

Westside



News and information for WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Wire

From the Principal *Michael McDonough*

Take Pride in our Wolves

As you begin to read my end of the year note, there are surely many questions that may arise. How did the new changes go? What kinds of budget cuts are coming? Where is WHS headed? Ultimately, in my experience, it usually turns to a much more local interest. *Will my child be safe, be challenged, be nurtured, and be prepared for that next adventure once they leave Westside?* The answer remains a confident yes.

One of the major changes we made this year was our switch to a single lunch period. For some the new opportunities were in the form of enrichment and club meetings. For others it was a chance to receive tutorials from adults or the peer groups on campus. And for yet another group it was simply a time to recharge batteries in the library or in the courtyard. In any case, this was indeed an adjustment. Most days this was a success. Other days we faced obstacles. Perhaps what was most impressive was to see firsthand the

resiliency of our kids and our campus. I imagine we can all remember instances whereupon the young ones handle change more smoothly than the adults. The single lunch has begun to allow new organizations to flourish, and I am optimistic about the impact our improvements will have across campus.

Whether through discussions around the proposed closing of our magnet program or the impending budget challenges, it was impressive to see how our kids responded to these proposed changes. Whether it was by writing to their Board Trustee or speaking at the town hall meeting, we can all take pride in the active role our students took. They acted with clear thought and focus; they championed each facet of Westside from which they, and we, take pride. It was inspiring. And while there are cuts we have had to make and there are

positions we will absorb for the 2011-12 school year, it is important for you to know that the vast array of programs and prospects that we have for your children will continue. Our dedication to that effort remains as true as when the doors first opened in August 2000.



Finally, it is through a focus on our students that we will find the greatest success.

Our students have registered for nearly 2500 AP exams with over 40% of the student body set to participate this May. The number of tests is an increase of nearly 500 since just last year. Additionally, April 13th, we had 700 juniors register and take the SAT on campus. For many this was a chance that they would have passed on were it not offered during the school day. Instead, Westside

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Westside Alum Makes Basketball News



Sydney Colson, Westside High School class of 2007, recently assisted the Texas A&M Aggies basketball team to a 76-70 victory over Notre Dame for the national championship. She recorded 13 steals over the final three games of the Tournament, including eight in the Final Four! "It's crazy," Colson said. "It seems like it all happened so quickly. Really, throughout your whole college career, all you want is to get a national championship."

Westside wishes our hometown athlete all the best as she moves on to her next big venture, playing in the WNBA for the New York Liberty!

WHS on the Web

For a complete calendar of Westside events, visit us at www.westsidewolves.org



Principal *from page 1*

students, your children, stepped up to the challenge and took that important first step toward their future. For many this was expected. Yet for others it was a whole new world. I am so proud of them and their courage.

So as I offer a final reflection, it would be to say that serving as the principal of Westside High School is equally rewarding and challenging. A former principal referred to it as being similar to serving as the mayor of a small town. Maybe it is. There are certainly a large number of responsibilities, and a great number of constituencies to serve. I think that we are good at our job most days. Sometimes we are extraordinary. Yet each morning as I enter the building I see before me a comprehensive high school with a comprehensive set of challenges. And each day I see kids, young adults, who are eager to be led, to learn how to lead, and are thirsty for the chance to prove that to each of us. Sadly we don't always recognize it. And all too often, we doubt their sincerity. And that has to stop. Listening to them and trusting them to make good decisions, within a structured and safe setting, is a must.

Westside brings the world to its doors everyday, and the future of that world into our classrooms. Sometimes the littlest detail can lead to ultimate success – and for me it has always been a decision to take a couple extra seconds to search for that spark of genuine interest within a young person. I believe that it is still there and that belief is a basis for the decisions I make as the principal of your high school. I do so proudly and I anticipate that I do so with your support.

Enjoy the day,

Michael

PTO Recognizes Teacher of the Year, Kathy Zimbaldi

At the April 5 General Meeting, PTO President Cathy McDonnell had the honor of presenting our Teacher of the Year with a check for \$1000. This year's recipient, Kathy Zimbaldi, was appreciative of the PTO's recognition and cited the organization for "all you do here on campus, for teachers and students."

According to McDonnell, "The PTO loves to recognize outstanding work. We have so many fantastic staff members here and this is just one example. We know Ms. Zimbaldi will find the monetary award useful and will enjoy seeing her name on the Teacher of the Year Plaque that is displayed in the front office."

Ms. Zimbaldi was selected Westside High School Teacher of the Year by her peers. She has taught for 30 years and holds a B.A. in English and an M.A.T. in Curriculum and Instruction. She has been at WHS for 4 years. She chairs the ESL Department and teaches 9th-12th grade students at various levels. Ms. Zimbaldi noted that Westside serves 285 ESL students, representing 5 continents and more than 30 languages spoken.



PTO Officers Elected

The new PTO Officers were elected at the PTO General Meeting on Tuesday, April 5. The list of officers appears below. Committee chairs are listed at www.westsidepto.org.

tees will need members to assist the chairmen, so please find an area you are interested in and give our volunteer coordinator a call or email. All names and contact information can be found at www.westsidepto.org.

The PTO thanks all those who served during the 2010 – 2011 school year, those who are repeating next year and those who have volunteered to serve in new positions. The commit-

Thank you to Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Nassab and her committee for their work on filling these positions.

Westside PTO 2011-2012 PTO Officers

- President—Debbie Noriega
- 1st VP—Membership-Disa Lyon
- 2nd VP-Fundraising—Barbara Nassab & Dawn Zieren
- Treasurer—Trish Milstead
- Corresponding Secretary—Kelly Cramer
- Recording Secretary—Kelly Simmons
- Parliamentarian—Shelby Doehring
- VIPS Coordinators—Michelle Dunwell & Mary Stamos



A Year of Achievements

As the school year winds down, we naturally begin to think about all the accomplishments of the year and of those goals too, that we may not have accomplished.

This has been a year of high achievements. If you keep track of what is going on at Westside through the weekly electronic news, the school and PTO websites, this publication, telephone call outs, local news and word of mouth from your own students you will realize the huge diversity of talent and skills on our campus. Our students have had opportunities to travel the state, country and the world to represent WHS in top notch competitions from sports to fine arts to academic programs. They have received well deserved accolades for their efforts.

At the last PTO meeting, held April 5, we had the honor of hearing from student council president Alex Eldemire and government teacher Ms. Anne Heil about the annual "In Focus" Washington, D.C. trip that a group of seniors attended. A presentation was made to the WHS Teacher of the Year, Ms. Zimbaldi. In the past we have heard from the Inertia group on their China trip, and heard Student Council presentations about events on campus. The TAKS and AP stats presented are awesome. These are just a few of the noteworthy events at WHS.

Likewise, we look at what parents, staff and community have achieved through the WHS PTO. In May, we will once again award 10 deserving graduating seniors with PTO Spirit Scholarship awards. The awards are for \$1000 each, for a total of \$10,000 in funds going to these college-bound students. The PTO was instrumental in the establishment of the Westside Alumni Endowment Scholarship, which will award two \$500 scholarships to Westside students going on to college. This is the first year for this annual award.

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| WESTSIDE PTO |
| PRESIDENT Cathy McDonnell |
| 1ST VICE PRESIDENTS (MEMBERSHIP) Disa Lyon Barbara Nassab |
| 2ND VICE PRESIDENTS (FUNDRAISING) Kiki Hummel Shelby Doehring |
| TREASURER Kelly Simmons |
| RECORDING SECRETARY Debbie Noriega |
| CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Janna Wright |
| VIPS Rhonda Monteverde Michelle Dunwell |
| PARLIAMENTARIAN Kelly Cramer |


A sample of additional PTO accomplishments include:

- Assisted with the WHS 10 year Anniversary Celebration
- Helped with Homecoming festivities, including sponsoring the dance
- Bronze Plaques honoring the three Westside principals
- Brick Paver Project for the back patio and Spirit Anniversary Quilt for the front office
- Staff & Student Appreciation including poinsettias for staff and TAKS snacks for students & more!
- Beautiful plants and landscaping on school grounds
- Provided Volunteers, help at Bash and with First Day Packets, College Night and Alumni activities
- Updated display cases in the Commons to showcase current awards and accomplishments

- Representation on the school's Shared Decision Making Committee and other school committees
- Provided positive community communication through our meetings, PTO website and the WIRE

As for goals to strive for, there are always tasks left undone. The PTO will look for new fundraising opportunities next year, ways to continue to encourage excellence in academics and in spirit, respect and safety on campus. District and Legislative issues will also need attention.

On that note, I will wish my many Westside friends and colleagues tremendous continued success as I leave my second term as PTO President. I especially want to thank PTO members at every level who stepped up when needed – what a fantastic group! My youngest graduates this year, so with two in college I will turn my attention in that direction. Westside will always remain close to my heart, so I will take on a small role within the Parent Alumni and hope to show up at a WHS event or two! Go WOLVES!



Are Your Immunizations Up to Date?

Westside High School will be sending immunization letters home with the students in May for shots that are due over the summer. If the shot records are not clear by the beginning of the school year the student will not have a schedule and will be unable to attend school until the record has been cleared.

Notes from 2010 PTO Scholarship Recipients



Dear Westside PTO,

Being awarded the Westside PTO Spirit scholarship was a huge honor. It was exciting to be recognized for my school involvement and spirit during my time at Westside High School. In addition, receiving this scholarship at the Class of 2010 Senior awards night event, made it even more special. I was completely surprised and thrilled when I heard my name called as one the recipients of the PTO scholarship that evening. While it was special to be recognized, it was also great to receive the \$1000. The money was very useful for college. The scholarship covered a portion of my tuition, so in turn, I used the saved tuition money to purchase required textbooks and supplies.

-Michelle Bilby, class of 2010

Dear Westside PTO,

Being awarded the PTO Spirit Scholarship has allowed me to expand my opportunities during my freshman year in the Business Honors Program at The University of Texas. The scholarship has allowed me to take full opportunity of many special lectures and programs that are held during the year. If I had not received the scholarship, I might not have been quite as willing to budget my college funds towards these extra activities, and my first year would not have been as fulfilling as it has been. Thank you again to the WHS PTO for the extra opportunities they have allowed me.

-Morgan Ball, class of 2010

Pride Performs at Disneyland, Spring Show at WHS May 4

The Pride Dance Team took their first out of state trip to Los Angeles, California where they had the prestigious opportunity to perform a twenty-five minute show in Disneyland! The Disney stage manager said he thoroughly enjoyed our show and it was refreshing to see unique choreography. The team was awarded a special pin that you cannot buy, but only inherit if you are among the elite performers at Disney.

Our annual Spring Show is set for Wednesday May 4, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the Westside High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 presale and \$8 at the door the night of the show. Please come

out and support Pride and other special guests who include Inertia Dance Company, WHS Step Team and The Sunrise International Dance Company!

Pride is looking towards the future to a remarkable 2011-2012 season!



Westside Choir at Disney Honors Festival



Members of the Westside High School Choir Program represented Westside HS at the 2011 Disney Honors Festival in Orlando, Florida. The Westside Concert Choir performed their own concert at the Linda Chapin Theater-Orange County Convention Center with other choirs from across the country. On the last night of the trip, the Disney Honors Foundation honored the choir with an elegant honors gala at Epcot's Millenium Hall.

Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE)

The Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) is the only art event of its kind in the nation. Students are provided the opportunity to bring artwork created in their art classes to their regional event where they are interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work.

Lillian Qi represented Westside at the regional competition and won for her drawing. She will now be

competing at the State level this month for the highest awards given. This is the culminating event of a year of hard work and creative genius on behalf of the art students, teachers, and administrators in Texas!!!



Westside Students Sweep Microsoft Bliink Web Design Contest

Three teams from Susan Boone's Web Mastering class SWEPT the web design competition sponsored by the Microsoft Corporation. Bliink is a Web design competition for Texas high school students that encourages them to think creatively, participate in an activity that strengthens their college application or resume, build real-world job skills using technology and create sophisticated content for the Internet.

Students worked in teams to build Web sites using Microsoft® Expression® suite of software tools.

Way to go Wolves!!



Grand Prize: Andrea Soto & Vicky Lee

2nd Prize: Maryanne Sapon & Anjanya Singh

3rd Prize: David Kinard, Asra Alsam & Esperanza Saucedo

Senior Events



- **Senior Honors Night** is Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30pm in the Westside Auditorium. All seniors are invited to attend, but those receiving an award will receive an invitation. Be sure to dress in appropriate attire. All students, friends and families are welcome! No tickets are needed; seating is on a first come basis.
- **Senior Prom** is Friday May 27, at the Omni Westside located at I-10 and Eldridge. The hours are 8pm—12:30am but you may enter no later than 10:30pm. Tickets will be on sale May 9 through May 20th in the Commons during lunch.
- **After-Prom** is at Dave & Buster's in the Marquee Center, 7620 Katy Free-way, from 1-5:30am. For both events, seniors and their dates are required to have photo IDs. Once you enter, you may leave at your leisure, but may NOT re-enter; it is not a lock-in.
- **Senior Picnic** is Thursday, June 2, at 1pm at Westside. Dress for the mess!
- **Graduation Practice and Panoramic Picture** is Friday, June 3, at 8:45am. You will receive your cap and gown at graduation practice. The cost of the panoramic picture is included in your Senior Dues however, there will be a "fun shot" available for \$10.
- **Graduation** is Saturday, June 4 at the Hoffenz Pavillion on the main campus of the University of Houston. The ceremony will begin at 5pm, however graduates will need to arrive at 3:30pm. Grads are not allowed to have purses, phones, cameras, flowers or mp3 players. Audience will not be allowed to enter with balloons, flowers, banners or noise makers. Seniors should bring their cap and gown.

Please be sure to check the Senior Class web page for updates!

Westside Wire

Textbook Return

Students are responsible for turning in their textbooks at the end of the semester. They are expensive so now is the time to do your own inventory and start looking around the house!



Football News

Westside football started Spring Football on April 27th; practices are 4-6pm daily. Spring scrimmage dates are May 7th and 15th and the Spring Game is May 19th.

The next Football Parent Meeting is May 3rd. Please continue to check the WHS Website for future meeting dates. They will always take place here in the Field House and begin at 7pm.

Congratulations to Hakeem Etti for being chosen as the Old Spice Player of the Year.

The Lineman Challenge and Garage Sale is May 21st. We will be posting the Garage Sale Flyer for all organizations to join in and make some money for their club. Please join in as it is a great way to clean out the closet and get 100% profit for your goods.

Summer School and Summer Assignments



Be sure to check the WHS website at www.westsidewolves.org for information about Summer School and

Summer Assignments. Details will also be posted for Summer Camps and Clinics as well as August Orientations and Wolf Camp.

Better yet, sign up to receive the WHS weekly newsletter! Just click the link under announcements on our home page.

June 3rd is a School Day!

Mark your Calendars—we have School on June 3rd.



At its March 10, 2011 board meeting, the Board of Education approved the district's request to change the pre-designated make-up day of May 30, 2011 to June 3, 2011. They concurrently approved the use of that day's attendance to make up for February 4, 2011 when all HISD schools were closed due to ice on roads and continued freezing temperatures which made travel unsafe.

Congrats to National Honor Society Inductees

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization recognizing outstanding high school students. It honors those students who have demonstrated excellence in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. 93 sophomores and 31 juniors were inducted into NHS at a ceremony held April 2nd. Congratulations go out to these outstanding Wolves!

Final Exam Schedule

Big Plans for Tennis in 2011-2012

As you may have seen, the Westside tennis courts were under construction much of this year, but we are proud to announce that we now have six courts on campus which means we will be able to host matches here next year. This is a first for Westside!



As we move forward, it is my personal goal to create a team that is highly competitive; to go up against the best and regain the title of District Champion. To fulfill this dream, we'll need to recruit more players

with some tennis experience we can build on. Tryouts for the 2011-12 seasons will be in early August. I encourage anyone interested to get out there and play. Take lessons, join a summer camp, or hit with friends that already play. The more experience you bring to the table, the stronger and more successful our team will be. Please contact me, Coach Hollingsworth at jholling@houstonisd.org if you need recommendations for tennis camps or lessons, and stay tuned for more information on upcoming tryouts.

Important August Dates

Additional information will be available shortly; please check our website!

Open I.D. Days! We're giving all WHS students the opportunity to get their I.D. badge made before Wolf Days and Wolf Camp to avoid the lines. Just stop by the Attendance Office Monday through Friday, August 1 – 5, between 8am and 3pm and you'll be ahead of the pack!

Wolf Days: Students receive I.D. badges, schedules, textbooks and lockers.

Seniors – Monday, August 8
 Juniors – Tuesday, August 9
 Sophomores – Wednesday, August 10

Freshmen IDs: Thursday, August 11

Freshmen Wolf Camp: Friday, August 12 from 8am—3:30pm.

| GRADE LEVEL | DATE | FINAL EXAM | TIME | NOTES |
|--------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Seniors Only | Wed, May 25 | 5 TH Period | During regular class period | Regular hours; 3:15P dismissal |
| Seniors Only | Thursday, May 26 | 0/8 th Period 6 th Period | 7:55-9:55A in S-100 During regular class period | No late start for testers; late pass to 2 nd period class if needed. Regular hours; 3:15P dismissal |
| Seniors Only | Friday, May 27 | 7 th Period | 7:55-9:55A in S-100 | Seniors not taking a final attend 1 st and 2 nd period classes; then dismissal to Commons to pick up Prom tickets and leave campus |
| All students | Tuesday, May 31 | 1 st Period 2 nd Period | 7:55-9:55A 10:05A-12:05P | 12:05P dismissal. Lunch available 12:05-12:25P; buses depart at 12:30P |
| All students | Wednesday, June 1 | 3 rd Period 4 th Period | 7:55-9:55A 10:05A-12:05P | 12:05P dismissal. Lunch available 12:05-12:25P; buses depart at 12:30P |
| Grades 9-11 | Thursday, June 2 | 5 TH Period 6 th Period | 7:55-9:55A 10:05A-12:05P | 12:05P dismissal. Lunch available 12:05-12:25P; buses depart at 12:30P |
| Grades 9-11 | Friday, June 3 | 7 th Period 0/8 th Period | 7:55-9:55A 10:05A-12:05P | Dismissal after your last final. Buses depart early at 10:30A |



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Westside Wire

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PTO Meetings...

the first Tuesday of every month!

Be sure to check

www.westsidewolves.org and

www.westsiddepto.org