



Q&A With Principal Bob Capp

Written by Lisa Casalegno

Why do we need to raise money this year?

California schools are in crisis, facing cuts to make up for lost funds. As a charter school we have parent and community commitment to supplement state funding with fundraisers, so we have things other schools never had – like art, Spanish and PE. We are also fortunate that this year we have a reserve fund to prevent painful cuts we're seeing at other neighborhood schools. Now we need to ensure that great things like specialty classes and smaller class size can continue into next year.

Why does it seem like every year we still need money?

Since WCS opened, we have needed fundraising to supplement state funding. Fundraising from the WAVE parent group ensures we meet each year's budget requirements. We are still in growth mode, which means we are investing each year. There will always be a need for some fundraising if we want to sustain the things we have.

Most schools in California are raising class size, so why don't we?

It's true that adding students brings in more funding, but it also takes away from what teachers can do in the classroom. WCS has a commitment to differentiated learning where teachers work to tailor lessons to a student's level. This isn't possible when you add students. Right now our students have a competitive edge that they will lose if we increase class size. Raising class size is a decision that can't be undone for about 10 years, since students who are enrolled cannot be turned away the next year.

Will this fundraiser solve our problems?

The WCS School Board makes the financial decisions and the tough decisions about things like raising class size. If we want to avoid raising class size or losing specialty programs, we need to show the board that parents, the community and WAVE can keep the funds coming. This year we are hoping the Olympics can bring in \$45,000, which is \$3000 per class or \$150 per student. The Board will be evaluating finances in February and making 2010-11 budget decisions in April, so it's critical that we show what we can do now.

Preserve Excellence....Strive for the Gold!

