

**Westpark Journal**  
**February 2010**  
**25 San Carlo, Irvine CA 92614**  
**949-936-6400**  
**Dr. Erica L. Hoegh, Principal**



## **Principal's Notes**

I am pleased to announce that Westpark Elementary School has been selected by California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) and Just for the Kids-California (JFTK-CA) as one of the public schools in California to receive the title of 2009 Honor Roll school. Schools receiving this distinction from California's business community have demonstrated consistent high student academic achievement and have made significant progress toward closing achievement gaps among all their students. No other school recognition program in California uses hard data, individual school and student subgroup performance data based on the California Standards Tests and the California High School Exit Exam, to evaluate school academic performance. It is only by looking at this hard data, student test scores, and evaluating students and schools based on grade-level proficiency of the California standards, that educators, parents and the public can thoroughly understand what is happening in our schools and ensure that schools are on track to get all kids to grade level proficiency. I am thrilled we've been selected as an Honor Roll school and recognized by California's business community. Our teachers and staff are committed and have worked tirelessly to ensure the focus is on individual student academic achievement and reaching grade-level proficiency. We hold all our students, no matter what their background, to the same high standards because we believe they can all reach grade-level proficiency. We have received a banner that is hanging in the office to mark this recognition.

Our Lost and Found bin is overflowing with many items. Please ask your child to check and see if he or she has any jackets, sweaters, etc. in it and claim them. We will be donating any leftover items to charity when we go to Spring Recess on March 26, 2010.

Thank you to everyone that supported the Soles4Souls shoes drive! We sent over too many bags to count to Sport Chalet. Everyone showed a great display of AIR!

4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students can still sign up for the Irvine Junior Games through Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please see Miss Hunter or our website for more information. This is a great way to show Westpark spirit and demonstrate healthy habits!

As you know, 2010 marks a year that we will be once again participate in the U.S. Census. An accurate count of citizens is very important to our ability to have political leverage at the Federal level. This is particularly important now when we are looking to gain and ultimately maintain stable education funding. Look for information to go home later this month as we recognize Census in the Schools Week.

## Science News

Did you know there are worms that fight, and that plankton prefers open ocean water to bay water?

Those are among the findings of **Westpark Elementary School fifth-graders**, who have been busy conducting scientific research projects to learn more about the San Diego Creek Watershed.



It all began with a field trip to the Ocean Institute at Dana Point Harbor, where the young scientists took part in scientific investigations, obtaining samples of benthic mud and surface water plankton. Along with identifying a number of interesting creatures, students from the classrooms of **Mrs. Briseno, Mrs. Haboian, Mrs. Yee and Mrs. Martinez** conducted experiments on the water cycle, water chemistry and fish dissection. They also learned about the importance of watersheds, and how they affect the health of the ocean, before beginning their own scientific investigations.

Students and parents later met IUSD science specialist **Vicky Anthony** at a dock on Balboa Island to gather samples of water, mud and plankton before returning to Westpark, where they conducted water quality tests and observed their plankton samples under the microscope. **Dr. Don Reish**, emeritus professor at **California State University, Long Beach**, brought fighting polychaete worms called *Neanthes arenaceodentata* and discussed their life cycles. As a result, some students launched a research project about “fighting worms.”

This month, the Westpark fifth-graders returned to the Ocean Institute to present their research on plankton and the fighting worms at the annual **Kids’ Conference on Watersheds**, which drew 232 students from schools in the area. The Westpark teams in particular received kudos for their outstanding presentations.

Said one fifth-grader afterward, “I’m pretty tired, but a little sad it’s over!”

## IUSD News

### 2010-2011 Calendar

Due to a change in the start of school for traditional calendar schools, there are significant changes to the year round calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. Please note the fall, winter, and spring recesses. Winter recess is shorter than usual. Please note this now when planning any vacations; students will be expected to be in school up until December 22, 2010 and return on January 5, 2011. Thank you.

Fall Recess: September 27, 2010-October 15, 2010

Winter Recess: December 22, 2010-January 5, 2011

Spring Recess: April 4, 2011-April 22, 2011

[IUSD 2010-2011 School Calendar](#)

### IUSD District NewsFlash

IUSD recently launched the IUSD [District NewsFlash](#), a place for breaking news and information about the Irvine Unified School District. Visit it often for the latest IUSD news. There is currently a link on our homepage.

### Enrollment/Registration for the 2010-2011 School Year

If you have an incoming Kindergarten student, you can begin the [On-line enrollment](#) process on Friday, March 5, 2010. Kindergarten-Round-Up will be on Thursday, April 29, 2010. School Choice Cards are now available in the school office. Parents with a home school other than Westpark interested in attending Westpark for the 2010-

2011 school year may come into the office and fill out a School Choice Card for the 2010-2011 school year. Cards will be accepted until noon on February 26, 2010. You do not need to fill out a card if you already attend Westpark, regardless of your home school designation; this process is only for students who **do not** already attend Westpark. IUSD will once again be going through the residency verification process this year. Look for this information at the beginning of March.

### **Budget**

As I reported last month, the State and IUSD budget news is dire. Hopefully you have followed the news through the IUSD Budget Watch updates. You can still give your input on the IUSD 2010-2011 Budget Input Form [www.iusd.org/inputform](http://www.iusd.org/inputform) and I encourage you to attend or watch the upcoming IUSD Board Meetings. Our Board liaison, Sharon Wallin visited on January 26<sup>th</sup> and met with parents and staff to share the current situation and answer questions. Keep abreast of current news by clicking on the IUSD Budget Watch link on our homepage. [www.iusd.org/wp](http://www.iusd.org/wp) You will find it easily-it is the blue box on the homepage.

### **IPSF News**

IPSF CEO Neda Zaengle announced that IPSF has launched a five week campaign to raise funds for IUSD Classroom Support. All funds raised will help mitigate large class sizes. Beginning February 1, 2010 the [IPSF website](#) will include a specific link for this campaign including a thermometer that will measure weekly progress. There is not a specific goal amount set because all of the money raised in the five weeks will be used to support class size relief.

Below are some important FAQ's about IPSF:

#### **How Does IPSF Use My Donation?**

IPSF works with IUSD in a collaborative relationship to determine funding priorities. Since 1996, our efforts have provided funding for district- wide programs such as:

- Art, Music, Science and Math
- Class Size Support
- After school Classroom Enrichment courses
- Middle and High School College Prep Seminars
- Summer Enrichment Classes
- High School Writing Project
- Parent Portal
- Classroom grants for teachers
- Nurses, health clerks and health curriculum
- Instrument Rental program-100% of proceeds go back to music programs
- Instructional and Counseling Support in grades 4-12
- Class size reduction in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades

#### **If IPSF Raises Funds For Class Size Support, How Will That Impact MY Child?**

Every dollar will help with larger class sizes. Your principal uses the funds for teaching support in your child's classroom.

#### **What Is The Impact Of My Support?**

- By supporting IPSF, your child will have more opportunities-better programs, a better education, and a greater opportunity to excel in life.
- Your child will benefit through every school they attend in Irvine: Elementary, Middle and High School. Our funds are distributed equitably among all schools. How Does IPSF Raise Money?
- Annual Direct Mail Campaign

- 365 Campaign (\$1 per day)
- Businesses, corporations and foundations
- Legacy Partners (Major gifts)
- Innovative Campaigns like the Annual IPSF Raffle
- Grants
- Social Enterprise Programs (Instrument Rental, Summer Enrichment Academy)

The cuts the district faces will affect every child at every grade level in every school. The more donors who participate – at whatever level – the more we help lessen the effects of the cuts.

**What Donation Amount Does IPSF Need?**

ANY donation amount would be greatly appreciated.

However, if every IUSD family gave just \$1.00 per day per child, \$365.00 per year, we could raise \$9.8 Million.

**Why Are Your Programs So Important To IUSD?**

IPSF is unique among other foundations because we directly provide programs for students. If it were not for IPSF, these programs would not be available to your child. Examples include:

- Afterschool Classroom Enrichment (ACE)
- Summer Enrichment
- Instrument Rental
- Zero Period PE
- Science Little League
- Honors Concert

**What Is The Difference Between IPSF And PTA?**

- We work collaboratively with local site based PTAs. PTAs support individual schools and IPSF supports all 27,000 students in all 35 schools. PTAs primarily focus on funding equipment and materials. IPSF has the ability to also fund people in addition to equipment and supplies.
- By supporting IPSF, your donation helps all of the schools in the district- not just one.
- IPSF employs professional staff.

**PTA & IPSF Pay for Different Things**

<b>PTA = Great Stuff for Your School</b>	<b>IPSF= Great Staff for Every School</b>
PTA funds site-specific needs, such as equipment and supplies. For example, classroom and art materials, library books, computers and technology purchases, school equipment, enrichment programs and limited staff support.	IPSF’s annual grant to IUSD pays for staff expenses such as teacher salaries. For example, teachers, aides and specialists who conduct music, art, science, and PE, and health clerks and nurses, have all been funded at times through IPSF funding
<b>PTA Programs = School Site Specific</b>	<b>IPSF Programs = District Wide</b>
Most PTA programs are focused at the school site. Examples include assemblies, playground activities, parent education, family nights, jog-a-thons, and book fairs.	IPSF programs take place at schools throughout the district, insuring equal access for all students. Examples include Afterschool Classroom Enrichment Program, Middle School Zero Period PE, Counseling Support, and Great Body Shop Health Curriculum (K-6).

**Upcoming Events**

- 2/8-No School
- 2/15-No School
- 2/17-Spirit Day
- 2/26-Trimester Ends

3/2-Read Across America Day

3/10 Jog-a-Thon-note this is a change from the original date of 3/5

3/12-Minimum Day for Grades 4-6 **ONLY**

3/15- Minimum Day for Grades 4-6 **ONLY**

3/16-3/19-Spring Conferences for Grades K-6-Minimum Days all days

3/18-Report Cards go home

3/24 and 3/25-PTA School Play

3/26-Spirit Day

3/26-Minimum Day

3/27-4/18-Spring Recess

4/19-School Resumes

#### **PTA**

Don't miss the upcoming Bingo Night and Silent Auction on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>! This is a great community night. Come join family and friends for a great night. You will have a chance to bid on some super prizes and play bingo with your friends and family!

The annual jog-a-thon will be Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>! Get your running shoes ready!

Emma Silva is in charge of putting together the annual nominating committee for the PTA Board for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested in serving, please contact Emma Silva at (949) 679-7655 or

[silvarom@cox.net](mailto:silvarom@cox.net)