



Monthly Mustang

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Important dates

- Oct. 4 Amerigo Vespucci lunch (5th Grade)
- Oct. 14 No School
- Oct. 19 Carnival
- Oct. 29 Early Dismissal and Report Cards
- Oct. 31 Halloween

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Bluebonnet Books | 2 |
| Ms. Davis | 2 |
| Ms. McGraw | 3 |
| Learn about Korea | 3 |
| Clean Up Squad | 3 |
| Ms. Calvaruso | 4 |
| Editorial Cartoons Backpack Attack | 4 |

Teachers Return to West U

By Abby

This year two teachers returned to West U after being gone for a year, Ms. Gregg and Ms. Thompson. In this issue we interview Ms. Gregg. Ms. Thompson's interview will be in the next issue.



Ms. Gregg,

Q. How long have you been a teacher at West U?

A. I was here for 2 years teaching third grade and left for 1 year, and I'm back teaching fourth grade.

Q. What year has been your favorite year at West U.?

A. Every year at West University has been fantastic.

Q. Have you ever been a teacher at a different school?

A. Yes. I taught for three years at Petrosky Elementary out in Alief ISD.

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I grew up in Seguin, Texas. It's a small town outside San Antonio.

Q. Who influenced you to be a teacher?

A. My first grade teacher influenced me the most because she loved to read, and encouraged us to read as much as possible. She also had a tree house that you could climb when you got done with your work and read.

Q. Do you like to give a lot of homework?

A. I usually don't give a lot of homework. We finish up things at home that we started in class, or we do extra practice like spelling.

Q. Who is your favorite author?

A. Dr. Seuss and Steven Kellogg are my favorite authors.

Q. What did you want to be when you were little?

A. I've always wanted to be a teacher, and I used to play make-believe school.

Q. When was your most painful moment?

A. I was running downstairs in pantyhose and tripped. I flew forward and went straight through the window. I had to get stitches on my wrist.

Q. Who is your role model?

A. My mom is my role

September 11 Memorial

By Alice

This year we had a memorial for those who died on /9/11/01. It was a short simple service. The students sung and we heard music from musicians from the Lamar High School band. We had a speech from Mr. Threet at the beginning and end of this

memorial. After the opening speech, the fifth grade patrols were given the honor of raising the American flag. We thank our assistant principal, Ms. Monaghan for organizing the memorial. It was a great way to honor those who died on



Chole, Zane, Nils and Kenda of Ms. McKennis' class celebrates Patriot Day at West U.

Get to Know Ms. Davis

By Melanie & Laura

Q. Why did you decide to be a teacher?

A. I really enjoy working with students.

Q. What subjects are you teaching?

A. Writing, language, science, social studies, and spelling.

Q. What college did you go to?

A. I went to Cornell University.

Q. What state was your college in?

A. Ithaca, New York

Q. Where are you from?

A. Chicago, Illinois

Q. What is your favorite color?

A. My favorite color is blue

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. The Fountainhead

(Continued on page 4)

Editorial Opinion

September 11, 2001

By Tisha

Some kids are scared about what happened last year on September 11. I think it is a chance to learn that the world isn't perfect. Bad things are likely to happen. We shouldn't be scared. If terrorists find out that we are scared they will probably do it again. We have to be strong and fight back and show them that they can not do that to us and get away with it. We are stronger than they are. We can beat them. If you are scared, know that you are protected. For those of you that don't know what happened last year on September 11, two planes crashed into two very important buildings. Many lives were lost. We all gave a minute on September 11 to remember the people who lost their



Protect Animals/ Don't Litter

By Kyle

Do you like wild animals? Well, if you do, you shouldn't litter. If you litter the animals will die. Birds and squirrels might eat the trash. Animals have been known to eat plastic, get their heads stuck in glass jars, and become entangled in old fishing line. Everyone needs to pick up trash for themselves. You need to pick trash off the ground if other people litter. So please don't litter! It is very bad! It will ruin the environment.



Time To Start Reading Bluebonnet Books

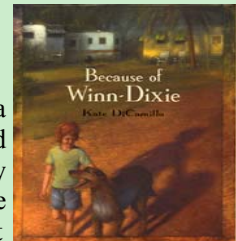
by Benjamin

Here is the list of books nominated for this year's Bluebonnet Award.

Ereth's Birthday.
Radio Rescue.
Edwina Victorious.
Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman.
The School Story.
Love That Dog.
The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark.
Spiders and Their Web Sites. The Year of Miss Agnes.
The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins.
The Raft.
Dear Whiskers.
The Graduation of Jake Moon.
Esperanza Rising.
The Golden Mare, the Firebird, and the Magic Ring.
The Mysterious Matter of I. M. Fine.
And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon.
Attack on Pearl Harbor: The True Story of the Day America Entered World War II.
The Other Side.
Cockroach Cooties

Excerpt from
 "Because of Winn-Dixie"

My name is India Opal Buloni, and last summer my daddy, the preacher, sent me to the store



2001 Bluebonnet Award

for a box of macaroni-and-cheese, some white rice, and two tomatoes and I came back with a dog. This is what happened: I walked into the produce section of the Winn-Dixie grocery store to pick out my two tomatoes and I almost bumped right into the store manager. He was standing there all red-faced, screaming and waving his arms around.

"Who let a dog in here?" he kept on shouting. "Who let a dirty dog in here?" At first, I didn't see a dog. There were just a lot of vegetables rolling around on tomatoes and onions and green peppers. And there was what seemed like a whole army of Winn-Dixie employees running

What are Bluebonnet books? Bluebonnet Books is a program designed to help kids read more quality books. This is how it works. People crowd into a meeting to decide which books to select for a Bluebonnet Award. After twenty books are picked, teachers in schools across Texas assign the Bluebonnet list for kids to read. In January every year, students at each school vote on what book they think is the best. To be eligible to vote you must read at least five of the eligible Bluebonnet Books.

For the past five years a pattern has been forming. Every other year a picture book gets chosen as the best book and on the other years a chapter book is chosen. We are eager to see if this pattern continues. Last year a chapter book, "Because of Winn-Dixie" by Kate DiCamillo won the Bluebonnet award! Will a picture book be picked this year? Don't forget your Bluebonnet vote is due January 17!

CHUSEOK - Korean Thanksgiving Day

By John



John dressed in traditional Korean clothing, shares Chuseok a Korean holiday with Mrs. Reynolds' class.

On the biggest full moon day of the year, August 15th of the lunar calendar, the Korean traditional holiday called

'Chuseok' or Thanksgiving is celebrated. This year the holiday fell on September 21, 2002. It may have been first celebrated around 500 A.D. In those days, farmers started to harvest rice and foods. People go to their hometown to meet their relatives. This week with a little help from my mom, I taught my class how we celebrate Chuseok in Korea. Tisha and I dressed in clothes that Koreans wear that day. I told the class how we celebrate Thanksgiving. The first thing we do in the early Chuseok morning is to hold Charey, an ancestor memorial service. On Chuseok children get lots of new cloth and eat traditional

food like Songpuyn. At Chuseok and on New Year's Day, we wear traditional clothes that have a lot of beautiful colors. We eat a food called Songpuyn, a rice cake that contains honey or beans. It is sticky and women try to make it as pretty as possible. I gave Mrs. Reynolds' class some songpuyn to learn how it tastes. The ancestors said that if you make the prettiest Songpuyn you'll have a good husband and pretty babies. We also play traditional games like: Playing Cow, Playing Turtle, Kanggangsullae (circle dance that women usually play), Sedan Chair Fight, Cock Fight, Bullfight and more.



Get to Know Ms. McGraw

By Janie and Alice

What grade do you teach?

Fifth Grade

What other subject would you teach if you couldn't teach science?

I would probably teach language.
Why?

I think writing is a very important skill.

Why do you like science?

It's fun to do experiments.

What is your favorite science topic?

I would have to say matter and geology.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are tennis, jogging, reading and collecting postcards.

What's your favorite TV show?

I know I should say the **Discovery Channel** but it is actually **Nightline**.

What's your favorite book?

The science text book of course.

What is your favorite color?

My favorite color is green.

What is your favorite food.

My favorite food is baked potatoes with a lot of cheese.

If you were given one wish

What would it be?

For my family to always be happy and healthy.

If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it?

I would donate it to West U of course.

What is your favorite restaurant?

Prego's

Where did you go to college?

University of Houston

Where are you from?

North Carolina

Is there anything you would like to say to all the readers?

Science matters!



Clean-Up Squad

By Philip
Ms. Stone's 3rd grade class

There is something exciting happening upstairs in room 215. A team of students called the Clean Up Squad is making themselves known. The Clean-Up Squad is a group of students who work together and pick up trash. We pick up trash on the playground, in the hallway, cafeteria, and restrooms. We don't litter. Why do we do it? Because we love our school and want to keep it clean. We will be happy if you join too! It is fun when we work together. If you don't want to join you can still help by not littering. To join the Clean-Up Squad come to Ms. Stone's class during school hours. She will be happy to tell you how you can be part of a dedicated group of students.



Ms. Davis helping Daniel

(Continued from page 2)

Q. Who is your favorite character?

A. All the characters, because they all have strong personalities and are appealing

Q. What is your favorite movie?

A. **The Princess Bride** and **You've Got Mail**.

Q. Why do you like those movies?

A. I like **The Princess Bride** because it's funny and I like **You've Got Mail** because it was a fun romantic comedy that takes place in New York City.

Q. Who is your favorite kids author?

A. Ronald Dahl

Q. I hear you're getting married. When?

A. I am getting married October 19 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Get to know Ms. Calvaruso

By Milan

Who influenced you most?

My mom.

If you could thank one person right now who would it be?

My mom.

What is your favorite drink?

Starbucks cappuccino

What is your favorite movie?

Titanic

What is your favorite book? Where The Red Fern Grows.

What is your favorite TV show? Friends

What is your hobby? Shopping

Do you have any children? No

Do you have any pets? No



Ms. Calvaruso

Where did you go to college? LSU

Where did you grow up?

South Louisiana

What were you doing 10 years ago?

I was a senior in High School.

What is your favorite candy?

Anything chocolate

Editorial Opinion: Backpacks

by Malcolm

Fourth graders are complaining of too much homework. One person's rolling book bag was so heavy that his bone popped out of joint. There are good and bad things about homework. The good thing about a lot of homework is that it gives you knowledge, the bad is that it can be boring. I did a quick survey of the fourth grade and many students said their book bags were too heavy and they had way too much homework.

What is your favorite food? Seafood

What is your favorite color? Red

