'll Still Have Fun - Safely



AFTER Camp
Intensified Cleaning & Disinfecting





We've already rolled out safety practices for Summer with the intention of refining them for Fall.

These practices are based on the recommendations from experts and authorities and using our own common sense. We've published full documents on our practices that have been shared in a community email and posted on the Summer camp website pages.

We've divided the practices into 4 parts to make them easy to understand. The most important aspects are 1) make sure your camper is well when they come to camp 2) we have implemented a carline to decrease the number of people in the building 3) we are encouraging frequent hand-washing and 4) we have increased cleaning of high traffic areas.

Post Event Note: See our 2020 COVID-19 Summer Safety Update

Lower School: <https://westwoodschool.org/wp-content/docs/COVID-19-Response/SummerSafetyUpdate-LowerSchoolCampus.pdf>

Upper School: <https://westwoodschool.org/wp-content/docs/COVID-19-Response/SummerSafetyUpdate-UpperSchoolCampus.pdf>

Fall 2020 Plans & Considerations

Be
Responsible
Resourceful
Resilient...
Amidst the whirlwind
From COVID-19

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Constantly Changing COVID-19 Guidelines

- ✓ Staying up to date
- ✓ Figuring out what it means
- ✓ Responding & making decisions
- ✓ Communicating to the community

Working on enhanced support IF "shelter-in-place" mandated

- ✓ Developing blended online learning platforms
- ✓ Finding safe ways to keep important traditions & school events
- ✓ Preparing for Fall safety practices via Summer test run

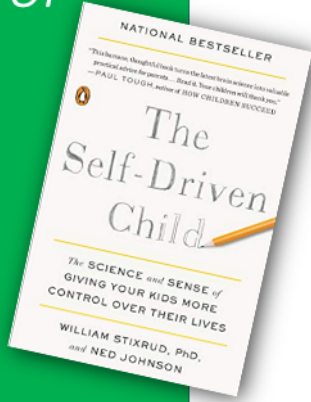


We are spending the Summer working on increased support for our families should new "shelter-in-place" orders happen again. This includes streamlining a blended learning virtual platform.

We are also working on creative solutions to keep important traditions and annual events alive and well at Westwood.

You will be receiving your annual packet of required forms, classroom assignments and flyers that will explain some new ways of gathering for school events and receiving important communications.

Summer Reading for Parents



BOOK:
www.theselfdrivenchild.com

→ **Let's Move Forward Together**

ARTICLE:
"Practicing Peace with Preschoolers"
– The Westwood School

www.westwoodschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Practicing-Peace-with-Preschoolers.pdf

ARTICLE:
"What If"
– Cassi Mackey, M.Ed.

www.westwoodschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Practicing-Peace-with-Preschoolers.pdf



Here is a short summer reading list you may find helpful. The two articles hit home now more than ever.

"What If" is the article I mentioned earlier – inspired by Montessori philosophies, it helps us appreciate the valuable skills our kids have learned while we've sheltered-in-place.

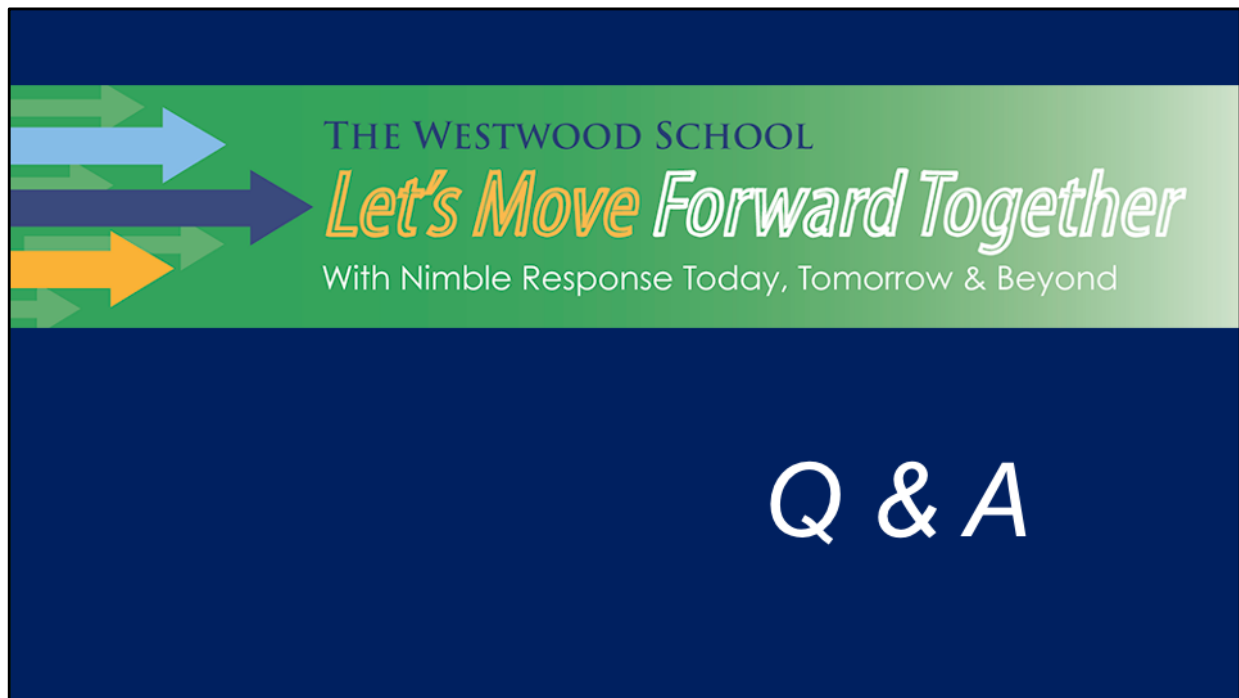
<https://westwoodschool.org/wp-content/docs/Montessori-IB-ParentEd/ShelterHome-WhatIf-KidsGoAhead.pdf>

Practicing Peace with Preschoolers is an article we published a few years ago and it's relevant to kids of all ages – adults, too. In it, we've highlighted 8 grace and courtesy lessons – the foundation for interacting respectfully with others. It provides a glimpse of how we help our younger students learn and practice peace each day.

<https://westwoodschool.org/wp-content/docs/Montessori-IB-ParentEd/PracticingPeace-StartsinPreK.pdf>

Finally, we'd like to invite you to read **The Self-Driven Child** along with our teachers and staff this summer. It provides guidance for raising confident and successful children during turbulent times – the insights are based upon child psychology and neurology studies.

<http://www.theselfdrivenchild.com>



See FAQ from the Event:

<https://westwoodschool.org/wp-content/docs/COVID-19-Response/LetsMoveForwardTogether-FAQ.pdf>



Please join us to experience The Westwood Montessori Preschool from the eyes of a child! Get hands-on with activities that show toddlers and preschoolers the joys of the natural world.

Learn how this sets the stage for them to grow into caring young adults who are inquisitive, informed and inspired to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Place: Join us online via Zoom

Click this link for more details:

<https://westwoodschool.org/wp-content/docs/Westwood-Toddler-PreK/ParentPreview-Invite.pdf>