

# Woodlake Elementary Pelican Press

November 2011  
Volume 25, Issue 4



## 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,

Ms. Christy Lewis and I had the privilege of attending a reception, hosted by Ms. Michelle Obama at the White House on October 17 with other fellow principals and cafeteria managers from St. Tammany Parish. The reception spotlighted food service programs across the nation which have shown excellence in their child nutrition programs by earning the "Gold Award of Distinction" designation in the USDA "HealthierUS Schools Challenge" program. The afternoon event was held on the South Lawn of the White House spotlighting those participants most successful in the HealthierUS School Challenge Program that recognizes schools for outstanding food service departments and physical activity programs. Ms. Obama highlighted the accomplishments of school districts throughout the country, mentioning St. Tammany Parish Public Schools by name.

Woodlake Watchdog Dads Program has been so helpful to all at school. A number of Watchdog Dads and Ms. Kimberly Wisner came up to school on a Sunday afternoon on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to work. They did an awesome job cleaning vines and other growth away from the boardwalk to the outdoor classroom. They hauled several trailer loads of weeds, vines, and debris from this area. Please make sure that you check out the progress that they have made already.



Ms. Parker and Ms. Lewis at the White House

We surpassed our United Way goal of \$5,297 by collecting \$5,936. This was done under the leadership of Ms. Nancy Reed, who has headed up the United Way Drive at Woodlake for many years. With the help of local businesses, parents, students, faculty and staff, we have added monetary donations by Sonic Night, BOPS afternoon, TCBY afternoon, and the collection of coins. Thanks to everyone for your donations to this worthy cause. Ms. Meyer's class won the pizza party for the largest class collection.

Thanksgiving Holidays will be November 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and we will see everyone back at school on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your aWESome support that you give to Woodlake Elementary!

Lelia Parker  
Principal

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **November 15** - Triple Nickel Grill Night
- ◆ **November 17** - Domino's Night
- ◆ **November 21-25** - Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ **December 5 - 9** - Snowflake Shop
- ◆ **December 15** - Teacher Appreciation Mini-Luncheon
- ◆ **December 16** - ½ day of School
- ◆ **December 19 - January 2** - Winter Break

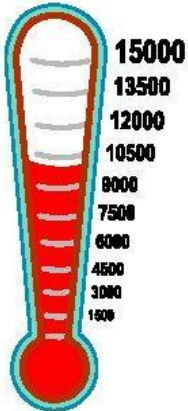


**Did You Know...That WES is honoring Ms. Kimberly Blanks as "Teacher of the Year"**

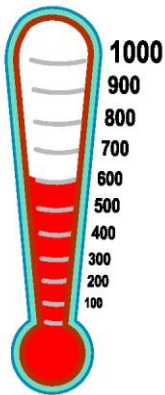
(see story on page 3)

**PTA Goals for 2011-2012**

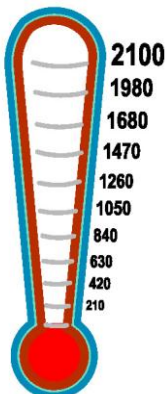
**Box Tops**  
 Goal: 15,000  
 Current: 10,121



**PTA Membership**  
 Goal: 1,000  
 Current: 600



**Food Drive**  
 Goal: 2,100  
 Current: 0



**November/December 2011**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
<i>November</i> 14	15 Triple Nickel Grill Night	16	17 Domino's Night	18	19
					20
21	22	23	24	25	26
Thanksgiving Holidays - No School					
28	29	30	<i>December</i> 1	2	3
					4
5	6	7	8	9	10
Snowflake Shop (see page 6)					
12	13	14 Bop's Night	15 Teacher Appreciation Mini Luncheon	16 ½ Day of School	17
					28

Visit [www.woodlakepta.org](http://www.woodlakepta.org) for more information on scheduled events, click on WES PTA Calendar.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

The Snowflake Shop needs your help:

- **Thurs, Dec 1: 3:00pm - 6:00pm:** Moving items from Liberty Storage to WES (SUV's needed)
- **Fri, Dec 2: 10:30am - 3pm:** Set Up Snowflake Shop at WES

Volunteers are needed to help students select and wrap their gifts. There are four shifts available each day, Monday, December 5 - Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>:

- 9 - 11 am
- 10:30am - 12:30am
- 12pm - 2pm
- 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Please contact Kim Lavelle at 504-451-5785 or email [kkavelle@bellsouth.net](mailto:kkavelle@bellsouth.net) if you are able to help.



**THANK YOU** to all who came out for Fall Spruce Up Day on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The campus looks beautiful!

Above: C.J. O. and Gabby C. begin work on the new butterfly garden.

## A Note from Your PTA Presidents...

“Thank You” ... perhaps two of the most underused words in the English language, yet two words that hold such tremendous meaning. Think of how appreciated you feel when someone says “thank you” to you. In the course of our busy days, it’s easy to forget these simple words and take for granted those around us that “make our day” and who make Woodlake such a great school. So in this season of Thanksgiving, the PTA would like to say “thank you” to our wonderful support network for all those times we forgot to extend that sentiment:

To the Administration: for making our children’s safety a top priority at school and for allowing our volunteers and future Pelicans to visit campus and experience “a day in the life” at Woodlake.

To the students for recognizing our family connections (how many times have you heard “Hi Suzy’s Mom?”).

To our volunteers who work tirelessly (even when they are dog-tired) to make our PTA the best it can be.

To Ms. Shostak: for relocating her P.E. classes every time we need the gym for a PTA function.

To Ms. Thompson: for incorporating all of the PTA art projects into her lesson plans.

To the 670+ smiling faces that warmly greet every visitor who comes on campus.

To Ms. Roxane, Ms. Gale and Ms. Stacy for always lending a helping hand, even during their busiest times.

To the faculty and Administration for responding to our emails at all hours of the night.

To Ms. Debbie, Mr. Tommy, Mr. Donny and Mr. Ed for offering to help before we ever have to ask.

Here’s wishing the entire Woodlake community a very blessed and safe holiday season!! Thank You for all that you do to make Woodlake such a wonderful school!!

Your PTA Co-Presidents,

*Melissa Gourgues  
Gail Owens*

## November is PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month!

To promote childhood health and wellness, National PTA created Healthy Lifestyles Month. Throughout the month of November, PTAs nationwide participate in PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month by conducting programs and events that promote health education, physical activity and parental involvement. Knowing that a healthy child can achieve and learn more, PTAs are encouraging families to increase their physical activity, eat fresh fruits and vegetables, develop community oriented physical activity programs and promote healthy lifelong behaviors. National PTA’s Healthy Lifestyles Month has encouraged PTA to get creative and develop clever initiatives that make living healthy fun!



Visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for parent guides, helpful links and more information.



### DID YOU KNOW



Did You Know that WES is honoring Ms. Kimberly Blanks as “Teacher of the Year”

- The “Teacher of the Year” is voted on by the WES faculty and Administration. Ms. Blanks is currently being honored for her outstanding performance during the 2010-11 school year.
- Ms. Blanks works in the Special Education Department and is committed to ensuring that all students are fully included in the regular education classroom.
- Ms. Blanks is Chairperson for the Special Education Department, the Student Assistance Team (SAT), the Teacher Assistant Team (TAT), and the WOW Design Team. She is also the 504 coordinator, a screening specialist, and the behavior specialist for the PBS team.
- In her “spare time”, Ms. Blanks is working on her Doctorate Degree in Administration.

Thank You, Ms. Blanks, for your outstanding service to the students and faculty at WES!!

## Volunteers of the Month



### Jennifer Cardinal

What doesn't Jennifer Cardinal do?

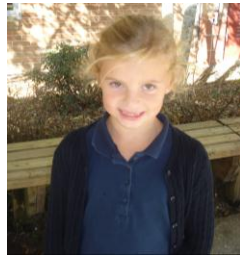
First, she is the school's Box Top & Label Coordinator. She manages all label processing and diligently tracks and fulfills the purchasing of reward items.

Jennifer is also one of Ms. Looper's Room Parents. On any given day, you will find Jennifer in the office making copies and laminating school work, not only for Ms. Looper but for any faculty member who needs help.

Jennifer is also a frequent contributor to the Pelican Press. She helps with fundraising. And, in her spare time, Jennifer also creates many of the wonderful cakes and desserts that adorn the buffet tables at school appreciation luncheons and special functions. Thank you, Jennifer, for all that you do!



## I am Thankful For...



"I'm thankful for my family and my sister Alexa."  
-Claire W., Ms. Burmaster



"I'm thankful for the good days."  
-Carys W., Ms. Gagnon



"I'm thankful that I get to have free center every day." -  
Drew G., Ms. Westover



"I'm thankful for my family and sports." -  
Brantley T., Ms. Valenti

## The Importance of Holidays and Traditions

Traditions are practices or beliefs that create positive feelings and are repeated at regular intervals. Often, traditions are handed down from generation to generation, but every family can create new traditions as well. Some traditions are religious, such as going to church and praying before meals. Others come from cultural or ethnic heritage, such as serving soup or dumplings on a cold winter's night.

Traditions and holidays help promote a sense of identity, a feeling of belonging, safety and security within the family. Holidays allow family members something to look forward to which gives them a sense of assurance in a hectic and ever changing world. This is one of the reasons families travel from long distances or come from right around the corner. Family bonds are often weakened by busy lifestyles; this can result in an "entropic family", which is one that loses its sense of emotional closeness because members neglect the family's inner life and community ties. Families can stay connected only by being intentional about maintaining important rituals and traditions. By spending time together in a fun and special setting, family members grow closer.

Thanksgiving is a holiday that is often filled with many family traditions. The first grade teachers have been sharing our Thanksgiving traditions with each other and we thought you would enjoy if we shared them with you.

Mrs. Astugue says, "My family has several Thanksgiving traditions. One of our traditions is having one of the children write the Thanksgiving Day Prayer. Before we eat, everyone in the family gets in a big circle and holds hands while the child reads the prayer. My 90 year old grandfather always adds his own prayer as well. I am very thankful to have my grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, brother, sister, mother and my own family together on this special day."

Mrs. Burmaster says, "I am so thankful for having a wonderful family to share Thanksgiving with. We get together every Thanksgiving and enjoy each other's presence and of course the wonderful food. We each bring our signature dish and make it like a big pot luck dinner. We talk about the good times we've had throughout the year and stuff our bellies full. Then the ladies like to sit around the table and look at all the ads for Black Friday. My mom and I always use the wishbone to

**I am Thankful For...**



“I’m thankful for my family.”  
-Brayden H, Ms. Hamm



“I’m thankful for a computer and my mom.”  
-Kennice C., Mr. Blake



“I’m thankful to have a safe home and to have siblings.”  
-Mary Raine C., Ms. Meyer



“I’m thankful for pumpkim pies! And my mommy and daddy and cousins” (sic)  
Colin F., Ms. Gerhardt

**Written by: The First Grade Teachers**

make a wish for our family to have more happiness, love and hope throughout the year.”

Mrs. Clemons says, "Thanksgiving was the day of your family football game. My family always went to my Uncle's house in Baton Rouge. After dinner we all went out to the front field and played flag football. We used old socks as our flags. The one thing I will always remember was the kids sat at one table and the adults sat at another. We could not wait until the day we could go into the dining room and eat at the "nice table". Today when we are together we still talk about that time. Now that I have a family of my own I miss those days. I have made new traditions with my children. Family is such an important part of my life. I hope that one day my own boys can tell their children about family traditions they had growing up. I hope that all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and remember to be thankful for all we have, even the little things.

Mrs. Pellerin says, "My family's favorite part of Thanksgiving is football! We make sure that we eat before the game so that we can all sit down and enjoy the game together. During halftime we go outside and play a quick game of

flag football. Of course, my team always wins! My favorite Thanksgiving dish is my Mimi's Mexican Spaghetti. It's not exactly traditional Thanksgiving food, but we all love it! "

Mrs. Stipe says," At Thanksgiving, I look forward to getting together with my family. We never know where it's going to be, but as long as we are all together it really doesn't matter. We just enjoy spending time together. We each bring our favorite dishes. I always look forward to my aunt's yummy, baked macaroni! The one thing that makes Thanksgiving complete is after eating we all look through the Thanksgiving Day ads. We all make our shopping list of all the great deals we are going to get!"

We hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving filled with wonderful memories and traditions!

-The First Grade Teachers



**Volunteers of the Month**



**Alice Landry**

On any given day at Woodlake, you can find Alice Landry. Alice volunteers in her daughter Anna Mace's kindergarten class and joins them for library, music and other pull-outs. If Alice is on campus, she jumps in to help as needed, whether it's serving appreciation lunches or hauling frozen cookie dough! We thank you Alice for your countless hours of volunteering!



**John Pearson**

Many of the flyers you receive from the WES PTA have been printed by John. He generously donates his time and printing services to help minimize our PTA costs so funds saved can be used elsewhere to benefit the school. Thank you, John, for your generosity. You are making a huge impact!

**Peli-Pics  
Red Ribbon Week**



Officer Powell talks to the students about saying no to drugs.



Mr. Blake's class is ready to "Tie Down Drugs."



Ms. Davis' class puts a "cap" on drugs.



**Send us your photos!** If you have photos that you would like to see in the Pelican Press, please email them along with their captions to [newsletter@woodlakepta.org](mailto:newsletter@woodlakepta.org)

**Peli-Pics: Wild About Art**



The Southeast Louisiana Refuges office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held its 12th annual Wild Things! Youth Art Contest. The contest inspires youth, ages 5 to 18, to create original artwork in the mediums of drawing and painting. The focus of the contest was native wildlife and our environment. Two WES 2<sup>nd</sup> graders (pictured left to right) received awards: Paige Pratt, 3rd place and Maggie Miller, honorable mention.

**Snowflake Shop**



**ATTENTION SHOPPERS ~  
IT'S SNOWFLAKE SHOP TIME**

The WES PTA will be hosting its annual SNOWFLAKE SHOP the week of December 5th - 9th. In what has become one of the most anticipated events of the year, this holiday bazaar provides all of our little pelicans with the opportunity to shop for the special people in their lives. We partner with Das Schulerhaus, the Attic and other local vendors to provide quality gifts at below retail prices. We even wrap the gifts our pelicans so proudly select. It's a fun week for all!!

We'll need lots of volunteers to help make this event a success. We'll need help with set-up on December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> during the event itself (see page 2 for specific times). If interested, please contact Kim Lavelle at [kklavelle@bellsouth.net](mailto:kklavelle@bellsouth.net) or 504-451-5785. Thank you!

**Celebrate the Holidays and Support  
WES at Vianne's Teddy Bear Tea!**

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 - 6:00 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)**





23052 Highway 1088, Mandeville  
(985) 727-7277

[www.MandevilleSportsComplex.com](http://www.MandevilleSportsComplex.com)

## Register NOW for Thanksgiving Holiday Camp!



November 21, 22, 23, & 25  
9:00 – 3:00 pm



Children can spend their day at the gym participating in free play on gymnastic floor, trampolines & equipment, Diamond Mine, Bounce House, playing beach volleyball, outdoor sports, learning new things and making new friends.



Only \$30 per day

Before Care, After Care, & Lunch Available



## KIDS FUN NIGHT!



Friday Nights  
6-9 pm  
\$12.00

3 hours of Supervised Free Play on Gymnastics Floor, Diamond Mine, Bounce House, & Trampolines

November Dates: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>

### After School Care Join the Fun!

- ❖ Homework room with Assistance
- ❖ Weekly gymnastics play
- ❖ Basketball, Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Flag Football
- ❖ Computer Lab, Play Stations
- ❖ Diamond Mine
- ❖ Game Room (ping pong, foosball, air hockey, etc.)
- ❖ Arts & Crafts
- ❖ Snacks Provided Daily
- ❖ Van Service from Magnolia Trace, Lake Harbor, Woodlake & Marigny

**FREE School ½ Days  
½ off Holiday Camp Days**

### Registration still Open for Session

Boys & Girls Gymnastics, Cheer Tumble, and Trampoline & Tumbling

Now offering recreational classes weekday and Saturday Mornings!



Visit us online for a complete class schedule!





### Woodlake Elementary School

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

### WES PTA Executive Board 2011-2012

#### Presidents:

Melissa Gourgues  
Gail Owens

[president@woodlakepta.org](mailto:president@woodlakepta.org)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

Jennifer Boudreaux

[membership@woodlakepta.org](mailto:membership@woodlakepta.org)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

Kimberly Wisner

[volunteer@woodlakepta.org](mailto:volunteer@woodlakepta.org)

#### Treasurer:

Kathleen Sides

[treasurer@woodlakepta.org](mailto:treasurer@woodlakepta.org)

#### Secretary:

Chrissy Henrickle

[secretary@woodlakepta.org](mailto:secretary@woodlakepta.org)

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](mailto:newsletter@woodlakepta.org).

A color, electronic version of the newsletter is available online at [www.woodlakepta.org](http://www.woodlakepta.org), click on "Pelican Press."

## Pelican Palooza Sponsorships Available

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 a"WES"some 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](mailto:kwalston37@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

## Pelican Palooza: Trinkets Needed

Was Halloween too good at your house? Do you have extra spider rings, tattoos or other extra goodies? Are you looking to get rid of them?

*Donate them to the Pelican Palooza!!*

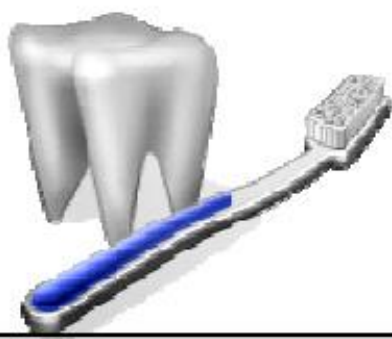
We are looking for toys and trinkets to use as grab bag prizes at the Pelican Palooza Carnival. All items can be sent in to the office.



## Thank You to our WES PTA Corporate Partner:

**Michael G. Dragon DDS**

**FAMILY DENTISTRY**



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Mandeville, La 70471

985-626-0544