



West University Elementary School

Spring Edition, Volume 6
February 9, 2015

The Pony Express



Principal's Place

Included in today's Monday folder is a letter regarding HISD's plan to reduce overcrowding at schools in our area. There will be a community meeting to present this plan at Pershing Middle School next Thursday, February 19 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For kindergarten parents who cannot attend this meeting due to the conflicting time with our Kindergarten program, I will provide a brief recap at our PTO Meeting on March 10 at 8:00 a.m.

Also included in today's Monday Folder (Kinder-4th grades) is a copy of our school calendar for 2015-2016. Please note the difference between our Early Dismissal Days and the days selected by HISD on the district's calendar. For the last couple of years we've obtained a waiver from the HISD calendar for these Early Dismissal Days. At the request of many parents, our SDMC chose days that work better for our families.

HISD and West U Elementary School have extensive safety and security plans. We all know about fire drills and disaster drills but these plans also include procedures for a school lockdown in the event of an intruder. Teachers are training their students in these procedures and sometime within the next few weeks we will hold a lockdown drill. If you happen to be in the building when this happens, please follow the directives of teachers and faculty members near you. You will participate in the drill just like you do during a fire drill. We will clearly announce "This is a drill". In the event of a real lockdown, we will announce "This is NOT a drill". The point of a drill is for the faculty, staff, children, and any visitors to act the same way they would in the event of the real thing.

Have a stunning week!

John T. Threet, Principal

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Mark Your Calendars:

- Teacher Appreciation Week, February 9-13
- PTO Presentation
Monday, February 9
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 10
8:00-10:00 a.m.
- PTO Meeting
Tuesday, February 10
8:00 a.m.
- Early Dismissal Day
Friday, February 13
12:15 p.m.
- WUES Spirit Day
Jerry Built Burgers
Friday, February 13
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Kindergarten Roundup
Thursday, February 26
9:30 a.m.
- Go Texan Day
Friday, February 27

PTO President's Notes

What discipline techniques work with our children? Come learn from Calm Coach Kirk Martin. The workshop will be offered tonight from 7:00-9:00 p.m. with a repeat of this presentation tomorrow from 8:00-10:00 a.m. (after a brief PTO meeting).

Join us for lunch this Friday at Jerry Built Burgers after Early Dismissal (until 4:00 p.m.). 20% of the proceeds come back to West U! The class with the highest participation percentage will win a milkshake party after school one day

Please contact me for questions or comments. Visit westupto.org for our calendar and updates.

Magnetized to West U,

Elizabeth Karkowsky, WUES PTO President



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:



Nachiketa Gulati	February 9th	Will Gordon	February 12th
Anika Tsai	February 9th	Colin Burke	February 12th
Reid Gilder	February 10th	Aiden Nick	February 12th
Emerson Rippstein	February 10th	Reese Williams	February 13th
Sammy Rubinstein	February 10th	Tara Sikora	February 13th
Caillou La-Cortez	February 10th	Brandon Young	February 13th
Robert Day	February 11th	Dalton Primrose	February 14th
Charlie Hughes	February 11th	Jackson Davis	February 15th
Ainsley Swiger	February 11th	Buster Russell	February 15th

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 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) or Guadalupe Harper (guadacarlesso@hotmail.com).

Hands-On Art

Last week, students had their 6th and final Hands on Art lesson for the school year. Kindergarten through 2nd grade classes learned about the art of weaving. Using various patterns, they created their own paper weaving sampler. The 3rd through 5th grade classes had a lesson on the Spanish artist, Pablo Picasso. Students learned about Picasso's wide range of artistic styles and then, using their imagination, created their own Picasso inspired self-portrait. Students can see several original Picasso pieces included in the MFAH's *Modern and Contemporary Art Exhibit* (on display through May 3rd).

We'd like to say a huge "thank you" to all the volunteers who helped with Hands on Art – Lesson Planners, Lesson Teachers, Class Coordinators and Classroom Helpers. Your help made it possible to expose students to a wide variety of artists, styles and mediums.

Lesson Plan Leaders:

Karen Coveler (Weaving)

Monica Hampton (Monet inspired Series Paintings)

Beth Lane (Picasso inspired Self Portraits, Gaudi inspired Mosaics)

Lesson Teachers:

Amy Behan

Beth Lancaster

Janine Schueppert

Courtney Tsao

Valerie Browning

Alison Moorhead

Aaryn Silva



The Rower by Pablo Picasso

Thank you again to all who helped make this art appreciation class possible for the students.

Judy Cheng & Annie Marshall, Hands on Art Co-Chairs

PTO Corner (cont.)

Spring into Service: *Project Linus* Lunch

This Thursday, February 12, during our Valentine's Day Service Lunch, students will *Give From The Heart* and make blankets to donate to *Project Linus*. *Project Linus* gives a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need, through the gift of a hand-made blanket.

Blankets are distributed to the following Houston agencies through *Project Linus*: Texas Children's Hospital, Memorial Hermann Hospital, MD Anderson, Shriner's Hospital, Women's Hospital, Child Abuse Center, Child Advocates, Children's Assessment Center, Star of Hope, Houston and Katy Police Departments, 911 ambulance services and funeral homes.

Here is the lunch schedule for Thursday, February 12:

10:30-11:30 a.m.	1 st grade-cafeteria and K-MPR
11:45-12:45 a.m.	2 nd grade-MPR and 3 rd grade cafeteria
1:00 -2:00 p.m.	4 th grade-MPR and 5 th grade cafeteria



Each class will work on approximately 6 blankets. We also have cards (designed by West U parent Laurie Mills) for our students to decorate that will be attached to the blankets when they are presented.

What can YOU do to help? We will need approximately 6 volunteers for each class to help on Thursday, February 12. Contact your room parent or the *Project Linus* service project chair from your class to let them know you want to help! They are creating a list of who is helping your class that day. The more volunteers we have, the smoother the project will go. They will be send out an informational email later this week about the event. But just come--it is a very easy project!

Thank you in advance for volunteering to help with Project Linus! We look forward to a meaningful day of service for our kids. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns!

Leslie Wade, VP-Service, 713.392.1185

Ellison Abdalla, Project Linus, Co-Chair, 713.204.4774

Souper Bowl of Caring Wrap-Up

We had another great year of collections for our Souper Bowl of Caring food drive! Our final results are listed below:

Total Pounds of Food Collected: **37,055.10 pounds**

Top Collections in Each Grade Level		
GRADE	TEACHER	TOTAL (pounds)
K	SALEEM	995.10
1 st	MCMILLAN	1,306.84
2 nd	STONE	1,029.50
3 rd	MCCLINTOCK	1,518.85
4 th	MCINTYRE	1,575.03
5 th	ARRANT	2,955.02



Protein Challenge		
GRADE	TEACHER	TOTAL (points)
K	SALEEM	496
1st	SMITH, R.	877
2nd	WOOD	409
3rd	MCCLINTOCK	761
4th	WESTERMAN	456
5th	DURHAM	1,693

Congratulations to Mrs. Arrant's 5th grade class who had the top collection in the school and to Ms. Durham's class for winning the Protein Challenge! Thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy project!

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We're on the Web!
visit us on the web at:
www.westues.org

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

PTO Corner (cont.)

PTO Nominating Committee

The PTO is forming a nominating committee to nominate the officers who will serve on the PTO Executive Board for the 2015-2016 school year. Pursuant to the PTO Bylaws, the nominating committee will consist of five voting members and a Chairman (the current PTO Parliamentarian) plus one alternate.



The nominating committee members will be elected by the general membership at the March 10, 2015 PTO General Meeting. The committee will then present the slate of officers for the 2015-2016 PTO Executive Board for election at the April 14, 2015 PTO General Meeting.

Interested PTO members should contact Kristen Flores at whywouldhe@yahoo.com by **Friday, February 20th** if they would like to serve on the nominating committee.

HISD | Advanced Academics

REVOLUTIONIZING THE WAY WE THINK

Vanguard Application & Testing Info

Incoming Kindergarten Students

Application Window

H **Monday, March 2 – Friday, March 24** [note: these dates are set by HISD. *There are no exceptions to these deadlines*]

Testing Window

H **Monday-Thursday, May 11-14** [once you have completed your application and enrollment info, you may schedule a testing time within this window]

Current Students, 1st-4th Grades

Application Window

H **February 2-27 24** [note: these dates are set by HISD. *There are no exceptions to these deadlines*]

Testing Window

H **Monday-Friday, May 18-22** CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)
Each grade level will test at a different time. This test is administered online and students will be scheduled into the Computer Lab to take this test during this week.

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.

