

# Westpark Journal

## August 2009



### Principal's Report

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! This is sure to be a great year! We have many great things planned for all Westpark students this year!

One of the constant concerns and headaches for us all is the student and adult safety in the parking lot and surrounding streets. Parking in the lot is for staff only. There are only 39 dedicated spots and 61 employees, please help us out by parking on the street and using the valet system in the morning. Please do what you can to lessen the carbon footprint by walking or riding to school. Please review the following suggestions put forth in conjunction with the Irvine Police Department to help keep us all safe.

- Use the valet drop-off. It is the safest place to drop your children off for school and eliminates them from having to cross the street or the parking lot.
- Make sure that your children's backpacks, musical instruments, and other belongings are easily accessible for removal from your vehicle.
- When using the valet service, remain in your car. Allow the student valets to assist your children in exiting.
- Say your goodbyes to your children before you get in the car and leave home. Extended time saying goodbyes at the school delays other parents and their children.
- Obey the directions of school staff and volunteers while in the school parking lot. They are doing their job and expect your cooperation in making sure that traffic flows smoothly. This especially applies to parents who park in areas not designated for parking such as traffic lanes, and those whose cars block others from getting out. Our Irvine Police DARE officers are working with our 6<sup>th</sup> graders this week to get the valet program up and running. Do not walk across the parking lot, use the sidewalks.

Thank you for supporting our school wide homework the first day of school; reading our parent information brochure and our school home contract. We are very excited about our school-home partnership and our commitment to Accountability, Integrity, and Respect as a PBIS school. We had a great kick off assembly on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> in which each Westpark student was able to learn about AIR behavior in each part of the school. It was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to be on the same page. At Westpark your child may be assigned to a particular class this year, but each teacher, instructional assistant, administrative assistant, principal, etc. considers your child his/her kid-all the kids are our kids! We are a community and appreciate your participation in this community! Using the language Accountability, Integrity, and Respect at home will reinforce our work to instill a positive school-home culture.

Speaking of school culture, Shireen Rogers, PTA President and I hope you will join us on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> for "Worlds of Westpark." We have decided to try a new community event this year; inviting everyone to bring a food from their country to share so we can all learn more about each other's culture-we hope you will come! Please see the homepage for more information.

Please make sure that you have signed up for email updates. At this website:

<http://www.iusd.org/schools/wp.html>

you can sign up if you have not already done so. If you have already signed up, but would like to add another email, for example one that goes to a PDA or other smart phone, you can do that as well. I will be sending many email updates in our commitment to be "green." Our student lead "Green Team," has inspired us all to be kinder to the environment and as such we are drastically reducing the amount of paper notices we are sending home. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Thank you for your support of our school and I look forward to a great year!

Dr. Erica L. Hoegh, Westpark Principal

## Office

The school office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, while school is in session. If you bring a forgotten lunch, homework, jacket, etc., for your student, please come to the office only. If a student should arrive after school starts, he/she needs to come to the office to sign in and receive a late pass. Please make sure that your child arrives on time, as tardies and absences are detrimental to your child's education.

## School Lunch Information

The Irvine Unified School District offers a hot lunch program for students. The cost is **\$3.25** per meal and milk alone is **\$.75**. Each student has been assigned a personal identification number. If a student wants to purchase a second slice of pizza, the price has increased to \$3.25 which includes the entire meal. Parents are asked to deposit funds in the student's account either electronically or by sending a check to school with your student. The goal for the school and the school district is to be cashless. Money will not be handled in the lunchroom.

**Option 1-** Go to the IUSD website

[http://www.iusd.org/district\\_services/food\\_services/OnlinePaymentsForSchoolLunches.html](http://www.iusd.org/district_services/food_services/OnlinePaymentsForSchoolLunches.html)

**Option 2-** Send a check to the school office made payable to IUSD Food Services. Include your student's Lunch Box number on the memo line of the check.

The National Lunch Program helps families that need assistance with lunch. Please take the time to review the application that will go home on Back to School Night and fill it out if you qualify. The application is also available on our homepage.

[www.iusd.org/wp](http://www.iusd.org/wp)

## Bicycles at School

Per IUSD policy, only students in grades three and above may ride bicycles to school. All bikes must be licensed with the Irvine Police Department students must wear a helmet and parents must provide a lock for the bike while it is in the school bike rack. Razor scooters, skateboards, inline skates, and wheelie shoes are not permitted at any time.

## PTA

### Volunteering

Thank you to PTA for getting the year off to a great start with its membership welcome coffee! Getting involved here at Westpark in any capacity, whether it be once a week in the classroom, once a year on a field trip, chairing a PTA event, donating needed funds, etc. means the world to your child and each child at Westpark-thank you for all your support!

### Pledge Drive

Please support the PTA pledge drive. Each and every tax deductible dollar goes straight to PTA for use in the classroom. None of the money is taken to support vendors-our children are the recipients of all your generosity! Thank you for all of your support!

### Meetings

Please join us at the PTA Board Meetings. All meetings are held at 6:30 at the school on the following dates:

August 26, 2009-6:30 p.m.

September 23, 2009-12:00 p.m. –Board Only

November 4, 2009-6:30 p.m.

January 13, 2010-6:30 p.m. –Board Only

February 10, 2010-6:30 p.m.

March 10, 2010-6:30 p.m.

May 12, 2010-6:30 p.m.

Please see the PTA page on the school web page for a list of PTA volunteer opportunities and a complete list of PTA activities for the year.

### Reminder regarding Wednesdays

All Wednesdays are Modified day schedules-please consult the bell schedule for dismissal times. [www.iusd.org/wp](http://www.iusd.org/wp)

If your student is ill and will miss school, please call the 24 hour absence line at 936-6401.

## **Response to Instruction (RTI)**

This year we will again continue the Response to Instruction (RTI) reading process. This process saw consistent reading gains across grade levels for our students.

We will continue to focus on close examination of student needs to design the best program and process to teach each child at their individual level. For those of you new to Westpark, Response to Instruction is a process where students work with a teacher at their grade level for a portion of the English Language Arts time with an emphasis on reading instruction. Each child is taught at their instructional level and advanced accordingly. Through this process, students neither become bored nor overwhelmed. As a student's level changes throughout the year, their teachers will make the necessary Response to Instruction changes to continue to meet the child's learning needs. Through Response to Instruction we can help all students in meeting their full potential. Aside from this Response to Instruction reading time, the remainder of the day will be spent in their homeroom classes working with their teacher. The staff has spent a great amount of time communicating with each other and planning together as a grade level team to provide the best instruction for each student.

The RTI process is an integral piece of our commitment to collaboration within and amongst grade levels as a school dedicated to Professional Learning Communities.

We will begin the RTI model in mid-August after all students have been appropriately assessed.

## **Upcoming Events**

- August 6 Back to School Night for Grades 1-6
- August 7-Minimum Day
- August 11-Bingo Night
- August 12-Barnes and Noble/Pat and Oscars Fundraiser
- August 17-Vision and Hearing Screening
- August 18-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education Parent Information Night
- August 19-Picture Day
- August 20-6<sup>th</sup> grade Guys Stuff
- August 24, 26, 27, 28-Minimum Days-Fall Conference Week
- August 25-No School-Fall Conference Day
- August 26-PTA Meeting
- August 27-Special Education 101 Back to School Night
- September 3-K/1 EIRM Night
- September 7-No School-Labor Day
- September 11-Flag Salute
- September 23-PTA Meeting-Board Only
- September 24-Worlds of Westpark
- September 25-Minimum Day-start of Fall Recess

## **CELDT Testing**

Westpark will assess all identified English Learners with the annual CELDT test on August 13<sup>th</sup> at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. This serves as official notification of CELDT assessment.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Valet Program**

We are looking for parent volunteers to help out with the valet program to help keep our parking lot safe! If you are interested, please call the office at 936-6400 or talk to your child's teacher. Thank you! Thank you to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students that applied to help keep our parking lot safe!

## **School Pictures**

Annual school pictures will be taken on August 19, 2009.

## **Health Office**

A healthy school environment is essential for student learning. Preventing the spread of infectious disease is one of the ways the school seeks to provide a healthy learning environment. The IUSD Health Services Department prepared the following guidelines to assist you in decisions relating to your student's health and school attendance.

A student who has a temperature of 100 degrees F or higher, has an undiagnosed rash or experiences nausea and vomiting needs to stay home from school. Any student suspected of having an infectious disease/condition should also stay home and may not return to school until he/she has been symptom free for one full day or a physician provides a written statement that child is not contagious.

A student who has a cold needs to remain home if he/she has an excessive runny nose, excessive coughing, elevated temperature, or is too uncomfortable to function at school. If your student has diarrhea 2 times within a day, he/she needs to remain home until diarrhea subsides and no other signs of illness exists.

More than 400 cases of the H1N1 flu have been confirmed in Orange County since April. The viral infection commonly known as the "swine flu" causes symptoms similar to those associated with the regular flu, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue.

To prevent its transmission, children and adults are urged to wash their hands frequently and to cover their noses and mouths when they sneeze or cough. Those that exhibit symptoms should remain at home and avoid contact with others.

To learn more please see information provided by our Health Services department:

[http://www.iusd.org/education\\_services/health\\_services/SwineFlu.html](http://www.iusd.org/education_services/health_services/SwineFlu.html)

The entire Westpark community thanks for your support at home to keep our children healthy!

## **School Safety**

Students may not be on campus 15 minutes prior to class start time. Also, students must be off campus 10 minutes after dismissal. Please help us to provide for your student's safety by insisting that he/she goes directly home after school, and only uses the playground equipment when supervised by a teacher or other school personnel during regular school hours.

## **MyIUSD.org Information Portal**

MyIUSD is a secure and private online resource that provides access to your children's attendance, emergency contact list, medical information and other useful educational data. If you do not yet have an account, please contact the school office. Additionally, a "How To" can be found at <https://my.iusd.org/abi/>

## **Special Education Back to School Night, "SPED 101"**

Proudly presented as a partnership between Irvine Unified School District and the IUSD Special Education Community Advisory, "SPED 101" will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2009 in our MPR from 6:30-8:00. The program is designed to help parents understand the IEP process and Special Education terminology.

## **Library Fundraiser**

The library will host a fundraiser on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at the Irvine Marketplace at Barnes and Noble and Pat and Oscars. Bring your family and friends to shop and dine, and a percentage of the sales will be donated back to our school library! Check the library web page for staff story times at Barnes and Noble. Contact Mrs. Cheung in the library with any questions. Please bring the flyer that will go home in the first day packet and wear your Westpark t-shirt if you have one!

## **Fall Conferences**

Fall conference week is August 24-28. Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> is a no student day for conferences. Students will be dismissed on minimum day schedule this week for conferences. Please make sure that you schedule a conference with your child's teacher. Establishing a goal-setting conference is critical to setting your child up for success for the whole year!

