



West University Elementary School

Spring Edition, Volume 20, Final
May 27, 2015

The Pony Express

Principal's Place



The Texas Education Agency granted HISD a waiver from yesterday's bad weather day. As a result, we do not have to make up that day. Tomorrow is the last day of school. Don't forget that it is an early dismissal day and school dismisses at 12:15 p.m.

Please check the office if you or your child is missing a pair of glasses. We've found many of them and have a drawer full. We will donate unclaimed eyeglasses to the Lions Eye Bank if not claimed by Thursday.

Thanks to PTO President Elizabeth Karkowsky and the PTO Executive Board for a great job this year. We deeply appreciate their efforts in parent leadership this year.

In closing, thank you to all of our parents, students, community members, faculty, staff, and administration for another successful year. It is truly a team effort to build and maintain our status as one of the best public schools in Texas.

Best of luck to our 5th graders as they move on to middle school and to our families who are moving. For all of the rest of us, I will see you on Monday, August 24 as we kick off another year.

Have a wonderful summer!

John T. Threet, Principal

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PTO Corner	1-4
President's Column	1-2
Math Club News	2
Notes from the Nurse	2
4 th Grade Texas State Fair	3
Marathon Kids	3
Library Book Nook	3
School Supply Collection	4
iKids U	4
HISD Your Voice Survey	4



PTO President's Notes

What an amazing and fun year we had helping our children and the school! Below are some highlights of how we used our fundraising dollars. Here is the full-length document: **"PTO 2014-2015 Summary"**

School/Building Upgrades & Improvements

- The replacement and installation of glass & aluminum double doors around the school.
- Mahogany wood double doors at front entrance of school
- Front playground refurbishment - \$80K contribution to Foundation project
- Back playground refurbishment
- Purchase and installation of ice machine in teachers' lounge
- Replacement of existing pavers in front of the school to level and make the area safe
- Turf installation in courtyard
- Turf installation around flag pole at front of school
- Landscaping and monthly grounds/garden maintenance
- Build 2 new planter boxes for garden & Recipe for Success program
- Two 'No Place for Hate' character mosaic benches - one for each playground

Mark Your Calendars:

- Early Dismissal Day
Thursday, May 28
12:15 p.m.
- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
2014-2015
Thursday, May 28
- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
2015-2016
Monday, August 24



Continued on next page

PTO President's Notes (continued from page 1)

Instructional Support - 85% of what has been used in the classroom is bought by the PTO. Here are examples of the purchases:

Classroom Set-Up - Wordly Wise books, GPS Math Books, Kamica workbooks, classroom furniture and items to set up classroom, Time Magazine for the kids, Social Studies News; a new science room fully furnished with all the science items.

Grade Level Materials - Math manipulatives, SRA kits, novels/books, Rigby books, beginning kits, classroom workstation items, center items, science items for classroom, Foss kits, Bluebonnet books, classroom work station items, elmos, printers and other teaching items in the classroom.

Teacher Professional Development - All GT inservices, reading and language arts inservices, classes at Rice and St. Thomas and all school inservices form Region 4

Library - 700 new books to the library this year.

I want to thank the PTO Executive Board, chairs, committee people, room parents, volunteers, administration, teachers, staff, and corporate sponsors. A special thank you goes to Tracey Wyatt for her support of and help with the PTO. Without everyone, this year would not have been the success that it was. Thanks again.

Have a great summer.

Forever Magnetized to WUES,

Elizabeth Karkowsky
2014-2015 PTO President



Math Club News

The WUES Math Club had an outstanding year. The team earned the distinction of the Math Olympiad Honor Roll, which is the highest award possible from Math Olympiad International. Also, Diane Sun and Kevin Lee were recognized with perfect scores in all 5 monthly contests. Craig Meikleham, Nathaniel Barnett, Tegh Thind, and Anika Tsai scored in the top 10% internationally. Congratulations to all our Mathletes and thanks to our faculty sponsor, Ms. Taghavi.

Ben Barnett and Laura Masters.

Notes from the Nurse

We have finished up another healthy and productive year. Other than some stray viruses and a bit of the flu coming through, I think we ended up on the positive side. I would like to do some "Housekeeping". The lost and found is overflowing and you need to come and look and retrieve any coats and jackets. I know you don't think you need them, but you will be looking for them in December.



Additionally, if your child receives any medication from me; regular meds, inhalers, Epi Pens, I need to have you come and pick them up. I will also give you a new form that will need to be signed again for next year. New year, new form.

Finally, I hope everyone has a safe and healthy summer. Have fun, relax and come back next year.

Fondly, Nurse Paula

Fourth Grade Texas State Fair, May 15, 2015

Despite the stormy weather, the Fourth Grade Texas State Fair was a fantastic day! After many weeks of preparation and hard work, all fourth graders presented their Texas-themed research projects to an audience of family members. To follow was a parade complete with floats, a rodeo clown, and candy for the spectators. A Chuck Wagon lunch was enjoyed in the cafeteria, and the day wrapped up with state fair activities to include Country-Western dancing, learning about the six flags of Texas, barrel racing, cattle roping, and mechanical bull riding. The day was a huge success because of the many volunteers who spent countless hours in the planning and execution of this event!

A special thank you to John Threet, Tracey Wyatt, Tristan Anderson, and the entire front office staff for your accommodations and advice during the many weeks before and on the day of the event. A HUGE thank you to John Threet, Coach Jones, and our amazing custodial staff for grilling over 250 burgers and hot dogs, and for always being willing to go the extra mile for our kids.

Thank you to our fourth grade teachers, especially Mrs. Williams, for your guidance, flexibility, and expertise on all things TSF-related, and for being so willing to add yet another TSF t-shirt to your wardrobes!

Thank you to all who helped in the weeks leading up to the event, as well as the countless parents who came out to help run the show. We couldn't have done it without you!

Floats & Banners – Ame Wolffe
 Chuck Wagon Lunch – Mary Jones and Sarah Thweatt
 Desserts & Drinks – Brandee Metz
 Games & Activities – Judy Cheng and Kathleen Holt
 Decorations – Natesha Madison
 Wanted Photos – Kristen Berger, Dee Dee Gilder, and Gregg Harrison

Michele Marvin and Kara Schaefer, Texas State Fair 2015 Chairwomen



Marathon Kids



marathonKIDS®

Finisher shirts have finally arrived & have been distributed. Look in the September Pony Express for 2015-2016 Marathon Kids registration information.

Keep running!

Irene Duvo, Physical Education

marathonKIDS®
 MOVING. EATING. GROWING. TOGETHER.

Library Book Nook

Thanks for another great year in the library! Please go to the library section of our webpage and check out recommended summer reading lists under the links option. Be sure to look in the forms and documents section as well at our new summer reading initiative "One Book, One School, One Summer." The only way to improve in reading is to practice, so make sure you pick up a great book and get taken away this summer.



Kelly Russell
 Librarian

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." — Charles William Eliot

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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

Unload Your Unwanted School Supplies

We are seeking donations of new and gently used school supplies to bring to the needy school children. Examples: pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, colored pencils and markers, crayons, erasers, sharpeners, etc. as well as binders and BACKPACKS. We will leave boxes (and garbage bags -- if boxes fill up) in school's front foyer in front of library.



Thank you, thank you, thank you

John and Joseph Capelli

iKids U After-School, 2015-2016



Open registration is going on now for the 2015 – 2016 School Year! iKids U offers many flexible after-school arrangements onsite at WUES, including Stay & Play, Enrichment Classes, and One on One Services! **Registrations may be turned into the WUES front office until May 28.** Please contact iKids at 713-665-5200 or info@ikidsinc.com for any questions.



Your Voice Survey Closes This Sunday, May 30!

If you have not already done so, please take 10 minutes this week and complete the Your Voice survey. This HISD Survey is important to our school and we need your help to have a good parent response. The confidential third-party survey is open conducted until **this Sunday, May 30** and will help us assess how students, parents, community and educators feel about our efforts to make a difference in the education of Houston's children.

We want to assure you the survey is completely confidential. To ensure your privacy, RDA, a well-respected marketing and research company, will continue to handle all aspects of the survey process, from creation to collection. Completed surveys will be sent directly back to RDA for analysis.

Go to <https://www.hisdyourvoice.rdagroup.com/survey/> to complete the survey.



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