



WOLF E-NEWS

from Westside High School

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September 26, 2017

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Westside High School received an outpouring of support for our students who were affected by flooding. Donations flowed in from near and far, from staff and community members, and from friends and strangers. Through the generosity of countless donors, we were able to help get our students on track to successfully launch the school year.

Numerous staff members mobilized during the storm in anticipation of the great needs our students would experience after suffering losses due to Harvey. Ms. Astrid Gonzalez, one of our English teachers, designed a special "Westside Strong" t-shirt with proceeds benefitting our Harvey Relief efforts. Social Studies teacher, Ms. Shelby Steward, set up a Go Fund Me campaign and raised money to go towards uniforms and supplies for our Wolves. Ms. Heather Eller, our At Risk Student Coordinator, organized an Amazon Wish list which brought in much-needed binders, notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, etc. to get our students supplied for classes.



In addition to those amazing initiatives of our dedicated staff, Westside's brand new Dean of Students, Mr. Bryce Barry, reached out on social media to his family and friends back home in Illinois. Through the magic of his post going viral, Mr. Barry ultimately crowd-sourced a trailer-load of supplies generously given by his family members, hometown community and businesses, and even from the athletics department at Illinois State University. Mr. Barry personally drove the donations down to Houston with a trailer borrowed from another kind benefactor from Illinois. Our book room was ready and pre-stocked with back packs, clothing, shoes and supplies for all of our needy Wolves when they returned to school on September 11th.

Westside is grateful for all of the love and support for our Wolf Family. Special thanks to Dean Barry, and his amazingly generous hometown community, for opening their hearts to Houston.

Calendar

Tues. 9/26

Senior Parent Meeting,
6:30pm, Auditorium

Tennis vs. Bellaire at WHS,
3:00pm

Varsity Volleyball vs. Bellaire
at Butler Stadium, 7:00pm

Wed. 9/27

Freshmen Football vs. West-
bury at Westbury, 4:30pm

JV Football vs. Westbury at
WHS, 4:30pm

Freshmen and JV Volleyball
vs. Bellaire at Bellaire,
5:00pm

Thur. 9/28

French Parent Meeting,
6:30pm in S-100

Varsity Football vs. Westbury
at Butler Stadium, 7:00pm

Sat. 9/30

Saturday Tutorials, 9am-
12Noon

Mon. 10/2

PTO Meeting 7:00pm in the
Library

Westside Cadets Serve Their Neighbors During Harvey

By Major (Retired) Gilbert T. Gozalo, Westside High School Army JROTC

On August 25, 2017 Houston experienced record breaking rainfall due to Hurricane Harvey. The rain caused severe flooding in Houston and surrounding areas. Combined rescue efforts by first responders, military, federal and local units, as well as civilians, were launched to help evacuate people from their flooded homes. Westside High School 10th grade student and JROTC Cadet Corporal Theotim Jones, along with 11th grade student Cadet Corporal Vincent Doan, participated in this massive rescue effort.

On August 28, the Briarhills subdivision, which is just north of Westside High School and home to our two cadets, was one of the many neighborhoods that flooded. Fortunately for both cadets, their homes were spared from the deluge of water that was released from the Barker Cypress Reservoir. However, when they realized that some of their neighbors were not as fortunate, they acted with haste and took part in the effort to help out people who were stranded in their homes. Cadet Jones instantly became aware that his neighbors may need help and he secured kay-

aks from friends. Cadet Doan, who lived a couple of houses away, saw Cadet Jones and immediately joined him in the rescue efforts. Both cadets waded through waist deep water as they went from house to house checking on people that needed assistance or evacuation. They continued relentlessly for three days working their way from one house to another, checking on people needing assistance. They also helped in passing out water to people who were stranded in their homes. They evacuated a total of 20 people and their pets from flooded homes.



Cadets Jones and Doan prepare to assist Briarhills neighbors during Hurricane Harvey

First PTO Meeting of the Year

Monday, October 2nd at 7:00pm in the Library

All parents are cordially invited to attend the first PTO meeting of the year on Monday, October 2nd, at 7:00pm in the Library.

Mark your calendar for the remaining meetings for the 2017-2018 school year:

PTO Meets on the First Monday
of the month at 7pm in the Library

November 6
January 8
February 5
March 5
April 2

Meet the Teacher Night

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for *Meet the Teacher Night* on Monday night. Parents had an opportunity to “walk in their students’ shoes” and follow their class schedule for an abbreviated version of the school day. They quickly got a sense of the massive size of our campus as they rushed between classes in an effort to arrive on time.

Teachers shared details about their courses and expectations for the upcoming school year. Parents had an opportunity to ask a few questions and got a sense of what school is like from their students’ perspective.



Ms. Neal and Coach Sikkema enjoy Meet the Teacher Night snacks provided by the Westside PTO

New Initiative: Literacy Empowered!

Last week, Westside received thousands of new books as part of HISD’s *Literacy Empowered* initiative. The books are now available for checkout from classroom libraries in all English Language Arts and Social Studies classes. The focus will be on independent reading, writing, and thinking critically.

Parents are encouraged to support their students at home by ensuring 30 minutes of independent reading per day, including assigned reading, reading for pleasure, and reading magazines and online articles. Remember, their Westside IDs grant them access to Houston Public Libraries. Coming soon, students will be tracking their reading time in a WHS Reading Log. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of their access to Khan Academy for

personalized tutorials in many subjects and SAT Preparation. Westside’s literacy goals include daily reading in and outside of the classroom, daily writing in all core classes, and additional writing on all major assessments.



Thank you to coaches and students who helped organize and deliver thousands of books.

Quick Links

School Web Address:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/westsidehs>

HISD Web Address:

<https://www.houstonisd.org>