

West University Elementary School

2014 Fall Edition, Volume 13
November 17, 2014

The Pony Express



Principal's Place

It is a busy couple of weeks at West U. Please join us tomorrow for the PTO meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the MPR and then at Barnes & Noble on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings for our annual Book Fair.

Next Monday and Tuesday are our annual Field Days. Please help make our Field Day a fun and safe event by following proper parent and child etiquette. All spectators who are approved through the HISD VIPS program and students must stay inside their class's section. Please stay back away from the event lanes. Do not stand inches away from the event participants since it creates an unsafe situation. Please move back prior to the start of each event. As a reminder, if you have not been VIPS approved, you will not be allowed to mingle with your child's class. We will have bleachers available for parents who have not completed this process yet who wish to observe the Field Day events.

School-age siblings may view Field Day from the bleachers but may not be on the field with the students. College-age siblings must be VIPS approved just like any other adult.

November 24, Monday
Kindergarten & 1st Grade 8:15am – 10:30am ***
2nd & 3rd Grades 11:45am – 2:00pm ***

November 25, Tuesday
4th & 5th Grades 8:15am – 10:30am ***
*** Approximate finish times..

If you haven't had your VIPS ID photo taken, please stop by the office this week. We won't have time to do this next Monday.

Have a superb week! See you at Book Fair!

John T. Threet, Principal

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Mark Your Calendars:

- PTO Meeting
Tuesday, November 18
8:00 a.m.
- WUES Bookfair
November 18, 19, 20
Barnes & Noble
- Field Days
November 24-25
- Early Dismissal Day
Tuesday, November 25
- Thanksgiving Holidays
November 26-28
School will be closed

West U Night at Rice Stadium!

Join us Friday, November 21 for "West U Elementary Night" at Rice Stadium. The 6-3 Rice Owls take on the UTEP Miners for a Friday night game. \$5.00 of each ticket sold will be donated back to West U Elementary.

Tickets may be purchased online at: <http://tinyurl.com/wuelem>. Use the promo code: **WUELEM**. We hope to see you there!



For more info please contact: Steven Rodriguez at (713)348-8252 or stever@rice.edu. Go Owls!

PTO Corner (cont.)

PTO Corner: PTO President's Notes

As we approach the time of year where we give thanks for our many blessings, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our 2014-2015 Corporate Sponsors. We are fortunate to have a supportive community that enriches our children's education.



Maxwell's Magnetizing Sponsors (\$7,500+)	Planck's Patron (\$5,000+)
Frost Bank	Chick-fil-A
Greenwood King Properties	Cleburne Cafeteria
Texas Citizens Bank	Jerry Built Homegrown Burgers
Urgent Care for Kids	Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co
Tesla's Tenacious Backer (\$3,000+)	Faraday's Funder (\$1,500+)
Elite Care	Potbelly Sandwich Shop
Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty	Roger Martin Properties
Pasadena Insurance Agency, Inc	Vivaldi Music Academy
	Village Plumbing & Home Services
Coulomb's Contributor (\$1,000+)	Ampere's Advocate (\$500)
Bike Barn	Advantage BMW Midtown
eConserve	Central Market
The Lice Place	Thompson + Hanson
Massage Heights Vanderbilt	The Tutoring Center
Gouss's Giver	
Cyclone Anaya's - \$200	

Book fair starts tomorrow thru Thursday. Our PTO meeting with the Internet safety speaker is also tomorrow! Our online auction items and sociables close Friday, Nov. 21 at 8:30AM. Field Day is next Monday, Nov. 24 and Tuesday, Nov. 25. Have a great week. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Elizabeth Karkowsky, WUES PTO President 2014-2015

Book Fair Starts Tomorrow!

Our annual Book Fair begins Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th 4-8pm THIS WEEK!!



Your favorite teachers are ready to read, we have a magnetizing science show, face painting, a fun photo booth, amazing magician, talented performers and much more. We can't wait to see you there!

The instore and online code is live now and ready to use. Use it and share it: WUES Shopping Code: **11331857**

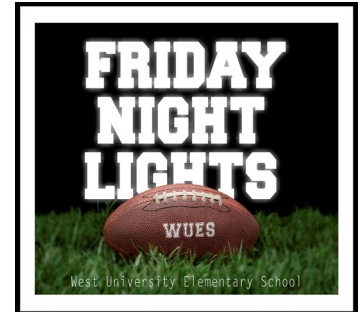
Don't forget to stop at Chick fil-A or Jerry Built Burgers for dinner first. The class with the most participation will win an ice cream party. Please contact Keisha Organ (korgan@roistaffing.com) or Gail Jackson (gailjack@aol.com) if you have any questions.

PTO Corner (cont.)

Friday Night Lights Kudos

We would like to thank our 2014 Friday Night Lights Auction committee, support staff, parent volunteers, sponsors and underwriters! This game-changing event was a BIG WIN because of their generosity, hard work and dedication over the last year. Their commitment and tireless efforts are what made this auction such a successful fundraiser benefiting all the children of West U Elementary.

In addition to the committee members and parent volunteers who helped the weeks leading up to the event, we would like to thank our committee leads for their support and willingness to take this event to the next level.

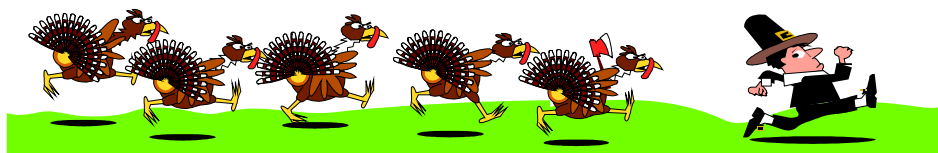


- Pep Rally – Marshall Law, Becky Tackett and their pep rally committee for an unforgettable and spirited event for our children.
- Acquisition – An assertive team of ladies who acquired some incredible auction items.
- Decorations – Ame Wolffe and Lee Ann Butler and their creative décor team for an amazing transformation of the venue.
- Catalog – Annie Marshall and the catalog writing team for their unique and thoughtful football descriptions while meeting our late night deadlines.
- Volunteers – Pam Packer and her amazing group of parents who gave their time and energy before, during and after the event.
- Class Baskets – Carrie Lium and Linda Egan for their skilled approach in creating the fun class baskets.
- Raffle – Melisa Richardson and Kristin McAlpin for having an amazing idea for raffle promotions and making it a HUGE success!
- Ticket Sales – Lisa Sharp for coordinating endless and ever-changing reserved seating requests.
- Wine and Whiskey Pull – Paula Kekish, Debbie Crow and Adrienne Vanderbloemen for taking a new approach on an old tradition. Job well done!
- Sociables – Judy Cheng for organizing an amazing sociable lineup!
- Auctioneer – Stacey Grecian and our auctioneer, Lon Floyd.

In addition, we would like to thank the administrative staff for their service in handling the countless questions, stuffing teacher boxes, making copies and graciously accepting the constant interruptions from our team. Also, a BIG THANK YOU to Tracey and John for their support and advice during the planning and execution of this grand event.

You are all MVP's!

JC Al-Uqdah, Linette Courtney, Cara Michael and Sue Sim
2014 Friday Night Lights Auction Chairs



PTO Corner (cont.)

Online Auction for all remaining Sociables, Teacher Donations and Auction Items

Please visit: <http://bidpal.net/fridaynightlights>

Paddles Up for Playgrounds!

Make a donation to our **Paddles Up for Playgrounds** fund! Help support the remodel project of the front playground and ongoing replacements and repairs for our back playground.

Visit <http://bidpal.net/fridaynightlights> and click on "Donate Today" to contribute!

Questions? Please contact Linette Courtney at linettecourtney@yahoo.com

Online auction ends 11/20/14 at 8:30 a.m.



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:

Piper Egan	November 17th	Natalie Tiede	November 20th
Jack Archer	November 17th	Kate Miller	November 21st
Wyatt Edgecomb	November 17th	Emily McKay	November 21st
Marquesa Madison	November 17th	Ewan Lipski	November 22nd
Carolyn Ray	November 17th	Emily Jenkins	November 22nd
Will Gillean	November 18th	Matthew Sinor	November 22nd
Natalie Giannone	November 19th	Pablo Hernandez-Ortiz	November 23rd
Jay Love	November 20th	Natalie Tiede	November 20th

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).



PTO Corner (cont.)

West U Elementary Is Turning 90 Next Year!

HELP PLAN THE CELEBRATION!



The PTO along with the school administration are starting to plan for a fun and exciting year that will celebrate and commemorate the school's 90th anniversary in the 2015-2016 school year (our school opened in 1925).

We are looking for people who are interested in serving on a 90th Anniversary Committee. In addition to individuals who would be interested and excited to serve on the committee we are also looking for individuals interested in serving as:

- 90th Anniversary Committee Chair
- Historian Chair
- Public Relations Chair specific to all 90th anniversary events
- Time Capsule Chair

We would like to begin brainstorming and planning as soon as possible.

Please contact Kristine Martinez with any questions or ideas you may have or to sign up to be a part of the fun that will showcase and celebrate our 90 years of excellence!

kristine_m_martinez@yahoo.com.

International Festival –Thursday, January 22nd, 2015

Performance sign-ups!

Calling all singers, dancers, acrobats, magicians and other entertainers! Please provide a brief description of your performance and sign-up here: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C4CAAAB2DAAF58-2015 Please note that we will prioritize the performances that highlight traditional music & dances. Please let us know if you are organizing a group of children who are interested in performing.



Parade sign-ups!

Come dressed in your native costume! Children will walk through the parade route ending at the stage for a Grand finale and picture taking. Siblings are welcome! Please sign up here: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C4CAAAB2DAAF58-2015 Any questions please contact Rachna Shroff (rachnatshroff@gmail.com) or Deanna Villalobos (Deanna@dezinmachine.com).

Country representatives!

We are still looking for country hosts for our tables. We encourage families to partner in hosting a table as it allows them to also take some time out to enjoy the Festival. Here are the countries represented so far (as of 11/12/14): Argentina, Canada, Romania, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Eire, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Lithuania, Lebanon, Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, England, Venezuela. Join in one of the existing countries, or come and represent any of the other countries we have not yet listed: e.g. China, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine, USA, Mexico, Guadeloupe, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Congo, Nigeria, Tanzania, Botswana, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, etc.... We are waiting for you to sign up! You don't have to be a national of that country, and you could just have a passion for that country, or have lived in or visited that country. Sign up here: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C4CAAAB2DAAF58-wues

Delphine Trogneux Daube(ddaube@att.net); Enrica Vagliani Gray (enrica.vagliani@hotmail.com); Carla Sharp (csharp2@uh.edu) – 2015 IF Chairs

WUES Field Days Class Locations

Field Days are next Monday and Tuesday (see Mr. Threet's column on page 1 for important info). Each class is assigned to a section on the field. *All parents must sign in at the front office or at the tables as you approach the fields.*

Each class section is numbered & is where your class will set up during FD. When facing the FD fields as you're walking from the buildings, Kindergarten, 3rd & 5th grades will be run on the FD field closest to the teacher's parking lot (Duvo). To the right (Jones) is the FD field for 1st, 2nd & 4th grades.

Monday A.M.		Monday P.M.	
Kinder	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1 – LaPadula	1 – Webb	1 – Stone	1 – Steen
2 – Haggard	2 – Collins	2 – Unger	2 – Morton
3 – Ross	3 – McMillan	3 – O'Dell	3 – McLamb
4 – Smith	4 – Breen	4 – Marshall	4 – Bailey
5 – Saleem	5 – Conner	5 – Wood	5 – Gray
6 – Sudduth	6 – Reid	6 – Vistein	6 – McClintock
7 – Loxterkamp	7 – Perkins	7 – Anderson	7 – Hyvl
8 – Fisher	8 – Smith	8 – Wick	8 – Ward
9 – Fyke	9 – Holland	9 – Guthrie	9 – Herrera
10 – Levy	10 – McKenzie	10 – Jones	

Tuesday A.M.	
4 th	5 th
1 – Williams	1 – Miller
2 – Jackson	2 – Durham
3 – Higgs	3 – McAleavy
4 – Parish	4 – Pflugfelder
5 – McIntyre	5 – Arrant
6 – Schlichting	6 – Durham
7 – Leven	
8 – Westerman	
9 – Wood	
10 – Inman	



There will be sign-in stations in the front office and at two tables outside of the 2nd/4th grade wing. If there are issues with your VIPS approval, you must check in at the office. Mrs. Chapa will be able to go online to verify whether or not you have been approved.

If you have not gone online to get VIPS approval, the new system used by HISD takes less than a week to process background checks. SIGN UP TODAY! Remember to come by the office to show your photo ID and have your picture taken for a VIPS ID card.

Go Mustangs!



Pennies for Patients

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

John T. Threet
Principal

Tracey L. Wyatt
Magnet Coordinator

Amber Pinchback
Assistant Principal



We have a fundraising program “**Pennies for Patients**” starting this week and running through November 25. W

All of our children took home a collection box to fill with coins and bills as a donation to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. They can collect money all week and turn it in to their teacher or Nurse Paula whenever they have completed the collection.

We also added two other items to help with the fundraising.

Caps on for a Cure

On November 19 students and faculty staff can donate ONE DOLLAR and they can wear a cap or hat all day.

Walk for a Cure

This year will have a walk around the campus in two groups K, 1, and 2 in the morning, and 3, 4, 5 in the afternoon.

The children will collect pledges either on line at <http://txg.syllsevent.org/WestUniversityElementarySchool> or bring in donations.



We all know or have heard of people with many types of cancer, but in our own school we have children who are survivors of Leukemia, so let's make this fundraiser personal and donate in honor of our West U Students, with West U Kids Helping Kids Fighting Leukemia.

Paula Bottecelli, R.N., School Nurse

Universal Gifted & Talented Testing for Kinder and 5th

As you may know, HISD tests all Kindergarten and 5th grade students for Gifted/Talented (Vanguard) program eligibility for next year. This year the District has changed tests from the NNAT to the CoGAT.

We will administer the CoGAT test this week following this schedule:

5 th Grade	Tuesday, November 18
Kindergarten	Thursday, November 20

If you have any questions, please contact Magnet Coordinator Tracey Wyatt



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.