

## West University Elementary School

Spring Edition, Volume 12  
March 30, 2015

# The Pony Express



### Principal's Place

As I mentioned last week, we begin STAAR testing today. Tomorrow we have two grade levels testing and will have small group testing all around the building. As a result, we will have closed lunch tomorrow; parents will not be able to eat lunch with their child. Planning ahead, we will also have closed lunch for the testing on April 20, 21, and 22.

Kudos to all of our Art Night volunteers for a great program last Thursday evening. Special thanks go out to Art Night Co-Chairs Curran Kelly and Nancy Attra. Well done!

This Friday we have the Spring Holiday. The school will be closed that day. Enjoy the last holiday before the end of the school year!

Have a grand week!

John T. Threet, Principal

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PTO Corner	1-2
President's Column	1
PTO Executive Board	2
K-2 Name That Book	3
Chess Tournament	3
PTO Budget Requests	3
Math & Science Night	4
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Odyssey of The Mind Team	4
Guest Speaker	4
iKids After-School	5
High School Seniors Reunion	5

### PTO President's Notes

For those of you that attended Art Night last week, I hope you enjoyed the enrichment event. Thank you to the volunteers, the administration and staff for making it a successful event.

It is that time of year where the PTO is planning for next year. We are taking budget requests. In order for your request to be considered, you must fill out a short form about the purchase or project and submit it by April 13. Visit [westupto.org](http://westupto.org) to submit online or you can submit paper copy in VP of Budget box.



Also, please contact president-elect Kristine Martinez if you are interested in volunteering next year. Committees are forming and planning. Be a part of the excitement and action for 2015-16.

Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, April 14 at 8:00am.

We have no school this Friday for our spring holiday so enjoy the long weekend. Please contact me for questions or comments.

Magnetized to WUES,

Elizabeth Karkowsky, WUES PTO President

#### Mark Your Calendars:

- Spring Holiday  
Friday, April 3
- Love & Logic Speaker  
Thursday, April 2  
7:50-9:15 a.m., MPR
- PTO Meeting  
Tuesday, April 14  
8:00 a.m.  
MPR
- Science/Math Night  
Tuesday, April 14  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Cafeteria/MPR
- Vanguard Applications  
Due for current  
1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders  
Friday, April 17
- WUES Invitational  
Track Meet  
Friday, April 24,  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Butler Stadium
- Iowa Testing  
1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
May 4 - 8

## PTO Corner

### Birthday Book Club

חמשה ימים, Happy Birthday, Maligayang Bati! The following students are celebrating their birthdays this week by donating a book to our school library:



Anthony Corsiglia	March 30th	Jack Verducci	April 2nd
Barrett Maguire	March 30th	Arthur James Gydish-Cizek	April 3rd
James Westin	March 30th	Isabella M. Germann	April 3rd
Libby Agarwal	March 31st	Isabella Dodig	April 3rd
Cate Butler	March 31st	Dillard Jennings	April 3th
Nicholas Hanson	March 31st	Henry Mills	April 4th
Brian Zhang	March 31st	Devin Morris	April 4th
Lily Zeng	April 1nd	Jack Schaefer	April 5th
Margot Royston	April 2nd		

Thank you very much for supporting West U Elementary Library!

If you would like to order a Birthday Book Club membership for your child, log on to [www.westupto.org](http://www.westupto.org) and sign up online or, download a form and leave it with a check in the PTO blue box located at the front office. Please, note that all orders are due NO LATER THAN Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. to be included in the following week's Pony Express. If you any questions, please contact Tracy Benner ([tracymbenner@yahoo.com](mailto:tracymbenner@yahoo.com)) or Guadalupe Harper ([guadacarlosso@hotmail.com](mailto:guadacarlosso@hotmail.com)).

## 2015-2016 PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD SLATE

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers for the 2015-2016 PTO Executive Board to be voted on at the PTO general meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 8:00 AM:

<b>President</b>	<b>Kristine Martinez</b>
<b>President Elect</b>	<b>Karen Yeager</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Felecia Fitzgerald</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sarah McKenney</b>
<b>VP Budget &amp; Finance</b>	<b>Amy Sahely</b>
<b>VP Fundraising &amp; Membership</b>	<b>Julia Williams</b>
<b>VP Service</b>	<b>Courtney Tsao</b>
<b>VP Curriculum Enrichment</b>	<b>Rachna Shroff</b>
<b>VP Room Reps</b>	<b>Michele Carlin</b>
<b>VP Communications</b>	<b>Suzanne Boue</b>
<b>VP Volunteers</b>	<b>Leslie Wade</b>



Thank you to all who expressed interest in serving on the Executive Board and in appointed positions.

#### PTO Nominating Committee

Kristen Flores, Jill Hord, Jennifer Gatto, Suzanne Faulk, Brittney Selldin, Pallavi Dinesh and Kristen Leach

## K-2 Name That Book Team Remains Undefeated

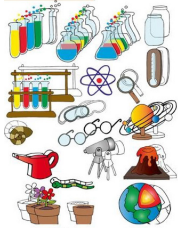
Marina George, Rachna Shroff, Monika Ummat

# ♔CHESS ♔TOURNAMENT



## PTO Corner

### Math & Science Night: Tuesday, April 14



Get your passport to explore The World of Math and Science!!



Come join us at the MPR and cafeteria on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30pm to travel The World of Math and Science! You can build a robot, watch a movie in the Houston Museum of Natural Science's Discovery Dome, or find real fossils. You can also learn how they do special effects in the movies, how your heart and brain work (as well as see the real organs!!) or do fingerprinting! Join us on an exciting journey of discovery!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Odyssey of the Mind Team Advances to State!

Our third-grade Odyssey of the Mind team was thrilled to place third at the Houston Area competition for their solution to the problem, *Experiencing Technical Difficulties*. They were charged with creating a technical difficulty that is solved over the 8-minute presentation using three or more devices, all powered by rubber bands; the devices complete seven or more tasks as part of the process, all narrated by a mysterious engineer character. Their solution centers around Ben Franklin, whose time machine breaks in 1969, and gives a little history lesson, as it involves his various inventions.

Congratulations to these team members:

Nicholas Hanson - Ms. Hyvl  
 Mary Sydnor Duffy - Ms. Hyvl  
 Kate Jeong - Ms. Hyvl  
 Lucy Ginzel - Mrs. Morton  
 Neela Ravi - Mrs. Morton  
 Nathan Giang - Ms. McLamb  
 Andrew Nanna - Ms. McLamb



They are busy enhancing their solution and practicing for the State competition on April 11th. They are proud to be representing West U Elementary! .

Christina Hanson, Maria Duffy, & Annie Ginzel, Coaches

### Counselor's Corral: Guest Speaker This Week

Parents are invited to hear Phylis Tomlinson speak on Parenting the Love and Logic Way™ this Thursday, April 2, 7:50-9:15 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. You will get practical skills that can be used immediately. Her talk will include:

- The Two Rules of Love and Logic®
- Delayed or "Anticipatory" Consequences
- Using empathy and Love and Logic one-liners to neutralize arguing
- How to get more information about Love and Logic

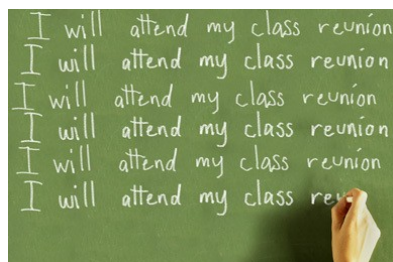
Mark your calendars and bring your questions.

Michael Connolly, School Counselor

West University  
Elementary School  
3756 University Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77005  
Phone:  
713-295-5215  
Fax:  
713-667-8514

We're on the Web!  
visit us on the web at:  
[www.westues.org](http://www.westues.org)

John T. Threet  
Principal  
Tracey L. Wyatt  
Magnet Coordinator  
Amber Pinchback  
Assistant Principal



## iKids U After-School 2015-2016 Registration

**Open registration for the 2015 – 2016 School Year begins today!** Registrations may be turned into iKids or the WUES front office. iKids U offers many after-school opportunities onsite at WUES, including Stay & Play, Enrichment, and One on One services. Please contact iKids at 713-665-5200 or [info@ikidsinc.com](mailto:info@ikidsinc.com) for any questions.



## Attention High School Seniors!



Thirteen years ago a spur-of-the-moment comment by Mr. Threet at the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation led to what has become an annual West U Elementary School tradition.

The children who finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 2002 were kindergarteners during Mr. Threet's first year at West U in 1996. They were the first group of students going back to 1981 who had the same principal all the way through elementary school. At their 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Mr. Threet told them if he was still here when they graduated from high school, he would host a reunion. The first High School Seniors Reunion was held in May of 2009. Each year since then, Mr. Threet and some of the teachers welcome our former students back to West U just prior to their high school graduation.

This year's event will be held **Thursday, May 7** from **4:30-6:30 p.m.** in the Multi-Purpose Room for any high school senior who attended West U Elementary School at any point during their elementary school years. Parents are welcome, too!

Students are encouraged to wear a t-shirt from the university they will attend next year. Welcome back, West U Class of '08!



*It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, marital status, religion, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression, or any other basis prohibited by law in its educational or employment programs and activities.*