

Woodlake Elementary Pelican Press

December 2011
Volume 25, Issue 5



Woodlake Elementary School

1620 Livingston Street
Mandeville, LA 70448
(985) 626-8842

Lelia Parker, Principal
Tara Dragon-Hernandez, Asst. Principal
Leslie Miller, TRT

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents and Families,

The holiday season is upon us. Our third grade students performed at the St. Tammany Trace on Koop Drive on Saturday, December 10. It was wonderful to watch our children perform, listen to the lovely seasonal music and enjoy the holiday lights display. Thanks to all who came and participated.

November's performance at the PTA meeting by the second grade and multi-age students was fantastic. It was wonderful to see such a large turnout of students who came out to perform. Thank you to all of our wonderful parents who came to watch the children.

Our third grade students from Ms. Anderson and Ms. Cosby's classes entertained us at school in our Veteran's Day Celebration and then entertained veterans and other citizens of Mandeville at the Yacht Club on November 11th. A special thank you to the students and Ms. Stomps for both of these performances.

Thank you parents, students, and faculty for your awesome support at Spruce-Up Day on Saturday, November 5th. Ms. Michelle Chautin headed this up and had it so unbelievably organized. All who came made a huge difference at our school!

Students will be dismissed for the holidays on Friday, December 16th at 12:51 P.M. They will return to school

on Tuesday, January 3rd. All class parties will be held on Thursday, December 15th from 2:00 - 3:00 P.M. Parents, you are welcome to come, but please check in at the office. Also, I would like to request that you do not check your child/children out of school early on this day because it creates unnecessary confusion for all.

This is our last newsletter before the Winter Break begins. I hope that each and every one of you has a very Happy Holiday! Please know that you and your children are some of the daily blessings that we count in our lives at Woodlake Elementary School.

- Lelia Parker, Principal



Ms. Parker buys treats from WES student Morgan B. at Ms. Blackburn's Multi-Age Market Day.

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Upcoming Events

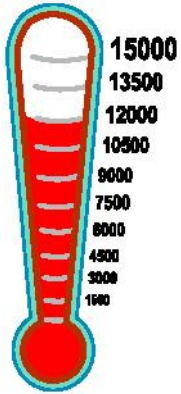
- ◆ **December 14** - Bop's Night
- ◆ **December 15** - Winter Celebrations 2pm - 3pm
- ◆ **December 15** - Domino's Pizza Night
- ◆ **December 16** - 1/2 day of School
- ◆ **December 19 - January 2** - Winter Break
- ◆ **January 20** - Louisiana Cultural Arts Day



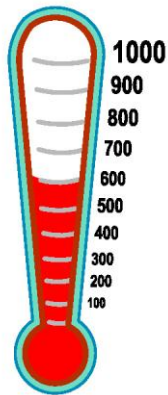
Did You Know...That WES is having a birthday party this year? (see page 3)

PTA Goals for 2011-2012

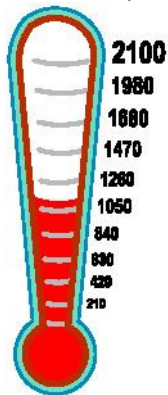
Box Tops
 Goal: 15,000
 Current: 11,859



PTA Membership
 Goal: 1,000
 Current: 600



Food Drive
 Goal: 2,100
 Current: 1,120



December 2011 - January 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
<i>December</i> 12	13	14 Bop's Night	15 Class Winter Celebrations 2 - 3 pm Domino's Night	16 ½ Day of School- Winter Break Begins at 12:51pm	17
19	20	21	22	23	18
Winter Break - No School					24
26	27	28	29	30	25
Winter Break - No School					<i>January 1</i> HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2	3 Back to School!	4	5	6	7
No School					8
9	10	11 Bop's Night	12	13	14
					15

Visit www.woodlakepta.org for more information on scheduled events, click on WES PTA Calendar.

Volunteer Opportunities: Louisiana Cultural Arts Day

The PTA will be hosting a Louisiana Cultural Arts Day on Friday, January 20, 2012 (see page 6 for more information). Many volunteers are needed throughout the day to make this a successful event. We have two volunteer shifts on the 20th:

- 8:45am - 11:00am
- 11:00am - 2:00pm

Please contact Melissa Beam at melbeam@charter.net if you are available to volunteer.



A Note from Your PTA Presidents...

You know the holidays are upon us when the children are busy writing their wish lists, and the Thanksgiving turkey has yet to be served! We quickly remind our cherubs that during this festive season, while it is wonderful to receive, it is even more meaningful to give to others.

The generous spirit of the Woodlake Community has been on display all year. For example, the Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough fundraiser was one of the most successful in Woodlake's 25 year history! Through the tremendous effort of our community, 3,810 tubs of cookie dough were sold. With the money earned from this fundraiser, your PTA was able to fund the following:

- \$5,700 in PTA Teacher Grants
- \$5,000 for Voyager Reading Program
- \$4,000 for classroom supplies
- \$4,000 classroom computer workstations
- \$3,800 for Accelerated Reader Online Software
- \$2,500 for Fast Forward Online
- \$2,200 for Star Math and Early Literacy Online Software
- \$500 for classroom books

In addition to funds raised, we have almost reached our annual goal of 15,000 Box Tops, and it is only December! We are working to finalize

a list of books to purchase for the library and classrooms. We encourage you to visit the PTA website at www.woodlakepta.org and click on WES Book Blog to add your recommendations to our list. And please continue to send in your Box Tops! The more we collect the more books we can purchase!

We have also been collecting My Coke Rewards and Campbell's Soup Labels. The faculty and staff have been submitting items on a "Wish List" and the PTA has been fulfilling those requests with the points we have earned. Some of the items awarded have included classroom supplies, playground balls, CD players and iPod Touches.

Every WES Pelican has been impacted by our community's giving spirit. Thank you for the generosity shown.

On behalf of the entire WES PTA, we wish each of you and your families a very happy, safe and healthy holiday season.

Your PTA Co-Presidents,

*Melissa Gourgues
Gail Owens*

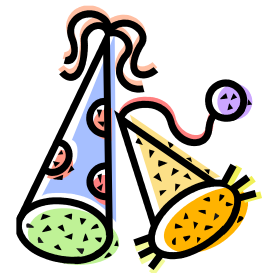


Mrs. Hamm's class is excited to get some new playground balls and glue sticks. The PTA redeemed My Coke Rewards Points and Campbell's Labels for Education to purchase these items.



DID YOU KNOW

- WES is celebrating its 25th year as an elementary school.
- Ms. Parker is only the 3rd principal to lead Woodlake during this 25 year history.



- One of the first WES PTA presidents now has two nieces at Woodlake!
- The WES birthday party will take place on March 24, 2012 during the Pelican Palooza. Be on the lookout after the new year for your personal invitation to the party!



WES PTA Membership Update



Can you believe we are already half-way through the school year? The PTA would like to thank everyone who is currently supporting the WES PTA by becoming a member. We have already achieved 60% of our membership goal!

PTA Memberships are available to all parents, students, teachers and family members of Woodlake. If you have not had the opportunity to join the WES PTA, we welcome your support. Your \$5 membership gives you a voice in the largest children's advocacy group in the United States.

We also offer corporate memberships to businesses who are interested in supporting Woodlake. For more information, please contact me using the information below, or visit the WES PTA website: www.woodlakepta.org.

Happy Holidays!

Jennifer Boudreaux
membership@woodlakepta.org



Kindergarteners are Going Batty!!!

Mrs. Dickinson's Kindergarten class spearheaded the construction and installation of a bat house near the outdoor classroom on our campus. Collin Harrison's two grandfathers graciously painted and built a bat house for our environmentally friendly mammals. The house had to be meticulously placed on a tree facing morning sun to keep them warm while hibernating in winter and to keep pups warm when born. The bat house kit was purchased through the Bat Conservation and Management, Inc. website.



Nocturnal animals were part of the Kindergarten thematic unit and bats were the favored topic of fascination and discussion. All classes investigated bats through reading in their literacy stations, drawing and journaling about them in their writing centers, painting them in art, and using bat manipulatives in their math centers. They explored bat habitats, types of bats, and benefits of bats in our environment. For example, did you know that the common brown bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes in one hour? Many myths were dispersed as knowledge was gained.

Drop by Woodlake to view our new addition. Through safe management we can continue to take advantage of the tremendous benefits these fascinating animals have to offer.

Ms. Dickinson is a Kindergarten teacher at WES.

Ms. Dickinson, Ms. Beckham and Ms. Westover's Kindergarten classes proudly show off the new bat house before it was installed near the outdoor classroom.



Mr. Tommy installs the bat house as student Collin H.'s grandfathers, who built the bat house, observe.



Fall Spruce Up Day

WOW!! What an amazing turn-out we had for the Fall Spruce Up Day November 5th! We had close to 50 volunteers working at one time. The WES PTA truly appreciates the teachers, parents and students who gave their time in order to make such a BIG transformation around our campus. Please check out the new butterfly garden on your way to the playground and the new walking path at the bus-circle entrance. Thank you again!!!



Ms. Looper and Ms. Kottemann help “spruce up” mulch around a tree.



Billy Henrickle and Ms. Cosby take a break from digging the butterfly garden.



Ms. Kottemann, Bailey H., Ms. Parker and Gabby C. are all smiles while helping out during Spruce Up Day.



The new walking path at the bus circle entrance welcomes visitors to campus.



The “spruced-up” Butterfly Garden.

Volunteer of the Month

Our December and January Volunteers of the Month will be posted in the January Pelican Press.

If there is someone you would like to recognize as a PTA Volunteer of the month, please send an email to Kimberly Wisner:

volunteer@woodlakepta.org

Share your photos!



Would you like to be in the Pelican Press?

Send your Woodlake photos to the Pelican Press editor, along with your captions to:

newsletter@woodlakepta.org

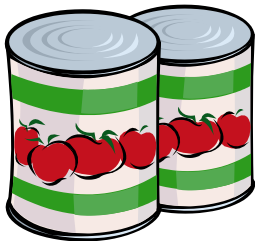


November Food Drive

The WES PTA would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to our November Food Drive benefitting the Samaritan Center. Our goal was 700 canned goods and our school brought in over 1,120 items! We are well on our way to exceeding our goal of 2,100 items for the school year.



Ms. Dickinson, Ms. Gerhardt, Ms. Burns, Ms. Pellerin and Ms. Donaldson's classes were awarded popsicles and popcorn for bringing in the most items. Our next food drive will be in January. Thank you to all who were able to help our community.



Louisiana Cultural Arts Day

WES PTA presents Louisiana Cultural Arts Day on Friday, January 20, 2012!

The Day promises to be full of Louisiana culture and heritage. Speakers from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Northlake Nature Center, Mandeville Public Works and several others will join authors Joanne Mehrtens and Pat Roig (The Beignet That Almost Got Away) and Lynda Deniger (Patti Pelican and the Gulf Oil Spill) and share with the children all that Louisiana has to offer!



Volunteers will be needed throughout the day to make it a success. If you are available, please contact: Melissa Beam via email: melbeam@charter.net.

Back by Popular Demand! Vianne's Teddy Bear Tea!

Tuesday, December 21 &
Wednesday, December 22, 2011
10:30am - 12:00 pm

10% of the proceeds from the event, including purchases from the Tea Shoppe, will be donated to Woodlake.

Children and adults will enjoy a full meal with tea, holiday craft and activities, classic Christmas caroling and a visit with Santa Claus!

\$28.99 per person (plus tax & gratuity)
Children are seated separately from Adults and completely entertained.

Call to make your reservations:
(985) 624-LOVE (5683)



Christmas Holiday Camp



Working and the kids are out of school
What to Do?



Holiday Camps at Mandeville Sports Complex

Holiday Camp is a fun and happy place for your child to be during the day when school is out. Campers will enjoy group games, free play on gymnastic floor, Bounce House, Diamond Mine, game room, outdoor activities and more.



Ages
4-12

Before Care,
After Care &
Lunch Available

December
19, 20, 21, 22, 23,
26, 27, 28, 29, 30
January 2



\$30/
Day



Kids Fun Night

3 Hours of supervised free play on
gymnastic floor

\$12 Free Play

Ages 4-12

Pizza Combo & Snacks Available

December 2nd, 9th & 16th



23052 Highway 1088, Mandeville
985-727-7277

**Boys & Girls Gymnastics,
Cheer Tumble, &
Trampoline & Tumbling
Classes**

**Register Now
for Session 3**

January 2nd – March 9th

**Sign Up Now Before
Classes Fill Up !!**

*** Gift Certificates Available ***



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WES PTA Executive Board 2011-2012

Presidents:

Melissa Gourgues
Gail Owens

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Jennifer Boudreaux

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2nd Vice President:

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Kathleen Sides

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Secretary:

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We're on the Web!

<http://woodlakepta.org>

and "like us" on facebook!



About the Pelican Press

The Pelican Press is published by the Woodlake PTA once a month and sent home with your Pelicans. We would love to hear your comments and ideas for future issues. Please contact your Pelican Press Editors, via email at newsletter@woodlakepta.org.

A color, electronic version of the newsletter is available online at www.woodlakepta.org, click on "Pelican Press."

Pelican Palooza Sponsorships Available



Save the date!

Pelican Palooza
March 24, 2012

Do you own a business, or have a favorite restaurant or business that is looking for publicity? Here is a great opportunity to reach over 700 students and their families. We are looking for businesses and individuals to sponsor our March 24, 2012 Pelican Palooza, that will help make it an aWESome success for our school.

Funds generated from the event will be used to enhance our school's technology, support the professional development of our faculty and assist our PTA in its ongoing commitment to bringing cultural, civic, and fitness-related programs to our students.

If you would like to sponsor or think you know someone who would, please contact Katie Walston at kwalston37@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Holiday Fun at the St. Tammany Parish Library

There are many activities planned at your local library over the holiday break!

Children ages 5-11 can join the Winter Break Reading Program, to earn a paperback book and a chance to win a Kindle or Nook Color! The Program begins on December 16th at your local St. Tammany Parish library branch.

Exploration Express programs are for children ages 5 and up. This month is "Bears, Oh My!" Drop in anytime to explore, learn and have fun at the Mandeville Branch, Saturday, December 17th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm.

The Causeway Branch is hosting a Craft-o-Rama on Saturday, December 17th from 12 - 3 pm.

Santa is coming to the library - don't forget to bring your camera!

- Mandeville Branch - Monday, Dec. 19, 10:30am
- Slidell Branch - Tuesday, Dec. 20, 10:30am
- Covington Branch - Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10:30am
- Black River Branch - Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2:30pm

