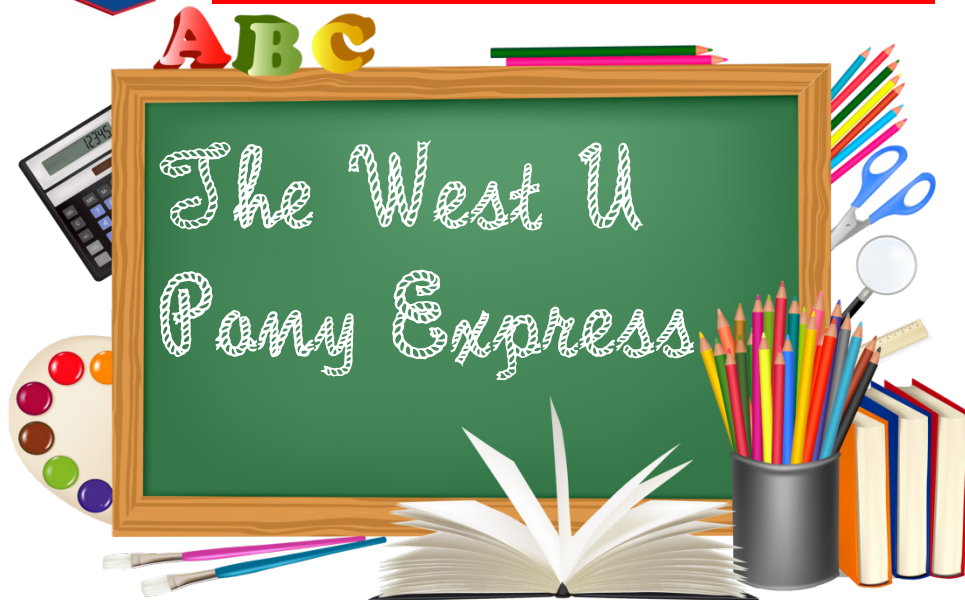




# West University Elementary School



Fall Edition, 2015-2016  
Volume 8, October 12, 2015



## Principal's Place

I encourage you to read an interesting article concerning the impact of school attendance for children as young as kindergarten on future educational success.:

<http://www.educationnews.org/k-12-schools/report-kindergarten-absences-have-long-term-consequences/>

We still need your help with parking in faculty spaces, using faculty parking lot and Goode Street for drop-off, and parking in handicapped spaces without a permit. We're experiencing many situations where parents or nannies ignore our parking regulations. Please help us with this situation. Just to clarify, the parking spaces in front of the school, behind the school near the T-buildings, in the west parking lot next to Bullard Field, and in one-third of the west parking spaces in front of the ball fields on University are reserved for faculty and staff (these areas are marked with signs). PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THESE AREAS. Teachers cannot get to work on time if they must circle the block looking for a parking place.

During afternoon pick-up, please do not park in the HISD bus loading area (between our marquee and our parking lot entrance). If you park in the head-in parking in front of the ball fields, you may be blocked in by the private daycare buses for a few minutes. They are not permitted to back up due to the danger to pedestrians.

Goode Street may not be used for student drop-off or pick up.

We've had a few issues with parents picking up children enroute to their after-school care bus, or have made plans for their child to go home with another student or parent without informing the office and the after-school care provider. If your after-school pick-up plans change from what you normally do each day, please let us know. Many days we spend time looking for children, trying to call parents, etc. only to find the parents changed their plans without telling us.

Have a super week and Go Astros!

John T. Threet, Principal

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PTO Meeting Speaker	2
Boo Bash Wristbands	2
Halloween Dash & Fun Run Schedule	2
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Open House	2
Swinging Soiree Raffle	3
Shopping Soiree	3
Elaine Turner Meet & Greet	3
Birthday Book Club	3-4
International Festival	4
Citizens of the Month	4
Pershing's 1 <sup>st</sup> Look	4

## Mark Your Calendars:

- PTO General Meeting  
Tuesday, October 13,  
8:00 a.m., MPR
- West U Halloween Dash & Kids Fun Run  
Saturday, October 17,  
8:00 a.m.
- Boo Bash Carnival & Bazaar  
Saturday, October 24
- Popsicles on the Playground & Front Playground Dedication  
Friday, October 30, 12:30 p.m.



## PTO Meeting & Featured Guest Speaker for Parents on October 13

Please join us for this year's first PTO General Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 8:00-9:15 a.m. in the MPR. Following PTO business, we are delighted to have Aimee Alley Taylor, CHC, CPT, founder of Greenpeas & Blueberries-Whole Life Wellness, share great information to help us support our children:

### ***What's Lurking in the Electric Blue Lollipop? The Dangers of Artificial Ingredients to our Kids' Brains***

Have you noticed how our food looks like it is in Technicolor these days? Do you know what chemicals are added to food to make it that color?

 Come learn about scary synthetic chemicals added to our food, and how much damage they do to our precious little people. It is a frightening world for families today – learn how to feed your family without being overloaded with these toxic chemicals.

## Boo Bash 2015 - Sat. Oct 24, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Don't miss out on the Boo Bash! This is the **last week** to buy wristbands for just \$30. Prices for wristbands increase at the door. Wristbands will give your child access to all the games, inflatables and activities at the carnival!



Food and wristbands can be purchased online until Friday, October 16th.

Click here to order: <http://westupto.org/events/carnival/>

## West U Halloween Dash Race Week Schedule

It's race week! As of last Thursday we had about 615 runners registered for the event! Included in the registrants is Sean Wade, a former Olympic Marathoner and one of the top masters runners in the world (he's 49 years old). You can read a recent *Runners World* article

about Sean here:

<http://www.runnersworld.com/masters/can-a-50-year-old-run-a-420-mile>

You can register online at [www.westupto.org/fun-run/](http://www.westupto.org/fun-run/) until midnight on Wednesday, October 14. After that, fees increase and you can only register in person at the packet pickups or race morning.

Please plan to pick up your packet before race morning if possible. We have two conveniently located packet pickups scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, October 15 at Elite Care Emergency (2500 Rice Boulevard) from 2-6pm. Elite Care will be giving out cupcakes, so pick up your packs AND get your sugar fix.
- Friday, October 17 at Frost Bank (5925 Kirby) from 2-6pm.

### Race Morning Schedule

- 6:45 – Registration and packet pickup opens
- 7:45 – Registration and packet pickup ends
- 8:00 – 5k start
- 8:45 – 1 mile kids' fun run start
- 9:15 – Costume contest
- 9:30 – Awards and Entertainment



**Parking** – As you know, parking around the school is extremely limited. We expect to have over 900 runners. If you can, please walk or ride a bike to the start. If you are parking, please allow extra time.

**Volunteers** – It takes over 60 volunteers to put the race on and we still have some volunteer slots available. Most of the areas where we need help will allow you to volunteers and still do the race. Please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fa8a72fa3ff2-west4> to see the available volunteer slots.

## Fourth and Fifth Grade Middle School Open House

WUES will be hosting a Middle School Open House on October 21 in the MPR from 6:30 – 8:00pm. We will discuss the HISD magnet application process and representatives from Pershing, Pin Oak and Lanier Middle Schools will be present to talk about their schools and answer questions.





Get YOUR RAFFLE TICKET TODAY!  
\$50.00 Per ticket or 5 for \$200  
Contest will run 10/5 – 10/26  
(three chances to win/need not to be present)

WIN YOUR CHILD A PARTY WITH MR. A AND COACH JONES

THE CLASS WITH THE MOST RAFFLE TICKETS WILL SPEND 1 AND ½ HOURS PARTYING WITH MR. A AND COACH JONES ON THE PLAYGROUND

Grand Prize: Parking Spot  
Second Prize: Hover Board with Led lights  
Third Prize: Diamond Flower Necklace by Allison Hall

Tickets available online at [www.westupto.org/auction](http://www.westupto.org/auction).  
Please list child's name and teacher.

### Shopping Soiree for Gala!

Join us to shop unique and fabulous vintage attire for the upcoming auction event! Private shopping event at Cheeky Vintage - Houston's best vintage store. They will have racks of 20's clothing and accessories so your auction attire will be as fabulous as the evening promises to be. All guests will receive 15% off their purchases. Valet parking, bubbles and light bites provided, plus personal attention from Cheeky's sales associates who are experts in vintage attire.

Only 60 spots available at a cost of \$30. Please make your checks payable to West U PTO and drop them in the sociables mailbox to sign up for this fun shopping event. Availability will be on a first come/first serve basis.



When: Thursday October 15 6:00-8:00 pm  
Where: Cheeky Vintage 2134 Richmond Avenue  
Cost: \$30/shopper - only 60 spots available  
How: Leave check payable to West U PTO in the Sociables box - first come/first serve basis

Hosted by: Tara Deneke and Valerie Dittner of Cheeky Vintage.

Questions: Contact Tara Deneke at [tara\\_deneke@yahoo.com](mailto:tara_deneke@yahoo.com).

### Elaine Turner Ladies Meet & Greet Auction Gala Kick-Off

Join us Thursday, November 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Elaine Turner Rice Village, 2439 University Blvd. Sip, Talk & Shop: Moms, teachers, friends & family come get an early start on your holiday shopping with the latest & greatest from Elaine Turner in Rice Village. Adult libations & lite bites will be served while shopping; 20% of all proceeds between 6-8pm will be donated back to WUES PTO. Can't make it between those hours? Let them know & they will extend the 20% throughout the day!



Hosted by the WUES PTO Fundraising Team. RSVP to [nicholeake@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nicholeake@sbcglobal.net) or 281-684-5822.

### Happy Birthday, 生日快乐, Feliz Cumpleaños, С Днем Рождения!

The following students are celebrating their birthdays this week by donating a book to our school library:

John Burnett	October 12th
Riley Gilder	October 12th
Adna Halilagic	October 12th
Adela Kusinski	October 12th
Brooks McClellan	October 12th
Charlie Wilson	October 12th
Kailee Chan	October 13th
Dalia Khera	October 13th
Sean Boyle	October 15th
Frankie Vega	October 15th
Emma Angelkov	October 16th
Kevin Boyle	October 16th
Skylar Gross	October 16th
Maddy Bos	October 17th
Jack Bray	October 17th
Claire Connelly	October 17th
Tatiana Duque	October 18th
Noah A.W. Johnson	October 18th
Anne Haddon Nottingham	October 18th

Please, note that due to the great response to the Birthday Book Club this year, we will go back to honoring birthdays on a weekly basis instead of on a monthly basis.

Also remember:

*Continued on next page*

- If you would like to order a Birthday Book Club membership for your child, all orders are due NO LATER THAN Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. to be included in the following week's Pony Express.
- Please submit your Birthday Book Club forms as soon as possible, to make sure we include your child in the Pony Express during their birthday month.
- Order forms can be found online [www.westupto.org](http://www.westupto.org), or in the blue PTO box at the front office.

Happy Birthday and thank you for supporting the West U Elementary library!

Any question? Please contact Tracy Benner ([tracymbenner@yahoo.com](mailto:tracymbenner@yahoo.com)) or Guadalupe Harper ([guadacarlesso@hotmail.com](mailto:guadacarlesso@hotmail.com)).

## **International Festival 2016**

### **Save the Date!**

Calling all parents who have expressed an interest, or who still would like to be involved or hear a little more about the International Festival at West University elementary, to join us in the MPR on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> after drop-off at 8am to hear about our plans for this year.

Enrica Vagliani and Delphine Trogneux  
IF Chairs 2016

## **Counseling Corral**

The following Citizens of the Month selection for September were based on the character trait Respect.

- Neela Ravi, from Ms. Westerman's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class
- Callie Yeager, from Mrs. McClintock's 3rd Grade Class
- Joshua Segraves, from Mrs. Saleem's Kindergarten Class
- Jordyn Baker in Ms. Webb's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class.
- Hudson Hicks in Ms. Wood's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class.
- Hannah Hicks from Ms. Finnegan's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class
- Tinsley Blando from Ms. Fore's 1st Grade Class
- Isabella Alves from Mrs. McAleavy's 5th Grade Class
- Anthony Ngyuyen from Mrs. McAleavy's 5th Grade Class
- Lucy Ginzel from Mrs. Leven's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class
- Chase Bedortha from Mrs. Wick's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class
- Logan Knupp from Mrs. Hilburn's 5th Grade Class
- Niko Charlton-Ouw Mrs. McLamb's 3rd Grade Class

Be sure to stop by our bulletin board by the Computer Labs to read the posters for each student. The posters are also read, one per day during morning announcements.

Michael Connolly, School Counselor

## **Pershing's First Look - Oct. 27th**

Pershing is opening its doors to zoned students for **FIRST LOOK**. Please save the date, **Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00**, and come see the amazing things that are happening at Pershing.



The principal, counselors, teachers and current parents will be on hand to provide information and answer questions regarding the 6th grade curriculum, electives, the fine arts department, athletics, and much more. Tours of the campus will also be given. For more information, please click on the flyer. We hope to see you there!

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John T. Threet, Principal  
Tracey L. Wyatt, Instructional Coordinator  
Amber Pinchback, Assistant Principal  
Daphne Rawlinson, Teacher Specialist

*Texas Education Agency Exemplary School*  
*Texas Education Agency Met Standard*  
*with Academic Distinction in All Areas*  
*Children At Risk, Ranked #2*  
*Among All Texas Public Elementary Schools*  
*TBEC Honor Roll School*  
*NCEA Higher Performing School*  
*No Place For Hate School*

**LET'S GO  
ASTROS!**



*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.*