



Westlake Charter News

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 15, 2008

Principal's Corner

I am excited to be writing to you in our latest communication vehicle to our Westlake Community, which will include information from all our "pillars" of Westlake-the administration, the Board and the WAVE-. Thank you to Kristina Zumstein and the Communication Team for making this possible.

February 20 marks my first anniversary here at Westlake Charter School, which is hard for me to believe! With all that we have accomplished since last year, it seems like I have been part of the Westlake Community much longer. We have moved an entire campus and opened on time, while adding an additional Kindergarten, 4th grade and 5 new staff members. We have adapted to our new campus and set behavior expectations to increase student safety. We opened our media center and library and installed drinking fountains, sinks, a pedestrian gate and garden boxes. We are in the process of obtaining a grant to improve facilities and are working with the District to extend our parking and playground areas to allow for expansion and improvement. Westlake students have raised over \$2000 for flood victims in Tabasco, Mexico, elected our first ever student council and are working on starting a student run newspaper.

The staff and I are working to solidify current curriculum, while developing exciting new learning opportunities for our students. I am also working with the Board to develop resources by utilizing our calendar and additional personnel to allow our exceptional staff the opportunity and time needed to fulfill our vision of continuing academic excellence! As we look at scheduling and staffing needs for next year, I am mindful of our commitment to our Spanish and other specialty programs. The WCS Board and myself have devoted time to come up with a plan for not only having daily Spanish instruction, but continuing to develop a top quality elementary Spanish program.

Working with WAVE, we are looking forward to developing more opportunities for family "get togethers" and opportunities to chat. As the weather improves, I hope to see more families taking the opportunity to walk, so we can see each other more.

With our recently promoted Operations Manager, "Mrs. I", as a part of the administrative team, I am looking forward to a smooth finish to the 2007-2008 academic year. We are already gearing up for next year with our Enrollment Lottery taking place on February 29, 2008. We look forward to adding an additional 70 new students and their families to Westlake Charter School next year! Come to our Town Hall Meeting on Friday, February 22 from 7-8:30 to be a part of setting Westlake Charter School priorities for the upcoming year. As always, I appreciate and value your input and ideas. Vision and commitment of a diverse group created this amazing school. This same level of vision and commitment will allow it to develop its full potential!



4th Graders to 'live' California History

By Sherri Sanders and Lorna Alsbagh



Mission San Diego by Andru Fitzgerald

Typically, when we learn about history we read history books, articles, and stories or we watch a movie with a detailed historical account. There is a better way!

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park Environmental Living Program (ELP) is a special program, which allows kids to "live" California history. The participants spend 24 hours portraying characters of the 1840's and partake in vari-

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February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Mtng	6 Auction Mtng	7	8	9
10	11 Holiday	12	13 Dream Dinners Fundraiser	14 	15 Dream Dinners for Kids	16
17	18 Holiday	19 WAVE Mtng	20	21	22 Town Hall Mtng	23 Auction Mtng
24	25 Butter Braids	26 Board Candidate Statement Due	27	28 Thank You Thursdays	29 Public Random Drawing	

Event Details

- ☺  - Recycle Fridays for Heifer International Program
- ☺ **Feb 13**— Dream Dinners Fundraiser to support the 4th Grade Sutter's Fort trip
- ☺ **Feb 15**— Dream Dinners for Kids 3:30pm
- ☺ **Feb 19**— WAVE Meeting 6:30pm, Rm N3
WAVE officers nominations due
- ☺ **Feb 22**— Town Hall Meeting
7:00—8:30 pm @ WCS
- ☺ **Feb 23**— Auction Planning Meeting
9:00am @ Barnes & Noble Café
- ☺ **Feb 25**— Butter Braids Sale to support the 4th Grade Sutter's Fort trip. \$10 ea.
- ☺ **Feb 26**— Board Candidate Statements Due. Two parents and one Community Member positions open.
- ☺ **Feb 28**— Thank You Thursdays: showing our appreciation to our great staff
- ☺ **Feb 29**— Public Random Drawing @ 5:00, multipurpose room

Parent Participation Opportunities

Current listing of opportunities to earn hours for February. It's a great way to learn what's happening, get involved, and meet great people.

- Board meeting
- WAVE meeting
- Auction Planning meetings
- Town Hall meeting
- Library help on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Yard duty
- Campus monitoring
- Thank You Thursdays

Danielle Steuben danielle.steuben@doj.ca.gov

- Creek Clean-up Committee

Cynthia Ortiz ortizlink@sbcglobal.net

- Auction Committee

Tracy Roman romanclan5@yahoo.com

Family Fun

We don't have a Family Nights Out event this month, but here are some fun ideas. Go with other Westlake families or maybe you'll meet some there and make some new friends.

- Crocker Art Museum—Free Sundays @ 10:00—1:00
- Baskin Robbins—\$1/scoop every Tues night and 2-for-1 sundaes every Wednesday
- The Spiderwick Chronicles: Read the book then see the movie
- Storytime with Ms Kiki—every Tues and Sat @ 11:00 am at Barnes & Noble (next to Target)
- Borders Storytime—Saturdays @ 1:00pm
- Family Fun Night—Feb 19 @ 6:30 at South Natomas Library
- African Drumming and Dancing—Feb 20 @ 4:00 at South Natomas Library
- Pajama Storytime—Feb 27 @ 6:30 at Barnes & Noble

Got an idea? Email us at newsatwcs@gmail.com

A Message from our Board President...

Dear Westlake Families,

I want to thank all of you who have supported the school this past year. 2007 has been both exciting and challenging for the board, our principal, our staff, and our parent group.

Westlake Charter School is a parent participation school; therefore all parents and caregivers pledge to volunteer a minimum of 30 hours per year per family. It's important that we honor this commitment so we can continue to build and strengthen our school community. I look forward to 2008 as we prepare for the addition of two 5th grade classes and expansion of an additional 1st grade class. As we continue to build the schools infrastructure and curriculum, volunteer opportunities will abound with much needed fundraising projects, classroom projects, and school governance.

I remind all parents that Board Elections will commence this month and our families will vote for two parent representatives at our regularly scheduled March board meeting. I encourage you all to take an active interest in our board elections this year and my hope is that every family will take the opportunity to vote.

Thank you,
Phil Nanni

"It's important that we honor this commitment so we can continue to build and strengthen our school community."

Going Back in Time...

ous trade activities and entertainment of the era.

Students arrive dressed in 1839-1849 historic period costumes the day of the event, and perform many of the historic activities accomplished at the Fort. Carpentry, bread baking, blacksmithing, spinning & weaving, candle-making, doll making, and rope-making are a few of the activities they may perform. The children and adults will receive a much better perspective of California history (and historic sites) than any book or movie can portray.

There is a cost of approximately \$1600 for the event. Our fourth graders have been so excited about the Sutter's Fort overnight stay that they have been eagerly participating in all of the Sutter's Fort fundraisers. They've earned over \$400 with their cocoa/muffin/cookie sales and more than \$800 for their See's Candy Sales.

The Sutter's Fort field trip will be on April 3, 2008, so think good thought for our kids and please give what you can to help them prepare for this amazing opportunity.




Mission San Jose by Kareem Alsbagh

Show your support!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR DREAM DINNERS AND BUTTER BRAIDS! - The 4th graders are raising money for their Sutter's Fort ELP Overnight stay. The current fundraiser is Dream Dinners - any day between February 14 and March 22. If you would like to bring your young one (6 years old and up) with you, the dates for the kids sessions are Feb. 15 3:30 p.m.; Mar. 15 1:00 p.m.; and March 21 3:30 p.m. Go online to www.dreamdinners.com or call 928-3993 for reservations at the Truxel Station Plaza Dream Dinners. Then at the end of February watch for the flyer to order Butter Braids, a fruit-filled pastry. Those of you who have tasted Butter Braids, I know your mouth just watered. Those of you who have not tasted Butter Braids, get ready!!!! HERE THEY COME. Just in time for Easter. If you have any questions about these fundraisers, please call Lorna Alsbagh 947-8891 or lornaj1998@yahoo.com




Support Westlake

• eScrips	}	\$2,600
• Quality of Life Card		
• Target REDcard		
• Box Tops		\$630
• Ink cartridge & cell phone 		\$140
• Family Nights Out		\$990
• My School Matters		\$25,800
• Golf Tournament		\$17,500
• Jeff and Rhonda Johnson		\$625
(PG&E Campaign for the Community 2008)		
• International Festival		coming in May
• Night in Natomas (Art Auction)		coming June 7
Year-to-date total		\$48,285

2006-2007 WAVE Funds supporting this year

WAVE 1st Trimester support	\$18,559
WAVE 2nd Trimester support	\$17,583
Year-to-date total	\$36,142

Box Tops— keep collecting those Box Tops! Next contest will start March 1. Let's see if we can hit \$1000 by the end of the year.

Ink Cartridge — Get friends and family involved by collecting their used ink cartridges and cell phones then turn it in at the office. Know of a business willing to donate? Contact Greg to make collection arrangements.

My School Matters—Did you know you can make donations any-time through My School Matters? Just visit online at www.westlakecharter.com/myschoolmatters

Night in Natomas— Planning is currently underway for our last big fundraiser of the year. The committee is looking for volunteers and auction items. Come to one of the meetings to find out how.

WAVE support—Check out the school website www.westlakecharter.com under 'Principal's report' for a more detailed report of how WAVE funds are being given back to the school.



Contact information

Principal	Christine Smith	admin@westlake.com	567-5760
Board	Phil Nanni	pcnanni2004@yahoo.com	
WAVE	Peggy McAllister	wave@westlakecharter.com	419-6057
Communications Team	Jude Hansen	judehansen@gmail.com	564-1932
Fundraising Team	Open Chair position contact WAVE		
Community Building	Danielle Steuben	danielle.steuben@doj.ca.gov	927-4558
Community Service	Cynthia Ortiz	ortizlink@sbcglobal.net	515-1876
Parent Participation	Laila Cifolleli	cheflaila@sbcglobal.net	207-6745
Parent Hours Recorder	Sherri Sanders	wcs_vol_hrs@yahoo.com	
Family Nights Out	Ann Alan	amalan72@aol.com	515-4768
Box Top	Tanya Carter	tanyacarter@comcast.net	419-9798
Ink Cartridge Recycling	Greg Zumstein	g_zumstein@hotmail.com	359-7617
eScrips	Toni Coleman	colemanfive@sbcglobal.net	419-9015
My School Matters	Lisa Casalegno	myschoolmatters@westlakecharter.com	502-5550
Night in Natomas (Auction)	Tracy Roman	romanclan5@yahoo.com	649-3259

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 the 5th of each month. Content is subject to the approval of the principal prior to publication.