

Woodlake Elementary Pelican Press

October 2011
Volume 25, Issue 3



Woodlake Elementary School

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

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

Principal's Letter



Dear Parents and Families,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Bring Someone Special to Lunch Week" in September. As I walked around talking to families, I was really amazed at the distance that some of our grandparents had come to be with their grandchildren. I met some of our grandparents from Vermont, Texas, and Florida, just to name a few of the states they had come from. We really enjoy parents and grandparents visiting our school whether it is for lunch, Morning Meeting, special events, or to volunteer in the library or art room.

We have moved our Morning Meeting onto the Pelican's Nest, due to construction taking up some of the area of the gym. For inclement weather days, we will make arrangements to have divided Morning Meetings in several areas of the school. I apologize for this inconvenience, but when the construction gets completed we will be able to really enjoy the results.

Our St. Tammany Parish School District Maintenance Department has worked hard to take care of Woodlake Elementary School even though we have only been at school for nine weeks. They removed the large tree that fell on the playground right before school started. They also removed all the playground equipment that was damaged by the tree. The Maintenance Department men have gotten us a new shed to store our P.E. equipment while construction is going on in the gym. This hard working crew has hauled off much equipment, and debris that had accumulated.

Thanks to Mr. Tillman and all his wonderful guys for all their efforts. We have placed a gate near the end of the Multiage/Kindergarten area for the safety of everyone. This is near the street and the construction site. We certainly hope that this does not inconvenience anyone. The teachers in this area all have keys to open and close this gate, in case they should need to exit this area. Parents are doing a wonderful job entering and exiting our car rider area! Thanks for the awesome job that you are doing in their area. We LOVE your patience!

Thanks to the many volunteers that make such a difference at our school already this year! You are everywhere and greatly appreciated! Thanks to our parents and students for your efforts with the PTA cookie dough fundraiser this year! You went above and beyond the expected goal! If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to call us at (985) 626-8842 or email me at lelia.parker@stpsb.org. I am so thankful to work with such a dedicated staff and the beautiful children that you share with us each day at WES.

Le lia Parker
Principal

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ **October 22** - Election Day
- ◆ **October 24-28** - Red Ribbon Week
- ◆ **October 24** -
November 11 - Shoe Recycling Drive
- ◆ **November 4** - Reflections Deadline
- ◆ **November 5** - Fall Spruce Up Day, 8 am
- ◆ **November 7 to 11** - Food Drive

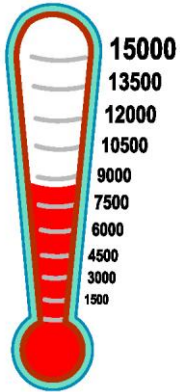


Did You Know...WES has an aWESome Guidance Counselor?

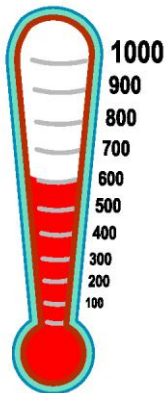
(see story on page 3)

PTA Goals for 2011-2012

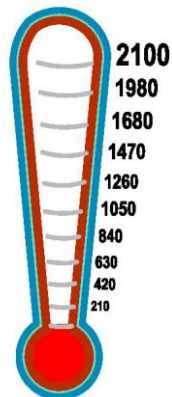
Box Tops
Goal: 15,000
Current: 8,332



PTA Membership
Goal: 1,000
Current: 600



Food Drive
Goal: 2,100
Current: 0



October/November 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
October 17	18 Triple Nickel Grill Night	19 Custodial & Cafeteria Appreciation Luncheon	20 Domino's Night	21	22
24	25	26 Mellow Mushroom Night	27	28	23 Dad's Club Clean Up Day 12:30pm
Red Ribbon Week (see page 3)					
31 BOO!	November 1	2	3	4 Reflections Deadline	5 Fall Spruce Up Day-8am
7	8	9 Bop's Night	10 Domino's Night	11	6
Food Drive (see page 7)					
14	15 Triple Nickel Grill Night	16	17	18	12
					13
					19
					20

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

Woodlake Restaurant Nights

Several parents have asked: "Why do we have *so many Restaurant Nights?*" It's simple. Restaurant owners are interested in supporting Woodlake and they do so by donating a portion of meal purchases back to the school. In turn, Woodlake families have the opportunity to support the local business community by going to these restaurants.

In the month of September, WES earned over \$200 "cash back" via four restaurant nights! This money goes right back into your child(ren)'s education. We certainly don't expect families to participate in every Restaurant Night. Rather, we hope there's an option available that fits your taste, schedule, and budget. In the fast paced world we live in, it's nice to take a night off once in a while and let someone else do the cooking! And if you have an interest in or connection to a restaurant that would like to participate, please send your suggestions to Melissa or Gail at president@woodlakepta.org. Bon appétit!!

- Bop's (2660 Florida Street, Mandeville): second Wednesday of each month
- Domino's Pizza: second Thursday of each month
- Triple Nickel Grill (813 Florida Street, Mandeville): third Tuesday of each month
- Mellow Mushroom (1645 N Hwy 190, Covington): fourth Wednesday of each month

A Note from Your PTA Presidents...

“Going Green” is a popular catch-phrase today, but also a valuable concept to live by. Here’s an eye-opening statistic*: every 50 sheets of copy paper that are recycled rather than land-filled saves enough energy to run a laptop computer for more than 4 hours! Imagine if every sheet of copy paper were recycled rather than thrown away?

Recycling has a clear benefit in terms of saving energy. But it goes beyond that. Recycling also keeps our environment cleaner and, believe it or not, bolsters our economy. At Woodlake we’re doing our part to help the cause.

Shown below are the items we recycle at school. And what we don’t recycle at Woodlake you can recycle across from the Fire Station on Girod Street. They will take just about everything (aluminum, glass, cardboard, plastic).

So if you are looking for a great habit to start as a family, consider recycling and “going green”!

* source: *Individual Waste Reduction Model*

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/iwarm/index.htm>



DID YOU KNOW



Did You Know... that WES has an aWESome guidance counselor, Miriam Pecot?

Ms Mimi, as she is affectionately known, meets with each class every other week. She discusses topics such as self awareness and self esteem, positive and respectful behavior, bullying and taking responsibility. She incorporates relaxation techniques, games, drawing, music and role play to make her counseling sessions fun yet very educational.

Students always look forward to Ms. Mimi’s visits to their classroom.



Newspaper, magazines, white copy & notebook paper, white envelopes (without plastic window) (drop items in the Southeast Paper dumpster in front of the school)



Empty Ink cartridges (send to the office)



Aluminum can flip tops (not the whole can). Send in baggie to Ms. Looper’s attention.

Your PTA Co-Presidents,
Melissa Gourgues
Gail Owens



Unused/Broken Cell Phones (Send to the office)



Fall Spruce Up Day: November 5th

Are you like the rest of us and love “instant gratification”? WES needs your help in sprucing up our lovely campus. What better way to see a change and meet new people.

Please join us and bring the kids on **Saturday, November 5th, from 8 - 11am.** Please bring any equipment you may think of to help in the process-weed eaters, rakes, shears, gloves, etc. Please contact Michelle Chautin @ 807-7422 for any questions or suggestions. Thanks and we’ll see you there!



October 24-28th will be Red Ribbon Week. We have some fun and educational activities planned for the week. We will have a DARE officer visiting our school and we will have a special theme for each day of the week. Please stay tuned for the flyer coming home.

Black and Gold Day

WES raised \$786.60 for the Children's Museum of St. Tammany!



Ms. Looper's Multi-age Troopers have some fun on Black and Gold Day!



Mrs Blackburn's "Who Dats" enjoy class outside.



Mason, Nick, Wyatt, and Jaden enjoy reading while showing their "Who Dat" spirit.

PTA State News: Get Out and Vote - October 22nd



There is a very important election impacting **public school education** on Saturday, October 22nd. Residents will be voting for state BESE representatives. BESE is the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. It governs all public schools in the State. Louisiana is divided into districts. The 1st District includes all of St. Tammany, Washington and Tangipahoa Parishes as well as most of East Jefferson, parts of West Jefferson, and a portion of the New Orleans lakefront and St. Charles Parishes. The responsibilities of BESE include, among others, determining a formula for funding schools, setting policies (e.g., attendance & grading scales), and overseeing the Recovery School District. Needless to say, BESE has a very influential role in the educational future of our children.

BESE consists of 11 members. Three are appointed by the Governor and eight are elected. All eight elected seats are up for reelection this fall. That's where you come in. Your vote matters and our the education of our children depends on it. There are three candidates running for the 1st District BESE seat. James Garvey of Metairie is the incumbent. His opponents are Lee Barrios of Abita Springs and Sharon Hewitt of Slidell. Please take the time to educate yourself in order to make an informed decision. To learn more about BESE, please visit <http://www.doe.state.la.us/bese/>. You should also research the candidates to better understand their positions and where they stand on issues that are important to you. Your children will thank you!



Cookie Dough Pickup Schedule

Thursday, October 27th

Cookie Dough must be picked up before 6:30pm in the Gym

The bus circle will be open from
1:45pm - 3:00pm and 4:30pm - 6:30pm

*** Cookie Dough is Perishable ***

All orders MUST be picked up or they will be thrown out.

Congratulations to all of the WES parents, students, faculty and friends for a PHENOMENAL job of selling Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough. The commitment and support of the entire WES family has allowed the PTA to fund over \$5,700 in faculty grants. Please stay tuned - our November issue will update you on other programs that were funded through your efforts.

Helpful Parenting Tips

Mimi Pecot NCC, LPC
School Counselor

Parenting may be one of the toughest jobs you will ever love. There are some things you can try that can make it easier. Every parent wants their child to cooperate, make good choices, and to be happy. Demands of everyday life can make parenting challenging at times. Please read and consider using some of these helpful suggestions.

Modeling: Model kind and respectful behavior for your child. Make sure your child sees you treating others with respect in your daily life. Being polite and thanking the cashier may seem like a small thing, but remember that you are modeling expected behavior for your child.

Encourage: A child often doubts his or her abilities. Sometimes he or she will verbalize lack of confidence and other times it is a secret. You can help by sharing your own confidence in their abilities. A little praise goes a long way!

Family Time: Daily dinner time together, a weekly game night, chores done as a team, and any other creative ideas are great ways to foster a sense of family in your home. Have a night together.

Friendships count: An elementary age child is learning a great deal about friendships. What works and what does not. The ability to join in play of peers

is a major task in childhood. The child who wants to join in needs to be friendly, watch, and then find the courage to speak to their peers. Role-playing different situations at home is helpful. The students have fun in class role-playing.

Limits: Always try to provide clear behavioral limits in a warm, loving way. If you teach your child that no means no, then he or she will have a much easier time as a learner in the classroom. The website, Positive Discipline, is a great starting point for learning the parenting skills to accomplish this (visit www.positivediscipline.com).

Pick your battles: In the end you will win the war. Some things do not warrant a power struggle between parents and children. There are “teachable moments.” Save the severe consequences for the most critical lessons.

I hope these tips are helpful to all of you hard working parents. I encourage your comments and questions.

The St Tammany Parish Hospital has some great parenting classes and co-parenting classes being offered. For more information you can call (985) 898-4435 or visit www.stph.org/parentingcenter.

Volunteers of the Month



Susan Buras was nominated as one of Woodlake's volunteers of the Month for outstanding service in her daughter Sophia's classroom. Ms. Buras helps Ms. Clemon's class in the library and art class. Not only is she one of the homeroom moms, but she volunteer's to take projects home to work on! Thank you Susan!



Shannon Breaux was also nominated for going above and beyond in Ms. Clemon's class. She comes into the class to read as well as help in the library and anywhere else she's needed. Her daughter Allie is very proud that she is a homeroom mom. She takes lots of work home to do and in her "free" time, she is a Daisy leader at the School. Way to go Shannon.



Lisa Fazio is super busy at Woodlake. She spends at least two days a week in Mr. Blake's class. Lisa's experience as a teacher helps with Reading Buddies and one-on-one reading. When she's not WES, Lisa loves to travel and scrapbook.

Thank you so much to these outstanding volunteers!

Thank You to our WES PTA Corporate Partners



Great lunches, Sunday Brunch
Tea Time and Tea Shop

Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday and Sunday 9am - 5pm

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Peli-Pics - Bring Someone Special to Lunch Week



Here's your friendly reminder that the deadline for National PTA Reflections Program entries is Friday, November 4. The theme is "Diversity means ..." Entries should be submitted to your child's teacher.

To Recap: This year's theme is "Diversity Means..." The Reflections Program encourages students to use cultural art as a medium to communicate their views of the world around them. There are six art categories to choose from: Literature, Visual Arts, Photography, Musical Composition, Dance Choreography and Film Production. Students may submit an entry in any (or multiple) categories.

All entries must be original work created by your child. Information was recently sent home explaining the criteria for each category. Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Good luck to all of our participants!



2nd grader Miles and his dad let their creativity flow while sharing lunch during "Bring Someone Special to Lunch Week."



Evan L. and Hailey L. in Mrs. Rapier's class and Kate L. enjoy lunch with their someone special.



Jill H. in Mrs. Burn's class enjoys lunch with her mom.



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

...and Learning is Fun!



2nd grader Aidan Schneider reads to Ms. Dickinson's Kindergarten class.



Hailey, Elizabeth, and Katherine in Mrs. Algier's class love to read during library time.

Thank You to our WES PTA Corporate Partners!



Das Schulerhaus
Gift Gallery
Christmas Boutique

620 Girod Street
Mandeville, LA 70448
985-727-7778

A B C
MINI STORAGE INC.
U-HAUL DEALER

(985) 626-3120
Cell. 807-7510
2340 Florida St. (Hwy 190)
Mandeville, LA 70448

(985) 626-1536
1033 Gerard St. (Hwy 59)
Mandeville, LA 70448

PTA Mini-Grants Awarded

At the start of the school year, the WES PTA announced a grant opportunity to the faculty. All members of the faculty were eligible to apply for a \$1000 grant.

The grants were submitted to Ms. Parker for approval before being turned over to a 5 person grant committee that consisted of a school administrator, 2 WES PTA executive board members and 2 educators outside of WES.

Each grant was evaluated on 5 criteria: innovative nature, educational merit, project design, ability to evaluate and cost.

The PTA is pleased to announce that we were able to fund 8 grants (valued at over \$5,700) for this school year:

- Enriching the 3rd grade Curriculum (Ms. Hall)
- Making News (Ms. Meyer)
- Finding Individual Greatness With: Self Portrait Sculptures (Ms. Thompson)
- Science Inquiry for Pre-Kindergartners (Ms. Rapier)
- Technology Enhancement (Ms. Wells)
- Badminton for Health, Fun and Education (Ms. Shostak)
- i-Pod Touches for the Classroom (Ms. Collins)
- Lights! Camera! Action! (Ms. Richardson)

Winners of the grant program were announced during professional development training on October 7th. Each grant recipient was presented with all of the materials requested on their application. The PTA would like to thank Ms. Parker, Ms. Haley and Ms. Roxane Palermo for all of their help in making this PTA program a huge success.



On October 7th the WES PTA awarded over \$5,700 to faculty members through the PTA Mini-Grant program. Pictured left to right are Ms. Thompson (Art), Gail Owens (PTA), Ms. Hall (3rd Grade), Ms. Richardson (2nd Grade), Ms. Collins (Kindergarten), Ms. Wells (Kindergarten), Ms. Rapier (Pre-K), Ms. Meyer (Multi-Age) and Melissa Gourgues (PTA). Not pictured is Ms. Shostak (P.E.).



Got Shoes?

In support of America Recycles Day, WES is joining forces with Keep Mandeville Beautiful and other area schools to organize a shoe recycling drive. Our drive supports the charitable works of Sole4Souls, a non-profit organization that collects and distributes shoes to people living in extreme poverty and recovering from disasters within the United States and abroad. In fact, Soles4Souls was founded by Wayne Elsey shortly after he successfully organized the delivery of over a million pairs of shoes to gulf coast communities affected by Hurricane Katrina.

So Woodlake families, it's time to clean out your closets and donate any new or gently-used shoes. We'll accept all types: athletic/running shoes, cleats, dress shoes, sandals, pumps/heels, dance shoes, flip flops and work boots. From **October 24 - November 11**, please bring your donations to the school and know that your contributions will make a better life for individuals around the world! To learn more about Soles4Souls, visit www.soles4souls.org.

Samaritan Center Food Drive

Our November 2011 Food Drive will be held the week of November 7th to 11th. In order to help those less fortunate than ourselves, please try to bring in a non-perishable food item such as canned cranberry sauce, peas, corn, green beans, gravy cans/packs, peanut butter & jelly, canned meats or any item you think someone else would enjoy. Also needed are personal care items, such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant and paper products. Any contributions are greatly appreciated.

The PTA's goal for this school year is to collect at least 2,100 items. The "Golden Can Award" will be awarded at morning meeting to the top three classes that submit the most items. Those classes will receive a surprise treat. Thank you for helping support our community with this effort!





Woodlake Elementary School

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

WES PTA Executive Board 2011-2012

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Melissa Gourgues
Gail Owens

president@woodlakepta.org

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Jennifer Boudreaux

membership@woodlakepta.org

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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, Stacey Dehmer and Jennifer Boudreaux, via email at newsletter@woodlakepta.org.

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

Watch D.O.G.S. Dad's Update

Currently, we are working on building an email list for those who have expressed interest in participating in the Watch D.O.G.S. program and the WES Dad's Club so that notifications and accessibility becomes more streamlined. This will also allow us to provide updates as activities develop. If you are interested in being placed on this list, but did not sign up at the Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Party, please email me to provide your information.

Ms. Parker has provided a "to do" wish list of items that need attention around campus. We have scheduled Sunday, October 23rd at 12:30 pm to get started on some of those items including clearing the walkway that goes to the outside classroom and digging up the shrubbery and plants in the butterfly garden. If you have any special skills or access to equipment that can be used to assist in getting these projects done, please let us know.

The Dad's Club encourages you to join the PTA if you have not already done so. For further details, go to woodlakepta.org.

We are proud to share that as of October 3rd, our Watch D.O.G.S. have begun volunteering their days on campus.

Women of Woodlake

The Women of Woodlake donned their work gloves, grabbed a hammer and got to work building a home on October 5 during the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build. Pictured left to right are: Gail Owens, Laura Harrison, Stephanie Folse, Chrissy Henrickle (kneeling), Karen de Freitas, Debbie Sellers, Andrea de Freitas, Jennifer Boudreaux, D'Ann Davis, Melissa Gourgues, Stacey Dehmer and Robyn Foster. Not pictured are Nancy Miller, Anna Parmer and Jennifer Hahn.

If you have not yet selected a date, please take a moment to look at your calendar and schedule a day to volunteer. You can email me with the date that works best for you. We also ask that you please wear your Watch D.O.G.S. t-shirt while on campus, as it verifies your role to the children, faculty and staff that you are on campus for a purpose, and identifies you as a Watch D.O.G.S. Dad.

Finally, we are in need of volunteers on November 14th to deliver the Samaritan Center donations collected from the Food Drive. If you are available on the 14th, please contact me.

If you have any questions about being added to the email list, ordering a t-shirt, or would like more information about the Watch D.O.G.S. program, please email me at glenn.wesdadsclub@gmail.com.

Glenn Nunenmacher
WES Dad's Club

