

THE PONY EXPRESS

A publication of West University Elementary School

Texas Education Agency Exemplary School

Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll School

Just For The Kids Higher Performing Schools in Texas

Houston Independent School District



John T. Threet, Principal
Fall Edition

<http://es.houstonisd.org/westuniversity/>

Tracey L. Wyatt, Magnet Coordinator
September 29, 2009

DEAR PARENTS,

The Continental Math league will start October 5, 2009. We have only a few slots for new members. Membership is open to third, fourth and fifth grade students. If you are interested please come to Mrs. Symonette's room to pick up a permission slip.

West U Gear umbrellas are back in stock by popular demand. You can order online at www.westugear.com or we will have them at the Friday sno-cone sales in the court yard. We will have youth small in the fuchsia and navy tee as well. Contact Wendy Yu - wendy@awkward.com or RenelleC@tmarks.com with any questions. Thank you for your support of West U Gear. As a reminder, Fridays are School Spirit Day and we encourage all students and faculty to wear their West U Gear!

School picture day is Monday, October 5. Students will take their individual pictures next Monday. Smile!

A big 'Thanks!' to the Rice Owls Football team and Athletic Department for their recognition of our community and school at last Saturday's football game. We appreciate the community service their athletes do for our school.

Have a stellar week!

JOHN THREET, PRINCIPAL



PTO NEWS

GOT JUNK?!?!?

Raise EVEN MORE \$\$\$ at this year's carnival and clean out your clutter at the same time! THE BIG GREEN CARNIVAL is partnering with www.recycle4charity.com. Bring your used printer cartridges and old cell phones to the designated carnival drop off boxes to raise money for our school AND recycle in one easy step. Boxes will be set up at the front office the week before carnival and then again at the Carnival Information Booth on October 17 from 11-3. See you there!




Lamar Feeder Pattern Back to School Bash

Lamar High School

Monday, October 12

6:00 p.m.

Come learn about the schools in the Lamar Feeder Pattern!



It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, or political affiliation in its educational or employment programs and activities.

Gardening Gloves

news from our school garden

Wednesday Garden Parties! We meet every Wednesday from 9AM - 10AM in the garden. Gloves and tools are provided. Join us and give your green thumb a workout while you make a contribution to the school!

If you'd like to receive garden related information regarding your school and around town, join our email list!

The West U Gardeners

Cheryl - choyal@comcast.net

Sonya - popoffhobbs@hotmail.com

Sno Cones Fridays in the courtyard

(weather permitting)

Come help our 5th graders by purchasing a sno cone or snack. Chic-Fil-A will also have their nuggets available for 5 tickets per package of nuggets. Sno-cones, candy and other snacks are 1 ticket each. Each ticket can be purchased for 75 cents.

Hope to see you there!!

MARATHON KIDS UPDATE

October 1st (Thursday) is the deadline for registering your runner in Marathon Kids. The official Kick Off will be held October 10th, 10:00am, at the UH Tellez Stadium. Remember, mileage may be recorded on the Mileage Log as soon as the registration form is turned in to me. Questions? Check www.marathonkids.org or contact Ms. Duvo.

HISD Online Resources

The following FREE online resources are available to parents and students at home or at school: Britannica and World Book encyclopedias, ABC-CLIO, EBSCO, NetTrekker, WilsonWeb, Proquest, Thompson Gale, and Teaching Books. All of these resources are accessible without using a login on an HISD campus. However, from home or another remote location, you will need the following user name and password:

1. The 2009-1020 user name is houstonisd (same as last year)
2. The NEW 2009-2010 password is Texans

United Streaming/Discovery requires the above logon both on campus and at home. You can get to these resources at the following websites: http://www.hisdlibraryservices.org/online_resources.htm or <http://tinyurl.com/42bx4k>

Become a Reading Champion!

Our school, along with every school in the Houston ISD Central District, has once again been selected to participate in the Reading Champions program this fall. Reading Champions is a motivational program sponsored by the

March of Dimes. The purpose is to raise money for research that will help save babies from premature births. To raise this money, students get family members to agree to sponsor them for each book that they read during the month of October. At the end of the four week period, every student who participated receives a Reading Champions certificate with his/her name on it and a gold, silver or bronze medallion depending on the number of books read. A letter of explanation and recording envelope is being sent home in your child's Monday folder. Watch the Pony Express for more details about this upcoming event. We hope you will support your child's efforts to earn the honor of becoming a Reading Champion!

Polly Kotarba, Librarian



Innisbrook Giftwrap

Due to technical difficulties with the Innisbrook website we are extending the deadline for all sales ending this Friday, October 2! If you need to place an order but are having trouble getting online please make a copy of your order for your records and turn in your order form and payment and I will make sure your order gets into the system. Thank you for your patience and I look forward to more orders coming in this week!

If you have any questions please email Lisa Hardze at: lisarhardze@yahoo.com or call 715-859-7737



Math Club 4th & 5th grades

Math Club meetings are held on Mondays, 3:00-4:00, in Mrs. Taghavi's room (# 804). We will meet in the courtyard at 2:45 for snack. Pick-up will be on Goode Street. Registration forms can be picked up from the box located near the aquarium (in front of the main office). Email Varsha Patel on vb.patel@hotmail.com for more information.



Birthday Book Club Kids



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

Addie Laucius	September 26
Gigi Baer	September 28
Jenna Baer	September 28
Lilly Gilbert-Smith	September 29
Peter Wade	September 30
Andrew Rowe	October 1
Molly Hope Dagley	October 3

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

You may pick up a Birthday Book Club Order form from the PTO Box in the school office, or contact: Janet Childers childersjs@comcast.net, Alesha Hybarger limabean3@comcast.net, or Beth Murphy bethhuntmurphy@yahoo.com.

Reminder: Order forms and payments must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. the TUESDAY BEFORE the WEEK of the child's birthday if you wish for their name to be included in the Pony Express during the week of their birthday. Otherwise, their name will be included the following week.

PLAY TEXAS HOLD 'EM AT CODE NAME: LEGACY AND EARN A CHANCE TO WIN A FANTASTIC GETAWAY

Attention Texas Hold'Em enthusiasts.

A Texas Hold'Em tournament will be held at West U. Elementary's fast-approaching auction. The cost to enter is \$250 per person, which allows you to participate in the tournament AND enters you in a drawing for one of three fabulous trips. One entry fee covers both, so if you don't win the tournament, cross your fingers for the trip drawing... It could be you!

The tournament will begin at approximately 10 p.m. following the conclusion of the live auction. No worries if you don't want to play in the tournament. Simply purchase the \$250 tournament ticket and you will automatically be eligible for the trip drawing. A minimum of 24 tournament/trip tickets must be sold, and ticket sales will be capped at 40. With such a small pool, that puts the odds in your favor.

If tournaments and trips aren't in your bag of tricks, there will be a range of other casino games underway — blackjack, roulette, craps — as well as a live band for dancing and toe tapping.

Additional information about the trips will be showcased in a future issue of Pony Express.

Questions? Please contact event co-chairs Suzanne Rose or Kathy Kehn at suzannekrose1@gmail.com or kehn@sbcglobal.net.



Volunteer Info.

Volunteers are crucial to the continued success of WUES. Whether volunteering with a class party, chaperoning a field trip, participating in field day, or helping with fundraising events, you are important and needed. HISD policy and state law mandate that we must conduct a criminal background check for all volunteers who may be in direct contact with students or who may supervise students. To err on the side of the safety of our children, we require VIPS approval for any school activity that is not a spectator event. For example, parents may attend the 5th Grade Promotion Program as a spectator, but they must complete the VIPS approval process in order to chaperone the 5th Grade Picnic. Examples of activities that require VIPS approval include, but are not limited to, Field Day, Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast, 4th Grade Texas State Fair, any field trip, etc. This list is obviously not inclusive. Please contact your child's teacher or Magnet Coordinator Tracey Wyatt if you are unsure about a particular event. **We encourage all parents to complete the VIPS registration process in order to make it possible for all parents to participate in a variety of volunteer roles at our school.** We typically have over 1500 volunteers register for VIPS each year. **PARENTS WHO WERE VIPS APPROVED LAST YEAR WILL ROLL OVER INTO THIS YEAR'S VIPS APPROVED LIST.** More information can be found in our General Parent Information booklet sent on in the First Day Packet on the first day of school (pages 9-11). You may also find this document on our webpage at: <http://es.houstonisd.org/WestUniversity/Information/info.htm>.

Click on the tab on the right hand side of the page entitled "General Parent Information" to download the document.

