

Woodlake Elementary Pelican Press

September 2011
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Woodlake Elementary School

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ **September 20**
Yearbook Pictures
- ◆ **September 30:** No School, Parish Fair Day
- ◆ **October 5:** Habitat for Humanity Women's Build
- ◆ **October 7:** No School, End of 1st Quarter

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents,

Our 2011-2012 school year is off to such a wonderful start! I have certainly discovered that we have the most wonderful students, parents, faculty and staff in the world right here at Woodlake! Thanks to everyone for your patience with me as I am trying to recognize faces and remember the names of our students and parents. Thanks to our many volunteers and families that helped us get off to a great beginning!

Our Open School evenings went very well. We had so many parents visiting and meeting with the teachers. Thanks for your awesome support!

We also had many parents who participated in our Watchdog Dad Kick-off and the Parent Volunteer Meetings. Both of these groups are going to make a wonderful difference in our school.

Please make sure that you have completed your pink emergency card and have sent it back to school. This is very important. The numbers that you provide on this card are most essential in case of illness or accident.

Please send a note in your child's agenda if you are going to change the way that your child normally goes home. Otherwise, this can be very confusing to little ones. We also ask that you please do not check your

child out of school after 3:20 P.M. This is prime time for teachers to help students complete their agendas and get organized for home assignments.

I am asking all parents to support our efforts to promote daily student attendance. Please ensure that your child arrives by 8:40 A.M. to begin the school day in a timely manner. According to our state /district policy, students are allowed only ten cumulative absences per year. More than 10 cumulative absences will result in making up instructional time or grade retention. Additional information regarding attendance will be send home soon with your child.

During the week of September 19 - September 23, our students will have the opportunity to share lunch with "Special Someone." Students in each grade have a designated day and time to share lunch with a parent, grandparent, etc. We welcome you to come join us at school with your special Pelican.

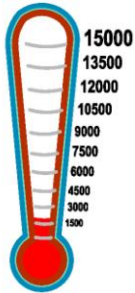
--Lelia Parker



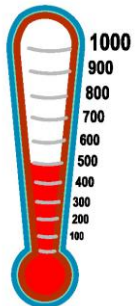
Did You Know... WES has a Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC)?
(see story on page 3)

PTA Goals for 2011-2012

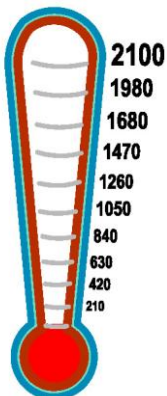
Box Tops
Goal: 15,000
Current: 2091



PTA Membership
Goal: 1000
Current: 498



Food Drive
Goal: 2100
Current: 0



September/October 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
Sept 19	20 Yearbook Pictures	21	22	23	24
Bring Someone Special to Lunch Week					25
26	27	28 Mellow Mushroom Night	29	30 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Parish Fair Holiday	Oct 1
3	4	5 Habitat for Humanity Women's Build (see page 10) TJ's Burgers Night	6 Teacher Appreciation Mini- Luncheon	7 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> End of 1 st quarter	8
10	11 Family Learning Night 6pm	12 Bop's Day	13 Domino's Night	14	9 15
17	18 Triple Nickel Grill Night	19 Custodial & Cafeteria Appreciation Luncheon	20	21	16 22
					23

Visit www.woodlakepta.org for more information on scheduled events.
Click on "WES PTA Calendar."

Volunteer Opportunities

My Coke Rewards Data Entry
Volunteers are needed to help enter in My Coke Rewards codes. The reward codes will be sent home with your child for you to enter them online to earn cash for WES. If you are able to help with this at home project, please contact Jennifer Cardinal at cjr4lsu@yahoo.com.



Teacher Appreciation Mini-Luncheon and Custodial & Cafeteria Workers Appreciation Luncheon

Volunteers are needed to bring a luncheon item on the following dates:

- Thursday, Oct 6 - contact Heidi Bowsbey, (hbowsbey@bellsouth.net)
- Wednesday, Oct 19 - contact Stephanie Dalton, (asdaltan@bellsouth.net)

PTA Presidents' Letter

Is there anything more precious to you than your child? The Woodlake Administration makes your child's safety their #1 priority. As parents and as volunteers at the school, we need to support that effort. We can do our part to help by following a few simple guidelines.

First, whenever you come on campus to volunteer, please bring your driver's license and check in at the office. You will be given a name badge to wear. This badge helps everyone on campus identify you as a volunteer. When your volunteer time is completed, please return your name badge to the office to "sign out."

Not only does this sign-in process help maintain the school's safety standards, but it also helps our PTA track volunteer hours. Did you know that your volunteer time can translate to money for the school? Many times when the school or PTA applies for a grant, volunteer hours is a key element for qualification. The more parent participation and volunteer hours accumulated, the better the chance of being awarded a grant. In addition, the PTA documents volunteer hours to earn local, district, and state PTA honors.

PTA Membership

We would like to thank everyone who has already become a member - we are half-way to our goal! Remember, ALL family members can join the PTA - moms, dads, grandparents, students and siblings.

For only \$5, members become a voice in the largest advocacy group for children in the United States. We also welcome businesses to join as a Corporate PTA Partner for \$25 or more.

Second, you will be asked to sign a Confidentiality Agreement the first time that you volunteer on campus. This signed form will be kept on file in the office. The agreement helps to ensure that our students' privacy is maintained.

Lastly, we are very fortunate to be one of the few schools in our district that welcomes younger siblings on campus. This allows parents to volunteer without having to find alternative childcare. Please be sure that younger siblings stay with you at all times on campus. It is not the responsibility of faculty or office personnel to watch your child. And if your youngster(s) requires lots of attention from you, it may be best to seek out alternative childcare! We love preparing our future Pelicans for Woodlake, but not if it compromises the learning experience of current students.

Thank you for doing your part to make Woodlake a safe and secure campus for our children. And thank you for your time and continued support. It's a privilege to be part of such a wonderful school!

Your PTA Co-Presidents,
Melissa Gourgues
Gail Owens

To learn more about the benefits of PTA membership, visit the PTA national website at www.pta.org.

Should you have questions or wish to join, please either contact Jennifer Boudreaux, membership@woodlakepta.org, or complete the membership form found on our website, www.woodlakepta.org and send it to school with your student.



DID YOU KNOW WES has a Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC)?

- Two (2) students from each 3rd grade class are selected to be on the SNAC.
- They work with Ms. Christie, WES' award-winning Cafeteria Manager, to promote the "Go, Glow, Grow" philosophy on healthy eating habits.
- The SNAC visits each Pre-K through 1st grade class two times per year, conducting taste tests on healthy foods and reading books on nutrition.



- SNAC students even learn how to make their own bread!

Volunteers of the Month



As our Office Volunteer Coordinator, **Shelley Taylor** has already volunteered over 40 hours in the school office this year, both working and training new volunteers. In addition, Shelley helped with the faculty back-to-school luncheon in August. The next time you see Shelley's smiling face in the office, please tell her "thank you!"



Vanessa Thibaut is a member of our WES Pelican Pride Shop Committee. She volunteered throughout the summer preparing back-to-school orders. She visits WES weekly to fill new orders for t-shirts and tote bags. Vanessa will be co-chairing the Snowflake Shop in December. Thank you Vanessa for all of your hard work!

School News: Outdoor Classroom Renovations

Phase II of our boardwalk project has been completed. The boardwalk surrounding the playground is now extended to the outdoor classroom that is tucked back in the woods. No longer will rainy days keep classes away. The new additions include a raised, handicapped accessible boardwalk and a covered chalkboard.



On August 25th, Mandeville Mayor Donald Villere and City Councilwoman Carla Buccholz visited Woodlake Elementary to help the school kickoff its 2nd annual Keep Mandeville Beautiful paper recycling program. After morning meeting, Mayor Villere and Ms. Buchholz joined Ms. Parker and Ms. Stipe's first grade class for a visit to our newly renovated outdoor classroom. This classroom reminds students of the importance of recycling and preserving our environment.

Woodlake Honored with the USDA HealthierUS Gold Award of Distinction

Fifty nine schools in the nation were awarded the HealthierUS School Challenge Program's highest level of recognition for excellence in food service and nutrition. Twenty five public schools in St. Tammany Parish received this award, including Woodlake Elementary. The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC) is a voluntary initiative established in 2004 to recognize those schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that have created healthier school environments by meeting specialized program criteria.

Schools have the opportunity to become certified as Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Gold Award of Distinction Schools, depending on meeting certain criteria ranging from development of a wellness policy and promoting physical education to limits on sugar and salt in the meals served. A key component is nutrition education, where students learn about the food pyramid, whole grain foods, and the importance of vegetables.

The U.S.D.A. commended the schools for the exemplary steps, leadership and team work employed to make changes to their school's nutrition environment, improve the quality of the foods served, provide students with more nutritious, healthy choices, and enhance their physical activity program. In acknowledgement of their achievement, each school received a HUSC award plaque and a banner to display for meeting the Healthier US School Challenge's updated criteria. The names of the schools also will be added to the HUSC awardee list on the Team Nutrition HUSC website.

The School System's "Go, Glow and Grow" program was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for outstanding effectiveness in providing nutrition education.

Both Ms. Parker and Ms. Lewis, our cafeteria manager, are traveling to the White House on October 14th for recognition.

Peli-Pics



Matthew C. and Hayden S. practice reading during reading centers in Mrs. Burmaster's 1st grade class.



Mrs. Looper's multi-age class enjoyed green eggs and ham, Front row: Cruse W., Holly O., and Elizabeth ?? Back row: Nick ? and Caroline C.



Mrs. Mitchell shows the kindergarten boys how much fun we have at Woodlake!



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.



WES Restaurant Nights

Eat at these great local restaurants on the specified day and the restaurant will donate a portion of the proceeds back to Woodlake. Be sure to tell them you are there to support WES!

- **First Wednesday of each month: TJ's Burgers** at 2820 East Causeway Approach



- **Second Wednesday of each Month: Bop's** at 2660 Florida Street



- **Second Thursday of each month: Domino's Pizza**



- **Third Tuesday of each month: Triple Nickel Grill** at 813 Florida St.

- **Last Wednesday of each month: Mellow Mushroom** at 1645 N Hwy 190, Covington

PTA News: Open Board Positions

We're looking for aWESome volunteers to join our PTA Board. Listed to the right are the available Committee Chair positions. We also welcome all volunteers to be a part of any committee that is of interest to you. Committee Descriptions are posted on our website at www.woodlakepta.org, just click on "Volunteer."

For more information, please contact Melissa or Gail at president@woodlakepta.org.

Available Board Positions:

- Environmental/Recycling
- Grants
- Health and Fitness
- Pelican Palooza Co-Chair
- Publicity Representatives (Pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd)



Help Expand our Library!



We are planning to use our Box Tops for Education funds to add more books to the WES Library.

At woodlakepta.org, we have started a Book List discussion where you can reply with the title and author of books that you would like to see in the WES library.

To add to our wish list, visit woodlakepta.org, and click on **WES PTA Blog**.

Save the Date!



Red Ribbon Week
October 24th - 28th

PTA General Meeting
Thursday, November 3rd
6:30 pm

**Woodlake Fall Spruce
Up Day**
Saturday, November 5th
8:00 - 11:00 am

Pelican Pals

Ms. Amy Gagnon

We are excited to begin our 2nd year of Pelican Pals! Pelican Pals supports our inclusive community at Woodlake Elementary. Third grade students act as “buddies” for our friends with special needs in Mrs. Gagnon’s class. Last year our buddies helped us grow our vegetable garden. We grew peppers, herbs, cucumbers, carrots, and lettuce. We also had a camping day where we set up our tent and enjoyed a “campfire.” Sometimes our buddies simply joined us in our classroom by playing games and doing puzzles with us. We also enjoyed going to recess with our buddies and playing ball. We really look forward to seeing our friends each day.

Third graders can sign up to be a Pelican Pal! Mrs. Gagnon will send home a permission slip for parents to sign if you would like to be a



Pelican Pal. Students come during their recess time to Mrs. Gagnon’s class. Two students may sign up per day. Pelican Pals will begin when we return to school on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. Please see Mrs. Gagnon if you would like to participate.



Will R. takes a bike ride with the help of his Pelican Pal, Denise P.!

NABSE Parent’s Summit

The National Alliance of Black School Educators’ Parent Commission and the U.S. Department of Education invites you to The 2011 Parent’s Summit at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 from 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

All parents are welcome to come and learn about:

- Family Engagement in Education
- Focus group dialogue with parents and educators
- Parent Liaison training and sharing of best practices
- What resources are available to parents

- Understanding the Louisiana Academic Content Standards
- Special Education: Understanding the IEP Process
- Family’s health - Children and parent!

Please visit www.nabse.org and click on 2011 NABSE Conference for more information and to REGISTER ONLINE.

Parents night: Friday, November 18, 2011 • 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Parents will meet educators and administrators from all over North America and beyond.



New Faculty 2011-2012: Meet the Teachers Q & A

WES welcomes our new teachers!



Meet Ms. Carla Skinner, T-1

Q: Where did you grow up and go to school?

A: *I grew up in Slidell and I graduated from LSU.*

Q: What was your favorite subject in elementary school?

A: *I loved science in elementary school.*

Q: Tell us a little bit about your family:

A: *My mom is from Honduras and my dad is a Yankee. We all love Spanish food. I have five brothers and sisters.*

Q: How do you like spending your free time away from WES?

A: *I enjoy spending time with my husband and my puppy. I also like to go out to eat at new places.*

Q: What is your favorite part about being a teacher at Woodlake?

A: *The hugs I get at the end of the day!*

Q: What is your favorite thing about Woodlake so far?

A: *My favorite thing about Woodlake is how helpful everyone is here.*

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: *Yes, I have a puppy. His name is LeRoy Swagger Skinner.*



Meet Ms. April, Gifted and Resource

Q: Where did you grow up and go to school?

A: *I grew up in New Orleans and went to several neighborhood schools. One school was Palmer Elementary. I graduated from Redemptorist High School in New Orleans.*

Q: What was your favorite subject in elementary school?

A: *I have always loved mathematics.*

Q: Tell us a little bit about your family.

A: *I have two daughters, Rebecca and Rachel. Rebecca graduated from LSU and Rachel graduated from SELU. Both girls are Art Majors.*

Q: How do you like spending your free time away from WES?

A: *I enjoy visiting with my family and friends.*

Q: What is your favorite part about being a teacher at Woodlake?

A: *I love the "family" atmosphere and how everyone has welcomed me at school.*

Q: What is your favorite thing about Woodlake so far?

A: *My favorite things about Woodlake are the faculty, staff, and of course the students. I love morning meeting time.*



Meet Ms. Koral Wells, Kindergarten

September 24th

National PTA® and Nickelodeon are collaborating on Worldwide Day of Play, an initiative that encourages kids to go outside and play. Worldwide Day of Play is an entire day dedicated to active play. On September 24th, Nickelodeon goes completely “dark” for three hours, turning off programming. Take this opportunity to encourage your kids to get up, get out and go play!

Q: Where did you grow up and go to school?

A: *I grew up between Baton Rouge and Hammond visiting my parents. I went to school in Baton Rouge at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School and Saint Joseph's Academy.*

Q: What was your favorite subject in elementary school?

A: *I did not have a favorite subject. I just really enjoyed so much about school that I always wanted to go to summer school!*

Q: Tell us a little bit about your family.

A: *My mother and father are both retired educators with over thirty years' experience each. I visit with my parents in Baton Rouge and Hammond every weekend because I have not adjusted to life in Mandeville. I have two wonderful godchildren: Kylie, 14 months, and Jaxson, 7 months. Now, I look forward to getting married and starting my own family.*

Q: How do you like spending your free time away from WES?

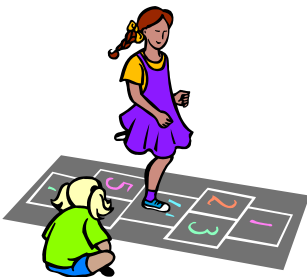
A: *My free time is mostly spent doing school work: cutting, gluing and laminating while watching reality shows at home. I also enjoy watching movies and spending time in Baton Rouge with my friends.*

Q: What is your favorite part about being a teacher at Woodlake?

A: *My favorite part about being at Woodlake is finally feeling like I'm part of a family that works together to better itself. I missed having that at my previous school, so I am excited to work with new caring faces that are so helpful.*

Q: What is your favorite thing about Woodlake so far?

A: *So far, my favorite thing about Woodlake is my new coworkers. I love the students, but being around great people that form a team makes a difference.*



Thank You to our WES PTA Corporate Partner:

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Watch D.O.G.S. Kickoff - August 24



On August 24th, almost 200 fathers, grandfathers, mothers and students participated in our 2nd Annual Watch D.O.G.S. Kickoff. Everyone enjoyed pizza generously donated from Domino's and activity sheets provided by our Dad's Club. Glenn Nunenmacher concluded the evening with a presentation on the Watch D.O.G.S. program and how WES families can become involved.

If you have not had the opportunity to sign up for the program, please contact Glenn Nunenmacher at glenn.wesdadsclub@gmail.com.



Claire and Alexa W. share a hug with their Dad.



Sarah J. shares a special moment with her Dad.



2nd grader Sarah S. with her Dad.



Kindergartner Skyler A. with her Dad.



DONATIONS NEEDED:

- The office seeking donations of pens.
- The computer lab is in need of gently used mouse pads.



Thank You to our WES PTA Corporate Partners:



“Each cup of tea represents an imaginary voyage”
- Catherine Douzel

Hours

Tues	Wed - Fri	Sat - Sun
10am-2pm	10am-4pm	9am-5pm

Reflections Program



Webster's defines *diversity* as "the condition of being different". Have you ever wondered how your child would define *diversity*? The National PTA wants to know and is calling all students to use their creative talents to express their understanding of *diversity* through their own original works of art.

With this year's theme "Diversity Means..." the National PTA invites students to participate in the 2011-12 **Reflections Program**. The 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.

Be on the lookout for more information coming home soon. In the meantime, please encourage your child(ren) to get their creative juices flowing. Their beliefs, their emotions and their insight will help to shape our world and make it a better place!

National PTA News: Countdown to Success: September/October

<http://www.pta.org/CountdowntoSchoolSuccess.pdf>

SEPTEMBER

1 Fuel up

Children who eat a healthy breakfast each day have more energy available for learning. Try simple, protein loaded options like homemade scrambled-egg-and-cheese breakfast burritos, waffles smeared with nut butter, or yogurt-and-fruit smoothies.

2 Become a class parent

You'll develop a closer relationship with the teacher and will get an inside look into what goes on in the classroom, usually without having to commit a ton of time. Class parents organize other parent volunteers for parties and events, may help the teacher create a newsletter, or might document the school year in photos. Ask the teacher what his or her specific needs will likely be this year.

3 Connect with your kids' teachers

Many schools schedule parent-teacher conferences in October and November. Attending this meeting should be a priority for all parents and guardians. This is your chance to see how things are going with your children and to partner with their teachers on improving performance. Ask: "What could we be doing at home to practice what they're learning?" National PTA has created grade-by-grade Parent Guides that can be a resource for what to discuss at conferences. Find out more at pta.org/parentsguide.

4 Seek extra help

Does it seem your child is going to have trouble keeping up? Ask the teacher about school-provided tutoring programs and resources to help reinforce his or her learning outside of class. Many also offer extra help during office hours before or after school.

OCTOBER

1 Review that report card

Pay careful attention to all progress reports, but particularly the first one—it will be coming soon if your child hasn't received it yet. You want to get help for any problem areas before your child falls too far behind. Ask your child's teacher how grades are determined and for suggestions on how your student can improve. Review grades and the teacher's comments with your child—always starting with something she's doing well, then pointing out areas that need attention, and ending with something positive again.

2 Encourage creativity

Urge your children to enter the National PTA Reflections arts contest. They can submit works of art in six categories: visual arts (such as painting, drawing, or collage), literature, musical composition, photography, film production, and dance choreography. This year's theme is "Diversity Means..." Contact your local PTA for additional details or go to pta.org.

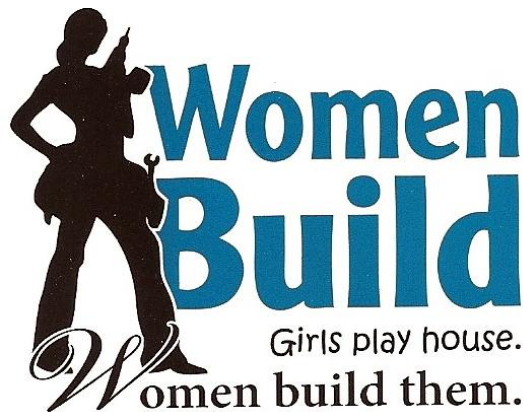
Attention Women of Woodlake!
(moms, grandmothers, aunts, friends)



Please join us on Wednesday, October 5th,
from 9am - 3pm, for our inaugural

Women of Woodlake

Must possess a
spirit of fellowship
and desire to make
a difference



*No construction
experience
required!*



The Women of Woodlake are honored to be
building a new home for the Penn Family. To
learn more about this family visit
www.woodlakepta.org.

Would you like to support the
Women of Woodlake? You can
contribute by making a
donation!

Please visit the WES PTA
website at
www.woodlakepta.org to make
a donation and for additional
event information.



Woodlake Elementary School

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WES PTA Executive Board 2011-2012

Presidents:

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Gail Owens

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Chrissy Henrickle

secretary@woodlakepta.org

PTA Corporate Partners

Do you own, work for or frequent a business that may be interested in partnering with Woodlake? The involvement of our local business community is critical to the success of our school. Here are some of the ways businesses can help out:

Pelican Palooza Sponsorship

Monetary donations that help defray costs associated with the festival. Also enables WES to offer aWESome cash prizes for the festival's Turbo Turtle Race!

In-kind Donations

Products and services that help defray costs and enrich our school environment.

PTA Corporate Membership

A contribution of \$25 or more makes a business a member of the largest child advocacy organization in the country. Also includes ad space in our monthly newsletter.

Newsletter Ad

A \$25 contribution will earn a business an ad in our monthly newsletter.

Volunteers

We love having guests on campus to share their talents and experiences with our children. Their time and willingness to help are invaluable.

As a school we lend our support to businesses through word of mouth. We're a school of almost 700 students representing over 500 families. Collectively, we speak quite loudly! We also provide publicity at school functions, on our PTA website and through the Pelican Press newsletter. If you know of an interested business, all we need is a contact name and phone number and we'll do the rest!! To learn more or to help us out, please contact Katie Walston at kwalston@joneswalker.com or Melissa or Gail at president@woodlakepta.org.

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 the Editor via email at newsletter@woodlakepta.org.

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

We're on the Web!
<http://woodlakepta.org>
and "like us" on facebook!

