

Westpark Journal

September 2009



Principal's Report

Thank you to everyone for helping to get the year off to a great start! It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the first quarter! It has been a whirlwind!

One of our IUSD District Continuous Improvement Efforts is, "Developing People and Building Community, Support school culture and individual actions that promote positive behavior and district core ethical values (honesty, responsibility, compassion, perseverance, respectfulness, cooperation, civic duty, and courage)." All IUSD schools are asked to adopt a number of the IUSD Continuous Improvement Efforts. Westpark has adopted this one as one of our school targets this year. Our commitment to PBIS and AIR is one of the ways that we strive to meet this target. I will highlight two other ways we are going to meet this target this month.

We are going to start a student council this month. We feel that giving students a voice and responsibility in the school allows them to develop more responsibility, civic duty, self-efficacy, and pride in their school. I am very excited about bringing this to Westpark! I know the students are excited as well. Representatives have been selected from grades 4-6. We chose to use an election process, but a selection and essay process that emphasizes our core Accountability, Integrity, and Respect values. We want to keep the emphasis consistent with our POSTIVE behavior system and not emphasize competition. Student Council will be our primary vehicle for spearheading school spirit at Westpark. Our first school spirit day will be held on Friday, September 25th. Our students will decide what the theme will be! ☺

Another way we are promoting district core ethical values, certainly responsibility and civic duty to and for our planet, is the fabulous work of our sixth grade Green Team. The work of this group is amazing! Each week they stealthily enter each classroom and empty the classroom bins of paper and plastic bottles to add to our school wide recycling bins. When we have a large enough load, the district trucks come and pick up our cardboard, paper, cans, and bottles and take our recycling materials. We then receive some money back. This money is then put directly back for student use. Last year this program started in April and the funds we received we were able to use for playground balls. This year with a whole year of collecting opportunities, we should receive quite a bit more money if we equal last year's efforts. We will look to our students and staff for suggestions for how to use the money. The kick-off contest that we had the week of August 24-28 was a great way to get the year started off on the right foot; congratulations to Mrs. Spurlock, Mrs. Bergquist, and Miss Schick's class for really bringing in the cans and bottles! Thanks to everyone for working hard though-I was flabbergasted when I saw the number of cans in the MPR and admire how hard you worked; it reminded me of when I was an elementary student and went around from house to house and collected newspapers for our monthly newspaper drives! ☺ Recycling today will create a better tomorrow! Thank you parents and students for all your help and thank you Ms. Maguire for all you do to make this happen!

Dr. Erica L. Hoegh

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.

ACE After School Classes

After the fall break, the after school enrichment program, ACE will begin. Ellie Partovi has once again worked very hard to create a great program for our students. Thank you very much to her for her great work! There will be a wealth of classes offered to students in grades 1-6 after school, Monday-Thursday in a variety of areas, from Homework Club to Golf. A brochure detailing the classes and how to sign up will go home students' conduits and it will also be placed on our website. We hope that you will take advantage of these classes for positive opportunities for your children to participate after school. Rainbow Rising students can participate as well; attending their class first and then going to Rainbow Rising at the conclusion of class.

PTA**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! So far 37% of the school has participated. Please consider participating at whatever level you can; all Westpark students benefit! You can find the forms on the PTA page of our website: <http://www.iusd.org/wp/PTA.html>

Meetings

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

Worlds of Westpark

We have had an overwhelming response to our International Night coming up on Thursday, September 24th! We hope everyone will join us this evening. It will be a great night to sample foods and get a "taste" of different cultures and meet some new Westpark friends.

2009 Reflections Contest

2009-2010 "Beauty is ..."

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the Reflections Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis. Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art that supports a specific theme. Only original works of art are accepted.

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts following areas: Literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, film/video Production. Please see the PTA page on our website for more details. This is a great activity to work on during our Fall Recess!

Upcoming Events

- 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

Health Office

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!

Cover Your Cough

Germ Stopper

The IUSD Health Services page has additional information regarding the the H1N1 Virus, commonly known as the Swine Flu. Please see this [link](#) for IUSD information regarding the H1N1 virus.

Patriot Day and Constitution Day

Please join us on Friday, September 11th at 8:25 a.m. for an all school flag salute. The flag salute will be presented by our Boy Scout pack in honor of those who sacrificed their lives on September 11th, 2001. Patriot Day occurs on September 11 of each year, designated in memory of the nearly three thousand who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks. On September 4, 2002, President George W. Bush proclaimed September 11, as Patriot Day. On this day, the President directs that the American flag be flown at half-staff and displayed from individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time of the first plane crash on September 11, 2001. Thank you for joining us as we honor our heroes and our country.

On Thursday, September 17th we celebrate Constitution Day. We will have a school-wide assembly on the playground at 1:10; please join us! Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the ratification of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is observed on September 17, the day the U.S. Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution in 1787. The law establishing the holiday was created in 2004 with the passage of an amendment by Senator Robert Byrd. The act mandates that all publicly funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day. When Constitution Day falls on a weekend or on another holiday, schools and other institutions observe the holiday on an adjacent weekday.

Fall Recess

Fall Recess begins on Saturday, September 26th. Friday, September 25th is a minimum day for students. School will resume on Tuesday, October 20th Monday, October 19th is an IUSD K-12 staff development day. Have a wonderful three week break and congratulations on a great first quarter!

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.

IUSD School Readiness Program

The IUSD School Readiness Program serves families with children from 0-5 years of age. The School Readiness Program offers the following services

- Classes for preschool age children and toddlers
- Kindergarten readiness classes
- Parent education classes/seminars on health, development & parenting strategies
- Health and Nutrition Counseling
- Physical Exams
- For more information, visit their website

<http://www.iusd.org/eclc/School%20Readiness.htm>



IUSD Budget Update

The Board of Education voted unanimously to certify the district's Unaudited Actuals statement, which represents the cumulative fiscal activity for the year. This financial report, to be filed with the Orange County Department of Education, essentially "closes the books" on the 2008-09 budget. Subtracting mandated reserves, restricted dollars and funds owed to the state under the "Fair Share" agreement for Basic Aid districts, IUSD shows a net carryover balance of approximately \$4.88 million, or \$943,000 more than originally projected. Lisa Howell, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, noted that the carryover funds are onetime dollars that cannot be used to support long-term needs. IUSD, already facing a projected deficit in 2010-11, continues to plan for the possibility that the state will impose midyear cuts. [Keep apprised of IUSD Budget news through the link on our homepage www.iusd.org/wp](#) Also, you may find a calendar of IUSD Board meetings at http://www.iusd.org/board_of_education/BoardMeetingCalendar.html

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

You can still apply for Free and Reduced Lunch assistance. Please download the application that is located on the homepage of our website, www.iusd.org/wp or come in to the office and ask Mrs. Hare or Mrs. Gray for an application.

Community Partnerships

If you have an Albertsons or Ralph's card, please download the form on our PTA page of our website and link your card number to Westpark. Each time you shop and swipe your card Westpark will receive a small portion back. This is a very easy way for the PTA to receive money with little effort! Thank you for your support!



