



West University Elementary School



The Pony Express

Fall Edition, Volume 15
December 2, 2013

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Mark Your Calendars:

- Spelling Bee – Cafeteria
Wednesday, December 4
8:00 – 4th grade
9:00 – 3rd grade
- Spelling Bee – Cafeteria
Thursday, December 5
8:00 – 5th Grade
- PTO Budget Meeting
Monday, December 9
7:00 p.m., MPR
- WUES Bookfair
Tuesday-Thursday
December 10-12
Barnes & Noble
- Bookfair Principal's Coffee
Wednesday, December 11
School Library
- Early Dismissal Day
Friday, December 20
- Winter Holidays
Monday, December 23 –
Monday, January 6
- 1st Day of Spring Semester
Tuesday, January 7

Principal's Points

Please make note of the new schedule for Field Days:

Wednesday, December 4

4th & 5th Grades 8:15am – 10:30am ***

Thursday, December 5

Kindergarten & 1st Grade 8:15am – 10:30am ***

2nd & 3rd Grades 11:45am – 2:00pm ***

*** Approximate finish times.

This Saturday we remember those who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Most of us who grew up in the fifties, sixties and seventies had fathers and uncles who fought in WWII, some of whom who were there at Pearl on that fateful day. We salute those who served in that great endeavor to preserve our freedom, and we honor their memory and sacrifice.

Have a delightful week!

John T. Threet, Principal

PTO Corner

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a restful and Happy Thanksgiving.

Book drive has been postponed until February. Please see the website for more information.

Book Fair is next week. Stock up on holiday gifts and get shopping done in one, quick trip! We have moved the PTO Budget meeting to Monday, December 9 so it does not interfere with the Book Fair. Hope to see everyone there. Please check the website for updates and contact me with any questions.

Make sure and check the PTO website for the updated calendar, news and volunteer opportunities: www.westupto.org. Please contact me with any questions.

Kristen Leach, PTO President 2013-2014



KIDS CARE: Hygiene Kits

We collected more than **157 bags** of toiletry items thanks to all the generous families of West U Elementary!

Due to the huge success of this service project we were able to provide hygiene products not only to *Houston Area Women's Center* and *Ronald McDonald House*, but also to the *Salvation Army Family Long-term Shelter*, *YMCA Men's Shelter*, *Star of Hope Women & Children Transitional Shelter* and *SEARCH day Shelter*.

Our gratitude goes to Direct Energy for supplying us with more than 400 blue bags to fill with toiletries and supply to the shelters for their guests.

Special thanks to Cara Michael and Mindy Rippstein for co-chairing this project and for all their energy and time. Big cheers to all the teachers for assisting the kids with all the notes, drawings, cartoons, puzzles and poems for Ronald McDonald House; they were amazing! Also, huge thanks to Jodie Rephlo, Nicole Choi Victor Song and Susanne Song for collecting items from the classrooms, helping sort and deliver all these necessary items to those in need. It is clear that West University KIDS CARE!

Laura Torgerson, Community Service Chair

Field Day Reminders

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.

Annual Gently Used Book Drive

WUES's annual gently used book drive has been moved to February 17-20, just in time for some spring cleaning! Donated books go to underprivileged children right here in the Houston community. Volunteers are needed to help tally books and move them between the classrooms and the temporary building. If you have already collected books and want to donate them immediately, you may leave them on the front porch of Amy Barnes's house, 3702 Drake Street. Please contact Aaryn Silva at aarynsilva@sbcglobal.net for more information or to volunteer.

PTO Fall Budget Meeting

The fall budget meeting will be held Monday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. It will be at this meeting where we vote on PTO budget requests. If you are planning to submit a request for funding from the PTO for improvement projects or purchases please visit the PTO website and fill out the budget form and submit it online or fill out a hard copy and put it in the VP of Budget and Finance box at the front office. **Budget requests are due TODAY.**



If you have any questions please contact Paula Kekish at paulak33@hotmail.com.

Birthday Book Club

Hip Hip Hooray! More birthdays are on the way!

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

Cathryn Rose Vera	December 2 nd	Alistair Hardy	December 4 th
Jeffrey Chuong	December 2 nd	Zuri Shariff	December 5 th
Grace Butler	December 4 th		



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

If you would like to order a Birthday Book Club membership for your child, please note that all orders are due NO LATER THAN Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to be included in the following week's Pony Express. Order forms can be found at www.westupto.org or by contacting Tracy Benner (tracymbenner@yahoo.com) or Annie Marshall (anniemarshall513@gmail.com).

Holiday Hospitality Gifts for the Teachers - we would love your help!

Please join us for breakfast tomorrow, Tuesday, December 3, at Tiny's 5 at 9am to assemble holiday gifts for the teachers. We would love all the help we can get!

Mary Ellen Bos and Kristen Berger, Hospitality Chairs

Let Reading Be YOUR Super Power!

December 10, 11, 12, 4-8PM, Barnes & Noble on Holcombe



Be a super hero and get some holiday shopping done while supporting our school library!

- * Attendance awards: Homework passes & more!
- * Children are encouraged to wear their favorite superhero costume!

If you are unable to attend the Book Fair, you, your friends and family can still support our school by shopping ONLINE or at their nearest B&N store!

ONLINE & In-Stores - NATIONWIDE SHOPPING

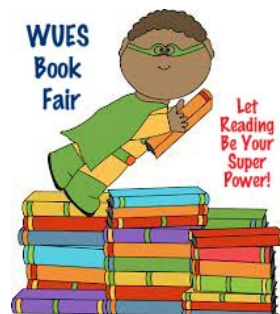
WUES Shopping Code: **11208451**

In Store Shopping Dates: 12/8-12/15

Online Shopping Dates: 12/8-12/20

Be a Reading Superhero! Spread the Word and Share the Code!

Questions? Contact Guadalupe Harper: guadacarlesso@hotmail.com or Michelle Walker: Michelle_L_Walker@yahoo.com



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We're on the Web!
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John T. Threet
Principal
Tracey L. Wyatt
Magnet Coordinator
Tanya L. Heard
Assistant Principal

Private School Recommendation Forms

This time of year we receive many private school recommendation forms.

Forms requiring Mr. Threet's signature must be in the office no later than **Tuesday, December 14** in order to be signed prior to the Winter Holidays. Any forms received after this date will be signed and mailed when we return in January.

Please also be sure to include an addressed and stamped envelope with your child's recommendation form. We will not mail any form without the addressed envelope and stamp. The mailing address must be that of the private school requesting the recommendation. We will not mail these directly to a parent or another third party.

Volunteers, we need you!

WUES International Festival



January 23, 2014

The Festival is a curriculum enrichment event that happens once a year that showcases the diversity of cultures represented at this school. We need many **parent volunteers** to make this a success, please click on this link to sign-up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70AOA4FADAA2FAA8-international>

Key roles that we are still looking for are as follows: 2 x Sound Technicians; Morning Greetings coordinator; Materials Manager; Set-up & Take down Lead. You can find a description of the various roles on the [International Festival homepage](#) on PTO website.\

We are still open to sign-ups for adults and kids **Performances** (dances; country visual arts performances), and these are filling up fast.....get your performance listed at this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70AOA4FADAA2FAA8-international>

Sign up your child for **the Parade** – Calling all 3rd grader parents – your children will already have their country costumes for the Heritage project!

Sign up for **Morning Greetings** – would your child like to greet the school on the week of the Festival in his/her country language?



We look forward to working with you this year to make this a **HUGE** success for our kids!

IF Curriculum Event Chairs: Delphine Trogneux (Daube) and Enrica Vagliani (Gray)
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