

January 2011

Westpark Elementary Newsletter

 Winter Happenings



Dates to Remember:

- * Jan. 17—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No School
- * Feb. 14—Lincoln's Day—No School
- * Feb 21—President's Day—No School
- * March 24 - Electronic Report Cards
- * March 21-24—Minimum Days—Parent Conferences
- * April 1 -End of 3rd Quarter (Minimum Day)
- * April 2-April 24 -Spring Break
- * **MAY 27 is a School Day**

PTA Meeting Dates

Jan. 19	6:30
Feb. 16	6:30
March 16	6:30
May 18	6:30

Welcome Back

Dear Westpark Families,

Happy 2011 and welcome back to school.

Just before break the Westpark students and staff participated in a Talent Show which left many of us amazed at the talent found at Westpark Elementary School. Students demonstrated skills and talents that exceeded expectations. It was fun and entertaining.

I would like to express appreciation to Ingrid Green who directed, produced and choreographed the Talent Show. Ingrid is also the director of the school play, which will be fantastic.

Westpark Elementary School has many extraordinary opportunities for students because of the dedicated staff and parents. The PTA has organized and contrib-

uted to many activities, events and experiences that add so much to the students' lives.

The Westpark community works together to ensure the best for the students. It has been my pleasure and honor to a part of this wonderful school.

Sincerely,
Ann Marie Simmons

Westpark Teacher of the Year

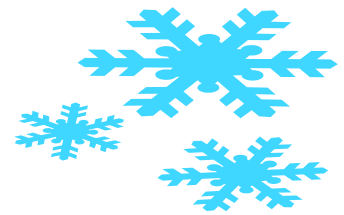
Congratulations to Christina Austin, who was selected by her peers as the Westpark 2011 "Teacher of the Year."

Christina has been a first grade teacher at Westpark for seven years. She completed her un-

dergraduate degree in Educational and has a Master's Degree in Special Education. She loves Westpark students and says they make her job "fun, unpredictable and easy." She is the Student Study Team co-

ordinator and the Intervention Lead Teacher for Westpark.

Christina also has a one year old daughter and loves spending time with her family having fun.



Parking Lot Safety

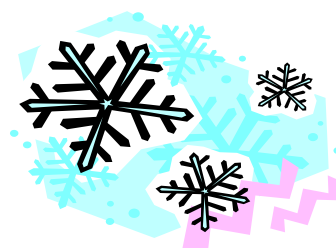
The safety of the children is our primary concern at Westpark Elementary. We all must be very careful and follow all procedures to ensure the children's safety. Please adhere to the directions of the staff members in the parking lot who are there to keep students safe and the flow of

cars constant. There are over 600 students at Westpark which means that there will be many cars and children in the parking lot. Traffic will be slow and patience is needed.

Thank you for being courteous to staff and other parents when you are in

the parking lot.

Officer Scott Vales, of Irvine Police Department, monitors the Westpark Elementary School for traffic flow and safety.



**ALWAYS
REMEMBER:** that
hand washing is a
simple way of
preventing the
transmission of
many types of
infection!

Winter is Cold and Flu Season

In order to provide a healthy school environment for all children and staff when your child has an excessive runny nose, coughing and/or a temperature of 100°F or higher, your child must be kept home and **fever-free** for at least 24 hours prior to returning to school. A complete list of our school health

guidelines for school attendance can be found at www.iusd.org in the Health Services Tab under guidelines. Always remember to call our attendance line each day of absence at 949-936-6401. If your child becomes sick while at school, the health clerk, school nurse or office staff will

contact you to come and pick your child up.

Nurse Daniella



Parenting Support & Solutions

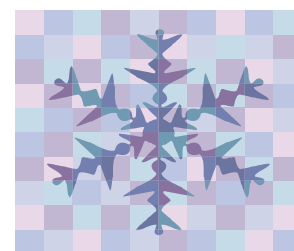
IUSD's Guidance Resources is offering several classes related to parenting. The classes are designed to address various parenting challenges that present at different developmental stages. The course offerings include:

**-POSITIVE DISCIPLINE
Real Life Strategies for
Developing Capable
Young People at any age**

***Active Parenting of Teens*
Active Parenting Now
*Helping Your Child Succeed In
School***

**Fathers of
Teenagers**

**Call Susan Holt at 949-
936-7502 - Classes fill
quickly – call soon!**



Parent Night on Homework Tips and Storyteller for Students

Westpark teachers will be offering an informative evening offering tips and suggestions for homework on **February 16th 6:30 to 7:30.** Both Primary and Upper Elementary teachers will be addressing how to sup-

port your child. English Language Arts and Math tips will be offered.

While you are learning about homework, you can bring your child who will be entertained by a professional Storyteller, Jim Cogan. If you are

interested in attending this wonderful night please RSVP to Amy Mabe at amabe@iusd.org



Tomorrow Now- Speak Up Survey

Speak Up National Research Project collects survey information from students, teachers, and parents on important educational issues. That allows the voices of stakeholders to be heard. Their input is shared and viewed by participating districts and provides a better un-

derstanding of what future demands and needs of K-12 education.

Last year IUSD had great participation in the survey. The survey results were shared with educators and revealed interesting finding such as how many students use technology to participate in games

verses homework. When you take the survey you can receive the results as well. **Please participate before Jan. 21, 2011. The password is: survey2010**

<http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2010/>

Westpark prepares for the Team Kids Challenge program kicking off this February!

Team Kids is a non-profit organization that empowers kids to become resilient and responsible citizens with a passion for service. Children that participate in Team Kids programs develop the values and skills that enable them to make positive choices in their own lives, while also making a difference in the lives of others. Westpark is thrilled to have their innovative school program, the Team Kids Challenge, come to help our students recognize the importance of helping others, and the power that they have to do so. The program will Kick-off with an exciting Team Kids assembly on Friday, February 18th. Each week during the month-long program will have a different focus: Hunger; Homelessness; AIR Behavior.

Expect Respect

Westpark teachers will be implementing a Bully Prevention curriculum in conjunction with the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. Westpark students have already learned about positive behavioral expectations and demonstrate them through; Accountability, Integrity, and Respect. The students refer to these as AIR behaviors. Appropriate

AIR behaviors have been demonstrated at various places throughout the school including on the playground, in the hallways, and when in the MPR.

The Expect Respect curriculum will teach students to expect respect and what to do if they experience bullying behavior. Topics include gossip, inappropriate remarks, and cyber bul-

lying.

Through a school-wide implementation the students will all learn the expected behaviors and to always show respect to each other.



Westpark PTA News

Westpark PTA is currently looking for new board members for 2011 – 2012 school year. All positions are open as well as Chairpersons for events such as Red Ribbon Week, Membership, Yearbook, T-Shirts and other opportunities.

If you are interested in being a part of a great group of people who contribute to Westpark in numerous ways, contact Shireen Rogers at westpark-pres@yahoo.com.

The School Play Auditions begin this week. Practice will be three days a week until the day

PTA Events

January

Kids Run OC

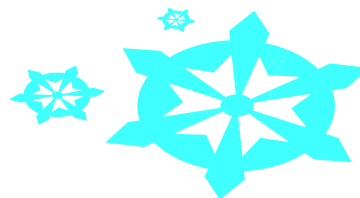
February

24th Bingo Night

March

9th Jog-A-Thon

24-25 School Play





IRVINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF DESERVE "P.A.T.S." ON THE BACK!

THE IRVINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION PRESENTS
PARENTS APPRECIATING TEACHERS AND STAFF

Thank your child's teachers and special staff members for all of their hard work through the Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff (PATS) program.

There are many reasons to participate in PATS:

It is a great way to recognize those individuals who make a difference in your child's education.

Your tax-deductible donation goes directly back into the classroom through the Innovative Teaching Award Program (ITAP).

Your child's teachers and staff members receive a personalized certificate of recognition with a small gift expressing that you think they are special and how much you appreciate them.

**APPRECIATE YOUR FAVORITE
TEACHER OR STAFF TODAY!**

\$25.00 donation recognizes one (1) teacher or staff

\$50.00 donation recognizes three (3) teachers or staff

\$75.00 donation recognizes five (5) teachers or staff

\$100.00 donation recognizes seven (7) teachers or staff

\$125.00 donation recognizes nine (9) teachers or staff

All Donations Must Be Received By March 4, 2011

Please make checks payable to IPSF

Mail check with this page to IPSF

18552 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92612.

Please write "PATS" on your envelope!

Teacher/Staff Name: _____

If you are recognizing multiple teachers or staff, please include the necessary information on a separate sheet.

School or Location: _____

Student's Name: _____

Optional Personal Message to be printed on certificate (20 words or less only, please): _____

Parent's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____