

The Pony Express

West University Elementary School
Houston Independent School District
Fall Edition, Volume XVI, December 17, 2018

John T. Threet Principal
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Principal's Place

We encourage our parents to donate to the Holiday Custodial Fund. You may not know but our custodians and cafeteria workers are some of the lowest paid employees in HISD. Each year we collect money for them to thank them for all of the difficult work they do behind the scenes.

Donations can be made online at:

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=qhGnA3tXxwf-go939-eyew1mGOXl4ugZzWglfm5cn1ibRBWSxaBaqaeLx8EC5LWFTxV1D0&country.x=US&locale.x=US>. Any amount is greatly appreciated. We are unable to accept checks or cash. Thank you for your generosity.

I hope your holidays are relaxing and joyful. See you January 7!

Have a wonderful week and a fantastic winter break!

John T. Threet, Principal

Upcoming Events

- Class Holiday Parties
Wednesday, December 19
- Last Day of Fall Semester
Thursday, December 20
- First Day of Spring Semester
Monday, January 7, 2019
- #celebrateU Gala & Auction
Friday, January 11, 2019
- International Festival
Thursday, January 24
4:00-7:30 p.m.
Cafeteria/MPR

Souper Bowl of Caring

Each year, the Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy of the big game to encourage participation in a local food drive benefitting local hunger relief organizations. For over 25 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign has raised over \$140 million for local charities. The uniqueness of this campaign is that 100% of donations go straight to the charity of the local participant's choice. In Houston, we have food retail partners who sell bags of food for the Houston Food Bank and its affiliates, television, radio, print and billboard partners who spread the word about the event, saturating the market with news of the food drive. Youth from around the country and in Houston, coordinate their own food drives, including groups like schools, the Boy Scouts and Jack and Jill, to use the big game to encourage caring and compassion for their community.

For many years WUES has led Houston as the top school food collection for the campaign. We have had years where we were the top school in the country in this effort to feed the hungry. For this reason, West U Elementary has been selected as the site of the Houston Souper Bowl of Caring Kick-Off Event to be held in our Cafeteria/MPR on Friday, January 18. The Pep Rally/Kick Off Event is a way for the media to alert the public about the start of the campaign and to rally our youth to be excited about helping others in this unique campaign.

More information will be provided as we get closer to the event.

Olivia Benitez, VP of Service



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Happy Holidays! Please join Birthday Book Club!

Thank you for your many requests to RE-OPEN BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB TO NEW CONTRIBUTORS! Your children love to pick out their own special book and want to leave their mark on our amazing WUES library. All donations directly benefit our WUES library. From January 7th – January 18th, we will open registration to new members. Don't worry if your child has a summer, fall, or winter birthday that has already passed. We will be sure to include them with their own invitation, book plate, and recognition in the Pony Express. The link will be on our Birthday Book Club page on the WUES PTO website.

We wish you a wonderful and safe holiday. May you spend meaningful time with family and friends, and, a fair amount of time with a favorite book! Happy Birthday to our **December 17th – January 6th Birthdays:**

December 10th - December 16th Birthdays			
Kate Naughton	December 17th	Madison Ragan	December 28th
Cade Mansour	December 18th	Austin Woerner	December 30th
Lena Chadraoui	December 18th	Gabriel Mosley	December 30th
Salim Chadraoui	December 18th	Caitlin Winks	December 31st
Ava Del Angel	December 19th	Chelsea Winks	December 31st
Madeline Mixon	December 19th	Harrison Crossley	January 1st
Karim Matuk-Athie	December 20th	Meriah Thomas	January 3rd
Zaid Alousi	December 20th	Nylah Ogadi	January 3rd
Holden McKenney	December 21st	Lauren Chen	January 4th
Jackson Woods	December 21st	Macy Vanderbloemen	January 4th
Juliette McLaughlin	December 21st	Emma Bray	January 5th
Luke Hubbard	December 21st	Mia McKenney	January 5th
Rohan Patel	December 23rd	Maria Paula Padilla	January 6th
Sam Faulk	December 24th	Ved Agrawal	January 6th
Kate Naughton	December 17th	Hanley Reynolds	December 28th
Cade Mansour	December 18th	Madison Ragan	December 28th
Lena Chadraoui	December 18th	Austin Woerner	December 30th
Hanley Reynolds	December 28th		

Your child will receive an invitation from their teacher to choose a special birthday book during library ancillary or after school library hours. A personalized book plate will be placed in the front of their selected book and after they are done reading, your child will return their book to our library for others to enjoy and check out in the future.

For more information, please contact:

Lori Naughton lori.a.naughton@gmail.com, or Darcy Reid darcyreiddvm@yahoo.com.

Notes from the Nurse

It has been a very busy semester and we have made it (Almost). If you have immunizations that are out of date, please provide the updates to me. I have been sending home notices for vision and hearing referrals. Please also follow through on that.



Just a notice: there is a huge amount of lost and found items behind the stage in the cafeteria and in my office. If you would like to look at it before it goes to Goodwill in January, please do so. In January, we will put all the items on the stage for you to search. Any items left after January 15th will be donated to Goodwill.

Thank you and I wish you all a good holiday season and my best for a Healthy 2019.

Paula Bottecelli, R.N., School Nurse



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.