



Westlake Charter News

Volume 2, Issue 18

June 12, 2009

Capp's Corner

Hi there Westlake Charter School-ers! School is nearly out and summer vacations are about to begin. In addition to planning and going on fantastic vacations, summer is also a time for picnics, BBQ's, pool parties and trips to the library. Whoops, did I say library? Yes, a trip to the library to keep your child's mind stimulated and to keep them sharp for school to begin again in August. Other tips for summer fun - when going on a car trip, ask your child to get involved in the planning - from plotting and navigating your trip to mathematically determining your fuel consumption and counting the total number of a certain type of car. All of those activities will keep your child's mind sharp, make the trip/time pass more swiftly and possibly more enjoyable.

Since the Natomas Unified School District Board of Trustees cancelled summer school, it will be important more than ever to re-double your efforts to give your child every opportunity to keep their brains exercised. Along with the above tips, try taking them on field trips to places such as Old Sacramento, the Gold Discovery Site at Coloma, the Capitol, the Spanish Mission at Sonoma, the Empire Mine in Grass Valley and the Rail Road Museum in Old Sacramento to mention a few.

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iAdios!

Thank You Westlake Charter!

From the first time I met the Westlake Charter School community at the November Town Hall meeting, I publicly admitted that I had never worked in an elementary school and that I had much to learn. I'm a high school guy...or so I thought.

At the end of my time here at Westlake, I freely admit that I have learned a great deal. I have learned that kids are kids and these are great kids. I've learned that parent involvement really does make a positive difference in a school-wide community (I knew that; however, my past schools had not produced a third of the WCS parent involvement). I've learned that I continue to be comfortable in communities of diversity because of the richness that individuals bring to a school-wide culture. I've learned to care more about the small things...because they matter. I've learned that I am an "elementary" school guy too. After 32 years in education and over 16 years as a middle school and high school principal, that is a huge revelation!

I've "learned" and that continues to be a good thing.

I became attached to this place...to its "smallness", to its hardworking staff, to its caring and

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Come Join the End of the Year Festivities: Thursday June 18th

Field Day Events: 9:30 - 12:00

Barbeque Lunch: 12:00 - 1:15 - near stage/courtyard. Hot dogs, chips, and water will be available for all students and families. You are welcome to bring an alternative lunch for your family if desired. We also welcome anyone interested in bringing additional goodies (such as fruit or snacks) to share with other students and families.

Early Dismissal: 1:15

Catch the WAVE

Being your WAVE president this past year has been an amazing experience. Having never been a President of anything I started in this position a little nervous about taking on such an important role. But looking back it was the best choice I ever made! This past year I have met some awesome parents and have played a small role in the successful fundraising that allows Westlake to provide the incredible opportunities that the children have here. I leave my position knowing that the WAVE is in great hands with Paul Hobie steering the boat and his team of Scott Williams, Emily Chan, Julie Westburg and Karen Bartells. Look for some great community events next year in addition to our traditional fundraisers. And don't just watch from the shore jump in to the WAVE the water's fine!

~ Aimee Wells

Treasurer's Report

In this time of economic downturn, we have an inspiring story:

For the academic year 2008/2009, WAVE, an amazing group of parents, has raised a total of approximately **\$50,827!**

Our 3 major fundraisers this year raised:

Golf Tournament	\$12,051
Olympic Triathlon	\$20,931
Auction	\$15,117

Other revenue (International Festival, Family Night Out, other miscellaneous income) \$2,728.

This money raised will help fund WCS and other WAVE events and administrative expenses for the next academic year.

Deadline for reimbursement requests for 2008/2009 school year is Monday, June 15. Reimbursement checks will be available at the school office on Thursday, June 18th.

This year, WAVE contributed \$58,624 to WCS which helped fund a second Spanish teacher and purchased 30 sets of computers among other things. An additional \$2,491 of WAVE money was spent on 5th grade Accelerated Math scanner, table for the copy room, cart for teachers' lounge, clear coat for WCS wall mural, supplies warehouse membership, parent-teacher communication folders and Smart water for STAR testing. A total of \$61,115 of the money raised by our hard working parent group was given to WCS which directly benefited the students!

For the next year, we look forward to our few exciting fundraising events. We hope that we will raise a lot of money that is much needed to fill in the gap that this budget crisis will leave us with. So rest up for the summer and return this fall refreshed and ready to raise money!!

~ Emily Chan

Lost & Found

Please check the lost and found bin in front of the Copy/WAVE room for lost clothing items before school ends. All unclaimed items will be donated on June 18th. Thanks!

Viv Nolan



Catch the WAVE

2nd Annual Scavenger Hunt Raises Over \$2000 for Westlake Charter School

Nine teams competed for prizes and bragging rights at the 2nd annual scavenger hunt held at the Corr's house on May 16th. The scavenger hunt was sold as a "buy in party" at the Westlake Auction. Each team had 4-6 team members, a team name, and costume and searched Sacramento for 13 items based upon a set of clues. Pictures were taken to document their successes and at the conclusion of the event, each team presented their loot on the big screen to the crowd and a panel of judges. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams were awarded gift cards to give to the teachers of their choice. This year's hunt was an absolute blast - we had so much fun that the Natomas Park security had to come and ask us to keep it down! Thank you to all the teams - we hope you had as much fun as we did! Can't wait till next year!

The Winners

1st Place - Team Big Love

2nd Place - Team "Get Off the Bus..."

3rd Place - Team Mickey Mouse Goes to Hawaii



Plain White Tee's on the Steps of the Capitol



Beach Bums in the Fountain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Westlake Charter School's Fifth Annual WCS Golf Tournament will be held Friday, **SEPTEMBER 25TH** at **Teal Bend Golf Course**. This event fills up every year and is a major fundraiser for the school, so make sure you save the date and watch for updates on our school website.
- ◆ A Special WAVE Board meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday, June 25th at Panera (near Safeway), at 2731 Del Paso Road. The meeting will cover the WAVE budget and will be followed immediately by a Golf Tournament Planning Meeting.
- ◆ All library books and fees are due. **Report cards will be held until all fees are paid in full.** (This includes library, lunch, field trip, and other fees.)
- ◆ BASE will be open all summer long for our BASE Summer Enrichment Camp! Please go on-line to the Westlake website and under BASE you can find all of the forms you will need to ensure your Explorer has an awesome summer! If you have any questions about fees, dates or unique situations, please contact Caroline Cathey at ccathey@natomas.k12.ca.us We look forward to seeing you and enriching your summer!

BOX TOPS Update



As of 6/1/09, the Box Tops program at Westlake has earned **\$952.60** from collected Box Tops. Mrs. Acquisto's class collected the most box tops during the "We Love Our Teachers" collection contest. Mrs. Acquisto was presented with flowers and a Starbucks gift card during Teacher Appreciation Week. Box Tops are still being collected up until the last day of school, so continue to clip and submit any box tops you may have around the house. Also, continue to collect Box Tops over the summer for submission to your child's classroom at the beginning of the 2009/10 school year.

School News

Capp's Corner

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Speaking of August, please remember that school starts on August 12th and we're already planning for that day. We will be ready and eager to serve the needs of your children and are anxious to be an integral part of their academic growth. Place this date and time on your calendar - August 11, 11:00am to noon we'll host a "Parent-Student Drop-in". This will give you and your child an opportunity to meet their teacher and see their new classroom.

If you need to get in contact with me, please write at: bcapp@natomas.k12.ca.us

Have a wonderful summer vacation!

¡Adios!

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hard-working parents, and to these amazing young "Explorers".

Thank you for allowing me and for trusting me to care for the students of Westlake Charter. I am grateful for my time here and I am proud of what has been accomplished this year.

I wish all of you, and Mr. Capp the very best for the next year and beyond. I'll continue to keep my eyes and ears open for the great news from Westlake Charter School's future...because, the "Big Audacious Goal" isn't so audacious after all.

Namaste & GoodOnYa!

Steve L. Liles.stephen@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE WRAP-UP 2008-2009

This year the Student Council headed up some amazing Community Service projects - great job Explorers! The Student Council was so excited about these projects that they have decided to continue those projects into the next school year.

Below is a summary of this year's projects:

RECYCLING FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

The Recycling Program has helped to raise approximately \$1000 so far for Heifer International, meeting our goal for this year! That is a major accomplishment and one that our students should be very proud of. With these funds, the Student Council can purchase a heifer as well as an assortment of smaller animals to benefit families and communities in need, what an accomplishment! The heifer will provide milk (and cheese) that can be consumed by the family or the products can be sold, all of which can help prevent hunger and build self-sufficiency for that family in need. As a bonus, our students have learned the value of recycling, reducing the burden on raw resources, and in general, keeping our world clean.

Special thanks to our incredible team of volunteers who brought loads of recyclables for redemption. If you have ever seen their vehicles loaded with recyclables each Recycle Friday, you might begin to understand how much they have done for us throughout the year!

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School News

COMMUNITY SERVICE WRAP-UP 2008-2009 (cont'd)

Alvarado Family Delrio Family
Domingo Family Thomas Family
Walker Family Martha Houston

For more information of Heifer International, visit <http://www.heifer.org/>

RECYCLING CONTEST RESULTS

Congratulations to Mrs. Crenshaw's class for winning the Recycling Contest! The class wins a pizza party! Here are the results:

3rd place: Mr. Skipper 914
2nd place: Mrs. Maynard/Wallace 935
1st place: Mrs. Crenshaw 1,399

Grand total collected: **11,126**. Way to go Explorers! And special thanks to the parent volunteers who worked the Contest Weeks: *Robin and Shawn Walker, Antonio Alvarado, Rene and Jason Domingo, Paul Guesnon, Paul Hobie, Jessica Williams, and Emily Chan*. Together, these parents hauled at least 8 truckloads of recyclables for redemption! Here's a photo of our Student Council hard at work in front of the mountain of recycling that came in during the contest weeks:



THE KYLEE LILlich GIVING TREE

Westlake Charter School participated as a Giving Tree sponsor to help the Kylee Lillich Charitable Giving Tree, a non-profit 501c3 charity that helps needy, grieving, and hospitalized children with necessities, new toys, new clothes, and special wishes. Kylee was Mrs. Lillich's (Fourth Grade Teacher at WCS) daughter, twin sister to 5th grader, Kevin Lillich, and sister to Cole and Cooper Lillich in kindergarten. Since its inception in 2002, the Kylee Lillich Charitable Giving Tree has helped over 4,000 children referred to the charity. WCS's participation in the Kylee Lillich Charitable Giving Tree was a tremendous success. Students and families chose ornaments off the tree and fulfilled the personal wishes of some of the 600 children helped this year. Visit <http://www.kyleesgivingtree.org/> for more info.

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School News

COMMUNITY SERVICE WRAP-UP 2008-2009 (cont'd)

PENNIES FOR PEACE

What can a penny buy in rural Afghanistan or Pakistan? I'm sure every Westlake student knows the answer now. Our penny drive raised \$677.71 over a seven week period (and one of those weeks was Spring Break!). This money will benefit students who may otherwise be writing with sticks in the dirt - it provides school supplies, pays for teachers, and may also help build the actual school buildings themselves. It's one way that our students can directly help students around the globe, a meaningful way of "connecting children to the world."

For more information on Pennies for Peace, read *Three Cups of Tea, Listen to the Wind*, or visit <http://www.penniesforpeace.org/>

2009-2010 PROJECTS

The Student Council has decided to continue with these Community Service Projects into the next school year. There will also be a Math-a-thon to benefit St. Judes Children Research Hospital.

If any students or families have ideas for a great Community Service project that they would like to lead at Westlake Charter, please contact Mrs. Crenshaw or Lanie Holmer at sosaholmer@yahoo.com. Have a great summer!

Contact information

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For questions, comments, or to submit information to be included in the newsletter, please email newsatwcs@gmail.com. Please note that all information must be submitted by Friday at least one week prior to publishing. Content is subject to the approval of the principal prior to publication.