



Westlake Charter News

Volume 1, Issue 7

June 18, 2008

Thanks for Another Great Year

As we wrap up the 2007-2008 school year, I want to thank all of our amazing Westlake families and staff. With our campus move, the addition of 70 new students and 5 amazing teachers, we have grown a lot this year! We have accomplished a lot as well. Our successes are directly tied to the extra efforts and support of all of the members of our Westlake Community.

We have our own media center and library and our garden is, once again, an amazing show-piece of our campus. We have established a Student Council, which is already participating in and planning community outreach, and have assisted flood victims in Tabasco, Mexico and Earthquake Victims in China. Students have "run across America" in PE and had their Art exhibited in the Natomas Unified District Office as well as at the State Capitol. Our International Festival was a great success and enjoyed by all. Even in a year of budget shortfalls, we continue to maintain a positive budget and are looking forward to the addition of Kate Burwinkel as our Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator and a second Spanish teacher. Through WAVE's generosity and our collaborative efforts, we have been able to allocate each teacher funds for their use in their classrooms, as well as continue to support the purchase of FOSS kits, new library books and resources to supplement our thematic curriculum.

Although we continue to work on fulfilling all the needs of a growing campus, I am confident that 2008-2009 will be extremely positive and successful! The continued progress of our staff, students and community toward Westlake Charter School's vision of expanding opportunities and connecting students to the world will require continued hard work and commitment from all of us. I am looking forward to us all "taking it up a notch" and realizing many of our dreams next year!

Have a relaxing summer!

Christine Smith

Principal

Night in Natomas Auction a Success!!!

The Auction was a great success. We had approximately 250 guests, some who traveled as far as South Carolina. Guests dined on food graciously donated from Indian Express, Johnny Carino's, Una Mas, Dream Dinners and coffee from Maestro's. All our desserts were provided by WCS families and Barnes & Noble. The custom event labeled bottles of wine were a hit. The energy in the room was amazing. People were laughing and having a good time. Thank you to, Rubylynne Blakely who was able to secure a cash donation of \$5000.00, courtesy of Wells Fargo Bank, towards the salary of the 2nd full time Spanish teacher and to all who participated in this event. We couldn't have done it without you.

After expenses we will make approximately \$30,668.00. That is about \$13,000 above our goal!

~ Tracy Roman and the Auction Committee

Westlake Charter School

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Family Fun



When school's out, kids around the country visit selected Regal theatres for the Free Family Film Festival. It's a fun-filled nine weeks of movies for kids and parents. Since 1991, Regal has provided this service to the community, and best of all it's **FREE!**

Selected **G & PG** movies start at **10AM each Tuesday and Wednesday** during the festival. First-come, first-served seating is limited to theatre capacity. The Free Family Film Festival is safe, lots of fun and a great way for kids to spend a weekday morning in the summer.

For more information visit www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/freefamilyfilm.aspx

Be Water Safe This Summer!



It is a new county ordinance that children 12 and under are required to wear life jackets if they are swimming or wading in Sacramento County waterways.



ANNOUNCING

Just In Time for the Heat

Westlake Charter School's Next "FAMILY NIGHT"

A great opportunity to get to know other WCS families and friends and to build community spirit! Along with the fun and delicious ice cream, 25% of all orders with this flyer will go to Westlake Charter School's unique educational programs.

When: Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Where: Coldstone Creamery
4730 Natomas Boulevard, Suite 150
Behind the Raley's Shopping Center

Time: 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



COLDSTONE

CREAMERY

Please hand out this flyer to family and friends! And call some of your kids' friends to meet them there. It will be fun for everyone!

→Don't forget to bring the attached flier for our school to get the 25%!

Summer Wishes and Thanks from our Board President

Dear Westlake Families,

The school year we've just completed has been full of changes, adventure, and lots of success that we hope to build upon the next school year. We've begun to settle into our new campus and, as you know, there will be more changes this summer as our school continues to grow. In fact, next year will mark our last year of rapid growth, as the 5th grade class will round out our charter, and we will have grown from 120 students to more than 300 students in less than four years.

Even under the best of circumstances it is difficult to effectively manage that type of growth without suffering a few growing pains. We've had our share, yet, the school is fiscally sound, and we've recently secured a sizeable grant that will allow us to renovate, improve, and expand our campus. The new school year will bring forth the addition of several exciting new teachers, including another instructor for Spanish. However, as we continue to evolve, I believe that our biggest challenge will be a test of our character. Who are we? For what do we stand? Will we stand together should the going get tough?

So, I hope that you are ready to be challenged! We're going to need a little something from everyone to make next year at Westlake Charter School our most memorable. If you haven't already done so, step outside of your comfort zone and become an active part of the Westlake Charter School community. Don't do a disservice to yourself or the school by not getting involved. Understanding, appreciating, and celebrating our differences is at the very core of what makes Westlake Charter School a special place for our children to receive an education.

Therefore, the challenge is a simple one. Reach out to someone new, take charge of a new role, get involved, and don't stand on the sidelines. The time - our time - is now.

Sincerely,

Paris Coleman

Board President

Bon Voyage from Peggy McAllister

Well, it's the end of the school year and the end of the "initiation" phase of the WAVE. As I and the current officers turn over the leadership to our fresh, new officers, we can't help but look back and see how far we have all come together, starting just 2 ½ years ago as an organized parent group:

- ✓ We have created processes and systems for parents to connect with opportunities to participate at WCS, and to have their hours reported.
- ✓ We have created our foundational documents, i.e. our Bylaws, our Policies and Procedures, and Donation Policy, which will guide us in all our endeavors.
- ✓ We have raised an amazing amount of funds in our short existence for the sake of providing important extras towards our children's' education and supporting our teachers.
- ✓ We have one of the most thorough communication systems of any parent group on the planet
- ✓ We have helped develop our sense of community and unique school culture with events and fun times (more of that to come!!)
- ✓ We have provided our children with many opportunities to reach out to those in need both locally as well as internationally.

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√ We have developed a relationship of trust and collaboration with the WCS Board and Administration so we are all working in sync towards the same goals and objectives.

I could go on and on. This was not accomplished by any one person, but by the contributions of many, many parents sharing their different skills and ideas, and rolling up their sleeves and making things happen. THANKS TO YOU ALL! I especially thank the outgoing officers and team leaders: Brenda Lee, Lana Lucas, Tracy Roman, Cynthia Ortiz and Laila Cifolleli. These ladies have gone so far beyond to assist the foundation of the WAVE!

However, we are just getting started! There are so many new ideas to consider and enhancements to be made. **Remember, this school offers the “more” for our kids based largely on the level of involvement and support by us, the parents!** How high do we want to reach?? Who is willing to work to get us there?

I can't wait for next year and the leadership of our new WAVE officers and Team Leaders! Give them your utmost support. Have a great summer and come back ready to rise higher with the WAVE!

Peggy McAllister

WAVE President

WCS Photo Gallery on Shutterfly



The Westlake Photo Gallery will remain open until July 1, 2008 to order photos. The address is www.shutterfly.com/pro/westlake/wave. If you don't remember the password, call Lorna at 947-8891 or email her at lornaj1998@yahoo.com. You can view photos of last year's golf tournament, the International Festival, A Night in Natomas, as well as many events surrounding the 4th grade.

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