

Westpark Journal

October-November 2009



Principal's Report

I hope the first week of Fall Break finds all of you in good health and spirits!

I have many "thank you's" for my October-November message. ☺ First off I would like to thank each and every one of you who brought in a can or box of food to support Families Forward. We were able to easily fill all of the bins of food. This was a wonderful demonstration of community service and AIR. The over 130 families that Families Forward serves are very grateful. A simple donation goes a very long way. The lesson that our students learn through the donation of a box of macaroni or a can of tuna will stay with them forever.

Next a very large thank you to Robynn Yolar for the herculean effort that went in to completing the Westpark PTA Student Directory. Robynn handled the forms you filled out, formatted the directory, oversaw the printing, sold the ads, and handled distribution. She is amazing! Thank you for everything!

I want to thank all of you that helped to organize and all that cooked the incredible food for Worlds of Westpark. I say with incredible confidence that this was one of our best events ever! I believe the saying, "A good time was had by all," is very apt! The company was great, the food was wonderful and the entertainment fabulous! Speaking for myself I had the opportunity to try some foods I had never had before and all were amazing. This will clearly become a new Westpark tradition! Please stop by the office and MPR to see some of the pictures that I have put up of the event.

Thank you to those that have supported our recycling efforts on a regular basis-we are really making a difference for Westpark and the environment! Once again IUSD is participating in the nationwide Cash for Cans contest. The contest runs from October 1-31 throughout IUSD and the City of Irvine. Please collect cans over break and bring them in when we return. Westpark will receive all redemption proceeds. Thank you for supporting Westpark, IUSD, the City of Irvine, and the environment! Thank you to our 6th grade Green Team and Ms. Maguire for taking on and sustaining the leadership for our recycling efforts at Westpark!

I will finish my message with two requests. If you are doing any fall cleaning and are looking for an end of the year tax deduction, we could use either a DVD player or a DVD/VHS combo player to go on a standalone television set. If you have one that is gathering dust in the garage, please let me or Rita know-we would be happy to write you a letter thanking you for your donation!

Secondly, if your child is GATE identified, and you are interested in serving as the parent GATE Representative, please email me. ehoegh@iusd.org

Enjoy the rest of your break-see you on October 20th!

Dr. Erica L. Hoegh

Upcoming Events

- October 19-No School Grades K-12-IUSD Staff Development Day
- October 20-School Resumes for Westpark
- October 22-Make Up Picture Day
- October 23-Walk to School Day
- October 26-30-Red Ribbon Week
- October 30-Halloween Parade
- November 4-AIR Awards
- November 6-Trimester Ends
- November 8-Hoops Classic Basketball Tournament
- November 10-Flag Salute in honor of Veterans Day
- November 11-No School-Veterans Day
- November 12-Astronomy Night
- November 12-Report Cards Go Home
- November 18-20-6th Grade at Outdoor Ed
- November 25-Loved Ones Day
- November 26-27-Thanksgiving Holiday-No School

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.

PTA News

Meetings

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

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. If you are not yet a member, you can join at any time.

Directory

The Westpark Elementary School Directories have now been distributed. We hope you find these to be useful tools as you progress through this school year. Thanks to the generosity of our directory advertisers, the PTA was able to distribute these to all families at no cost to you. Please support our advertisers as they have supported our PTA:

Dr. Choi's Academy

Math Zoom Academy

Young Chefs Academy

James Passamano, DDS

Chris Liu, DDS

Alice Park, Flutist

Hitoshi Suzuki, Music Lessons

Musick Peeler & Garrett LLP

Irvine Public Schools Foundation

Irvine Little League

Irvine Novaquatics (NOVA Swimming)

Irvine Pony Baseball

If you would like additional copies of the directory, they are available in the office for \$3.

Reflections

The last day for submitting Reflections entries is October 21st at 10:00. All rules for the various entry categories, along with the entry form can be found here:

<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/reflections.html>

Box Tops for Education

Please join our school in cutting out, collecting, and sending to the office as many Box Tops for Education as you can get. Ask neighbors, relatives, and colleagues – anyone you can get to join in the cause! They can be found on select boxes of pasta, paper products, even diaper boxes! For each box top label, Westpark will receive 10 cents and they add up quickly. Thank you for helping us with this important and easy fundraiser for our school.

News from IUSD Health and Guidance Resources

I realize we sent this out last month, but I feel that these healthy habits cannot be emphasized enough in our efforts to keep everyone as healthy as possible this fall! ☺ At Westpark we continually reinforce hand washing and smart coughing and sneezing habits. Please see the links below for posters we have displayed in our classrooms. You can print them out for home use as well! Additionally the Irvine Unified School District has set up a special webpage to help students, parents and employees learn more about the H1N1 flu, along with strategies for staying healthy this season. Please see the link below for this IUSD site:

www.iusd.org/h1n1.

[Cover Your Cough](#)

[Germ Stopper](#)

The Irvine Unified School District will be administering the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) in November, 2009 to all 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grade students. The survey gathers information on behaviors such as physical activity and nutritional habits; school safety; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; as well as environmental and individual strengths and assets. The survey is anonymous. No names or other personal identifying information is connected to the answers. Participation in the survey is voluntary and will take approximately 30 minutes of classroom time. In October, 5th grade parents will be asked to sign and return a survey consent form. We hope you will give permission so that your child's opinion and knowledge can be part of the results that are used to improve district prevention programs and services. The statewide survey was developed by WestEd, a public, non-profit educational institution. If you have any questions about this survey, or about your rights, call the district at 949-936-7980. You may examine the questionnaire at the district's website www.iusd.org/guidance_resources.

Great California Shakeout

October 15, 2009 is the Great California Shakeout, a State-Wide Earthquake drill. Last year we participated in the drill, completing a duck and cover and evacuation drill. This year, we will not be participating since it occurs during our break. However, I still encourage all of you to participate at home, conducting a duck and cover and evacuation drill with your family. This is a great opportunity for your family to know what it would do in case of an earthquake at home. Please see these websites for resources.

<http://www.shakeout.org/>

<http://www.dropcoverholdon.org/>

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/preparedness.php>

<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.86f46a12f382290517a8f210b80f78a0/?vgnextoid=3750a5f0f013b110VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=def>

Halloween Parade

Back by popular demand; the Westpark Halloween parade will be held on Friday, October 30th at 8:30 on the playground. Please see the guidelines below for the parade:

Dress up Guidelines for Halloween

Halloween is an enjoyable community festivity in which many children participated. This is a fun dress-up day and students will be allowed to come to school dressed in costumes on Friday, October 30. We will hold a short school-wide parade at 8:30 so that each class can see each other's costumes. Dressing in costume and participating in the parade is a completely voluntary activity. If you would like your child to come dressed in costume on Friday, October 30th, please adhere to the following guidelines that our staff has outlined for you. We truly enjoy the fun and community spirit of this celebration, but it is important that students who wish to dress up to do so in a way that does not interfere with the instructional day.

Costume Guidelines:

- Children come to school dressed in their costume. We will not allow costume changes to take place at school
- Children should wear a costume that can be comfortably worn throughout the entire day
- Be sure to have your child wear proper clothes and underclothes underneath their costume just in case they find their costume too hot or uncomfortable and wish to take it off before the day is over
- Children may not wear masks to school
- Children may not wear make-up to school (For example, no full face make-up, no dripping blood, no makeup on hands that will smear papers)
- Children should not bring any object that would be in violation of the zero tolerance policy and State Education Code that states that children may not bring weapons or toy weapons to school of any sort at any time
- Children should not come in costumes that depict any kind of graphic violence
- Children should not wear costumes that make fun of others or make others feel uncomfortable

Thank you for your help and cooperation in making sure that is an enjoyable and productive day for all children! You are welcome to join us for the short parade at 8:30 a.m. **Friday, October 30th is a minimum day for students in grades 1-6. Primary Grade students are dismissed at 1:10 and Upper Grade students are dismissed at 1:05. All Kindergarten students will be on AM schedule this day.**

Halloween Candy Safety Tips

If your child is going to go trick-or-treating Saturday night, please remind them of these safety tips:

- Do not snack on candy while out trick-or-treating; wait until home and you and your parents have inspected the candy
- Only accept and eat treats that are commercially wrapped
- Discard treats that have been unwrapped
- Always trick-or-treat in groups and with an adult
- Carry a flashlight so you can be seen by cars

