

# Westerly Creek Elementary School Newsletter

November 30, 2009  
Volume 3, Issue 1



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Jill A. Corcoran, Principal

## Principal's News

Dear Westerly Creek Families:

### *I Give Thanks*

Wishing you and your family the warmest holiday wishes!

Thanks to all of the parents who have been actively engaged at WCE. The school has been full of activity and I want to recognize all of those that have devoted their time and talent to our school and community. I am grateful for all of the hours the CSC board members as well as community members have devoted to Stapleton Build Out. They have attended countless hours of meetings, helped set up community forums, advocated for our school and community and continue to work to ensure the very best schools for all Stapleton residents.

Many, many thanks to the PTA parent volunteers who have organized the Halloween parties, candidates forum, Team Central Park, book fair, math day, staff breakfasts, dinners, holiday baskets, the chili cook off, open house, school tours and to those who participated in school wide clean up inside and out.

And to all of our parents, we thank you for sharing your precious little gifts with us each day. We recognize how valuable your children are and do our best to make sure they are well taken care of and receive the very best education while with us.

A very special thank you to all of the students and parents who have offered words of wisdom, gifts and participated in the Baby Corcoran/Ellertson Shower. My husband and I are so very grateful! Our house is now well stocked and ready for our new arrival, or so we think. One of the very first pieces of advice I heard was to surround myself with people who would be supportive and caring during my pregnancy. I couldn't have asked for a better environment to be in during this

time. My baby has already received more hugs, touches and kind words while at WCE. We thank you so very much and appreciate your kindness and generosity!

As I begin my transition into maternity leave, I can honestly say the school is well prepared and will continue to run as it does each and every day. I have spent the last several weeks conducting teacher and classroom observations and mid-year reviews. I can assure you Westerly Creek does have the very best teachers and staff. Our kids are actively engaged, learning, making standards and often exceeding expectations in academics as well as social and emotional growth. The teachers have set short-term and long-term professional goals. They are committed to their students and will continue to run effective classrooms.

Jeanette and Beatris will continue to welcome you as you enter the school and answer any questions you might have; they truly have most of the answers. Our paraprofessionals will continue to support the kids in and out of the classrooms and our custodial staff will strive to keep our building clean and safe for all.

Chuck Raisch, the interim principal, will be here to help ensure that our school continues on the path to success. Please know that our school is in good hands and will continue to run as efficiently and effectively as possible.

I have received a number of questions about the hiring process and budget. Although I am out on maternity leave during this very busy time of year, I will be actively involved in all decisions. I will continue to have

*Continued on page 6*

## Meet our Interim Principal - Chuck Raisch

There is a line, “You can take the boy out of the country, but you can’t take the country out of the boy.” That seems to describe how the last few years have gone for me.

I was driving east on the interstate making my way across the Midwest heading for Florida with stops in Iowa, Indiana, North Carolina and Alabama when I got a call from Jill asking if I’d work her leave time when she has her baby. Naturally I played it cool and said I’d talk to my wife, while inside I was going, “You bet!” Five minutes later I got the details and the “boss’s” okay and said I’d be glad to.

When mid-December comes around I’ll be working side by side with Jill for a week and then solo for three months. I was able to visit Westerly Creek in October and believe that after meeting most of the staff, many students, and a few parents that these three months will be successful for all.

I’ll attempt to provide some background so you can feel comfortable with having me become part of your school, albeit for a short time. I taught fifth and sixth grade in Iowa for five years before becoming an elementary principal in Iowa.

In 1983, my wife (she’s a teacher) and I, along with our two children moved to Loveland, Colorado where I was a principal until 1997. I then moved to the position of Curriculum Director, followed by Director of everything you could think of with a culmination of being Director of Elementary Education over 18 schools.

I retired in ’02 and bought a house in Florida with the plan for future retirement there. Somehow I ended up delaying retirement and instead I was “trying my skills in the big city” at Steck Elementary in DPS. After five years I returned to Florida full-time ready to enjoy retirement.

When I left DPS I told then Superintendent Michael Bennett that I would be available to be a substitute when needed. I got a call 7 months later and was asked to take a school due to a principal resigning in January. I flew back and spent an extended time at Steele Elementary. I felt like I was on the S.S. Minnow, four months turned into a year and a half. It was much more than a 3 hour tour.

I worked with Jill while at Steck, and Janice Spearman, your current Instructional Superintendent was my superior for a few years. I enjoy working with students as they learn how to acquire skills and navigate their world. Being a partner with teachers examining ways to help students learn is rewarding to me. I do understand the DPS system and am very comfortable working with staff, CSCs and parent groups designing budgets and staffing patterns to reach the goals of a school.

I am honored that Jill and Janice thought of me to work in your school. I’ve personally worked with three of the current teachers and hope that, along with my background, gives me some credibility.

I’ll see you all starting December 14<sup>th</sup>. Remember to keep telling me your name until I get everyone sorted out. I’ll make sure that Westerly Creek keeps moving forward on the path outlined in the school improvement plan. The students will stay safe and hopefully they’ll feel good about having a substitute principal.



In this case you can take the principal out of the state but you can’t take the principal out of the school.



*Maya is having fun in the hay maze (written by Emma Rasmussen)*

### **ECE 3 / 4 Berry Patch Farms Field Trip**

By: Tommy Cummings, Emma Rasmussen and Paige Small

On October 12, 2009 Ms. Casey's ECE 3 and 4 morning and afternoon classes went to the Berry Patch Farms. The students went on a field trip to have some fabulous fall fun and pick some pumpkins.

The students got to Berry Patch Farms by bus after a long ride. Once at the farm, they leapt onto a tractor to get to the pumpkin fields. Each student picked the best pumpkin they could handle. "My favorite part was picking a pumpkin," said Avery.

In addition to going to pick pumpkins, the classes went through a hay maze, played with chickens and had a blast. "I felt really happy when I came back," Camden said.

*One of our third graders, Emma Rasmussen, went to the Berry Patch Farm on a family outing. She wanted to share her personal narrative about her experience with you.*

### **THE BERRY PATCH**

By Emma Rasmussen

"We're almost there," Mom said.

I heard a thunderstorm of "yay"s from my car. Welcome to the Berry Patch Farms, the sign read. As soon as we parked, we saw another sign that read, "No Pets". Grandma was bummed. Behind the sign was a big red barn. We walked into the big red barn and got a big surprise. Instead of hay bales and farm animals there was a gift shop. This gift shop did not have toys or candy. It had fresh grown fruit and vegetables. We walked out of the gift shop and on our right was a small white tent and under the small white tent was a lady. She told us the rules. One rule was you could not come back with out a belly filled with fresh warm berries. I followed that rule really well. My Mom asked me if I wanted to pick raspberries or strawberries. I chose raspberries.

My Mom said, "Sounds great".

Here is a little how-to:

First you look for purple, not red berries.

Next you gently slide it off. It should release immediately. If not, Mother Earth is still working on it."

Picking raspberries is easy-peasy, lemon-squeezy. We picked two pints full. Next, we hopped on a tractor to go to a nearby but far-away strawberry patch. On our way, we saw pumpkins, peppers, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes. As we arrived we saw many people in the patch. Row-by-row we saw small red dots.

I said to my Mom, "What are those?"

My Mom replied, "Those are the strawberries."

We leaped out of the tractor and walked over to the first row of strawberries. We picked about five strawberries in the first row. We picked one quart. My sister really had to go to the port-a-potties. On the way there, the tractor picked them up.

When they were gone Grandpa said, "Let's go."

I said, "O.K."

About one minute later, a tractor picked me and grandpa up. On the tractor were Maya and Mom.

Mom said "Let's go home." As soon as we got to the small white tent we said, "thank you", to the lady. Next we went into the gift shop and paid for the raspberries and strawberries. We even got a watermelon. We went out of the big red barn, past the "No Pets" sign and popped into the car. We drove past the *Welcome to the Berry Patch Farm* sign, down the road, and back home. For dinner we had strawberries, raspberries and a watermelon. It was delicious.



*The kids are playing with the pigs (written by Tommy Cummings)*

## Kindergarten Book Buddies

By: Avery Dell, Sydney Fisher, and Caroline Spaeth

On Friday November 6, 2009, the third graders of 213 began going to Ms. Lauer's class for a weekly tradition of reading to the kindergartners. On the following Friday, the third graders of 211 began a weekly reading routine with Ms. Seaoane's class.

Because kindergartners are learning to read, it is so exciting for them to have an opportunity to read with a third grader who already reads well. Reading with a younger buddy also helps third graders work on their fluency. In addition, the third graders and the kindergartners get to know each other better.

Third graders choose appropriate books to read to the kindergartners

with the help of their literacy teacher, Ms. Dickson. The books need to be short and need to have pictures on every page in order to keep the kindergartners interested. The content of the books that are selected needs to be appropriate, as well. The third graders discovered that *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books were not the best choice. Some of their favorites are the *Frog and Toad* books, *Math Curse*, the *Fox* books (by James Marshall), books by Tomie dePaola, *A Remainder of One*, books by Mem Fox, and books by Cynthia Rylant among others.

Working together on reading is beneficial for kindergartners and third graders alike! The third graders are looking forward to a great year of reading with their new buddies!

## Heard in the Halls

*A child to her parents: according to Miss Katie, "we go to gym to beat up our heart."*



*"Let's Read More! I Love to Read!" (written by Avery Dell)*



*"Morgan is reading to her friend" (written by Sydney Fisher)*

## Family Enrichment Corner

*Marcella Embry, GT Representative*

Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Children's Museum FREE DAY

Saturday, Dec. 5 - Denver Art Museum FREE DAY

Select software sells professional & children's software at a reduced price. Go to the address to learn more about the company and if you have extra time and want to play a free game online. <http://www.selectsoftnow.com/software/free/>

## Day of the Dead

By Christian Branford, Caroline Carranza & Allison Rehring

In October the first graders studied about Day of the Dead. This takes place on October 30, the day before Halloween. In Mexico when people die the living people celebrate them for what they did when they were alive. They light candles and set them on the graves with the dead people's clothes and favorite food.

A first grader named Ethan Kabat said: "The best part of Day of the Dead is the piñata."

Another first grader named Jill Vanderport said the best part is getting sugar skulls.

Some Mexican children are afraid of Day of Dead because they think that ghosts come out of the graves. This holiday is a lot like Halloween.



*"See the Skull Pinata? Pull one of the strings. Candy will fall out" (written by Caroline Carranza)*

## Second Grade Math Day

By: Jackson Hoops, Lily Martin, and Nick Slowey

On Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, we went to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade "math day" to see what they know about "Math Day". The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were playing "Dollar Rummy", "Top It", "Spinning for Money", "Penny Cup", "Digit Game", "Beat the Calculator", and "Get a Dollar as Quick as You Can".

We interviewed Laine, Ethan P., Abi B., Elise (Ellie), Jack S., Hogan, Troy, Oliver, Jonah L., Jonah M., Katie, Aidan, Josie, Izzy, Cooper, Lauren, Griffin, McCoy, Peter, Lucas, Anna, Ella Y., Nathan, Maddie, Hannah Plush, and some other 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. The questions we asked were;

What do you like most about "Math Day"?

What is your favorite type of math?

Why do you like math?

Why are you having "Math Day"?

What's your favorite math game?

What do you like most about your math class?

Do you think "Math Day" is fun?

Can you tell me about "Math Day"?

Most of the second graders we interviewed said that "Spinning for Money" and "Dollar Rummy" were their favorite math games. When we asked "what do you like about 'Math Day'?", two people said that they liked having their parents play math games with them, most of them liked to play math games with their friends, and one person liked counting. The majority of the second graders who answered the question, "do you think 'Math Day' is fun?" said, "Yes" or "Yeah".

In conclusion, we are ecstatic to report that "Math Day" was a spectacular time for the second grade students, the third grade reporters, the teachers, and the parents! We are happy that so many people were able to participate and we are sorry if you couldn't make it.



*"Ms. Darcy and friends playing spinning for money and working together" (written by Nick Slowey):*

### Genesee Park

By Ben Perez, Nisha Caiozzi & Tobin Hoops

The third graders went on a fieldtrip by bus to Genesee Park. They went to learn about Balarat, a place they will visit for a camping trip in fifth grade. The goal is to learn about plants, animals, animal tracks and scat. The kids saw a bush that looked like it had monkey tails growing out of it. The monkey tails were swirly.

“We could see the buffalo from the bus and they looked like walking rugs,” said Tobin.

About half a mile into the hike, Nisha saw a tree that looked like it had legs.

This was caused by a lightning mark.

One class went in the morning and the other class went in the afternoon. “It was warm when Room 211 got there, but it started to get cloudy and rainy for Room 213,” said Ben.

Everyone agreed that they can’t wait to go back!



*“Harper, Allison, and Sophia snack on pine needles!” (written by Nisha, Ben, and Tobin)*



*“That’s one BIG tree” (written by Ben Perez)*

### Is Goldilocks Guilty?

By: Seamus McCune, Isabel Sevilla, and Zac Stahlhut

On October 12, 2009, the third grade classes took a trip to court to decide if Goldilocks was guilty of breaking into the three bears’ home. The third graders were finishing a unit on Justice and - thanks to Judge Matt Azer (Zach and Elise Azer’s dad) - had the opportunity to play parts of jurors, attorneys, judges, Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood, Ranger Rick, the hunter, and 2 of the 3 bears in a *real* courtroom downtown.

Witnesses were called to testify about what they saw. After the witnesses testified, the jury left the courtroom and voted “yes” or “no” on each count. Goldilocks was on trial for: breaking and entering; destroying property; eating the porridge.

Ultimately, Goldilocks was found guilty of destroying property and eating porridge. One class (213) sentenced her to 1 week in jail and one class (211) sentenced her to 1 month of “community service” (taking care of baby bear).



*The photo is from the “Goldilocks Trial”. (written by Zac Stahlhut) “Order in the Court”*

#### *Principal’s News Continued from page 1*

weekly meetings regarding the Stapleton Build Out, build the budget and actively recruit and participate in the Personnel Committee. We have all devoted so much to making WCE the very best and we will continue to devote the time and energy that is needed to ensure it is ready for the 2010/2011 school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact Chuck Raisch or me if you have any questions while I am on leave. We can be reached by e-mail at [jill\\_corcoran@dpsk12.org](mailto:jill_corcoran@dpsk12.org) or [chuck\\_raisch@dpsk12.org](mailto:chuck_raisch@dpsk12.org) or by my office phone at 303.322.5877. As always, you are welcome to stop by my office anytime. Have a safe and warm holiday season. Thanks again for all you do.

Warm Regards,  
Ms. Corcoran

## Coin Club Thriving

By: Andrew Hageman

The Westerly Creek Coin Club has had a wonderful year. We have had many guest speakers. At the first meeting we planned our year for the coin club. Everyone wanted to learn about gold and silver. They got lucky. A guy named Neal from the Denver coin Club volunteered to talk about gold and silver coins. He brought tons of gold, silver and platinum coins. He also talked about grading coins and he graded the kids' coins. At the end of the coin club he gave us Mexican and Canadian coins. The Canadian coins were really old.

On Veterans Day, many members went to The Money Museum in Colorado Springs. Everyone enjoyed the civil war exhibit. It also had a vault with very rare coins. The kids learned a lot.

In the third meeting we had a guest speaker named Linda. She talked about ancient coins and coins from Israel. She gave us each a coin from Israel. To make things even better, Harper's mom gave us coins from England and Abby and Ella Gage's dad gave us coins from Japan. This year with the coin club has been very successful.



*Members of the Westerly Creek Coin Club visit the "Money Museum" in Colorado Springs*

**2010 Entertainment Books**....the cost is \$30 and \$12 comes directly back to the school! Over \$21,000 in coupons and savings including tons of ski area coupons: Copper, Winter Park, Steamboat, A Basin, etc. Lift tickets are \$90 a day at most places now...these coupons get you in for \$40-\$55 depending on the resort! We only have 300 books, so pass the word! The books can be purchased at the front desk with checks made out to WCE PTA. For more information, please contact Krista Azer at [theazers@yahoo.com](mailto:theazers@yahoo.com).

**Kids in the Kitchen**....The first Westerly Creek cookbook is now on sale! The cookbook was compiled from recipes submitted by WCE families, teachers, staff and students. The artwork throughout the cookbook was done by students and there is a special section of recipes written by some of our students. The cost is \$15 per cookbook and proceeds will benefit our school. You can purchase your copy of the cookbook at the front desk or on the PTA website.

**Save the Date...March 13th, 2010** The auction committee is currently in full acquisition mode, and they have a great team assembled to tackle getting the donations. If ANYONE has ANYTHING that they can donate or get for the auction, please contact Laura Fuller ([lbofuller@yahoo.com](mailto:lbofuller@yahoo.com)) or Dina Ray ([dina\\_m@msn.com](mailto:dina_m@msn.com)) Auction Acquisitions Team kick-off meeting - Wednesday, December 2nd at 7pm at Dina Ray's house.

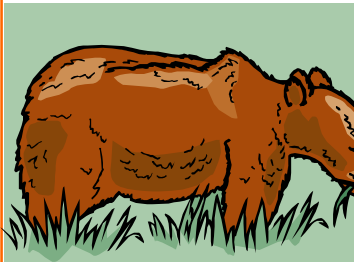
**Box Tops**...Don't forget to continue clipping box tops and put them in the BoxTops box the front lobby at the school. There are also other great ways to earn points for our school. At the **Box Tops Marketplace**, you can shop at over **60 online stores** including JCPenney and Lands' End. A portion of every qualifying purchase is donated to your school - all at no additional cost to you!

## Westerly Creek King Soopers Gift Card Program Frequently Asked Questions



Everything you wanted to know about the Westerly Creek reloadable King Soopers gift card program but were too sleep-deprived to ask.

**Q: I am a big, hairy grizzly bear and recently awoke from hibernation. What is this grocery card program of which you speak?**



A: Great question! The PTA purchases \$5 reloadable gift cards from King Soopers. We sell them back to our friends and families for the full amount of their value - \$5. The cards are tagged to Westerly Creek. Every time you shop at King Soopers, simply add more money to the card for any amount up to \$500 and use the card just like a gift card. You can reload using cash, check, or a credit card. King Soopers gives the Westerly Creek PTA 5% of all the reloads. The PTA uses this money to support paraprofessional salaries and provide an art program.

**Q: I am a farmer and I grow all my own fruits and vegetables and slaughter my own meat. Is there a way for me to participate in this program without buying groceries?**

A: Sure! You can use your reloadable gift card to purchase gas, sporting event tickets, discount lift tickets, other gift cards, patio furniture, greeting cards, diapers, measuring spoons, frying pans, batteries, lottery tickets, Mountain Dew, cigarettes, candy, beer, toilet paper, Nyquil and prescription drugs.

**Q: I work for a shampoo company and I have lots of friends and family around the country. Can I tell two friends to participate in this program and they tell two friends and so on and so on?**

A: Absolutely! You can purchase \$5 cards to give to friends and family. The cards are linked to Westerly Creek and can be used and reloaded at most Kroger-affiliated stores across the country including Kroger, Fred Meyer, Ralph's, Fry's, and Fry's Marketplace, King Soopers, Dillons, Smith's Food and Drug, City Market, QFC, Food 4 Less, Owen's Foodsco, Hilander, Pay-Less, Cala-Bell, Baker's, JAYC, Fred Meyer Jewelers, Littman and Barclay Jewelers.

**Q: I am an economist and if what you are saying is true and 200 Westerly Creek friends and families spend \$300 per month at King Soopers using their reloadable cards, Westerly Creek PTA would earn \$3,000 per month or \$36,000 per year to help support our school. Are my figures correct?**

A: Yes! 5% really adds up quickly. Right now, we have 84 Westerly Creek friends and families participating in the program and our check for King Soopers last month was for over \$800. However, think of the possibilities if every Westerly Creek family (and a neighbor, friend, frienemy, foe or arch-nemesis) participated.

**Q: I play hockey without a helmet and have been hit in the head more times than I can count so I want to make sure I understand you. If I get a reloadable gift card from the PTA and use it at King Soopers, King Soopers gives us free money?**

A: Correct! This program is the ideal fundraiser. You don't spend any money. King Soopers simply pays the school for what you probably already do every week - buy groceries. Contact [melissaandchris@earthlink.net](mailto:melissaandchris@earthlink.net) to get your card(s) today.

## Notes from Mrs. Hill



The third graders were terrific in presenting the first show of this school year. *Together* celebrated the global community. They wowed the appreciative audience even though we were at the height of the flu outbreak and 9 students were absent. Now the third graders have begun learning to play the recorder!

It is the second graders turn to perform. They are hard at work on a fully inclusive holiday show. Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas and Christmas are all represented in song and speech. Their performance is December 16.

All the other children are singing, too. Join us in the Music Room any time and sing along!

## PTA News

### Dear Parents:

#### Lots to be Thankful for and Celebrate This Season

I am writing this the weekend after Thanksgiving (last minute again, sorry Robin). I truly have so much to be thankful for! Over this break, John, my parents, the girls and I have spent lots of time playing games, taking the dog for walks, and cooking some old family recipes. It's always fun to see the girls through my parents' eyes. They notice how much they are maturing and learning. I am thankful for the chance to slow down and enjoy this time.

I am also grateful that the girls have a school where they can learn and mature. To me, one of the main reasons Westerly Creek is so special is all the great families and all the family involvement we have at our school. This is a critical part of what makes WCE such an outstanding school. Research on the effects of parental involvement has shown a consistent, positive relationship between parents' engagement in their children's education and student outcomes.

One aspect of Parent/Family involvement is communication between home and school. It is important that communication be regular, two-way, and meaningful. The WCE PTA works to facilitate this with the web site, the weekly update and this newsletter. Hopefully you have noticed the changes to the weekly email and web site. Most grades have blogs going or are working on them. This is a great way to communicate classroom news and other helpful things, like links to math games, book recommendations and classroom pictures. There are links to the blogs on the website under "Classroom News." We appreciate any comments and suggestions on communications. If you like the new email format, or have a format from another organization that you like, please let us know.

#### More Thanks

A huge thanks to John Carranza, Owner/Broker of Central Park Realty; this is the second year that his team collected donations for running in the Denver Marathon. They raised almost \$4,000 for our school. Many thanks to the runners and the donors!

Also, thank you to Shiny Happy Car Wash for hosting a school fundraiser on their grand opening weekend. We raised \$640! They will be a great partner for the school and the community.

Kudos to all those leading and participating in the following PTA activities: Original Works, Fall Outdoor clean up, Spirit Wear sales, Grocery Card fundraiser, Book Fair, Math Day, WCE cookbook, and the Chili cook off. A special thanks to the Staff Support committee and all the families that contributed desserts and wine and the volunteers that assembled and delivered the Thanksgiving treats to the staff. All of these efforts combine to support the school and staff, providing the best environment for our kids.

And last but not least: your gifts. We are always thankful for your gift of time, your talent, or your financial gifts. Don't forget that our *We're Committed to Education* Direct Giving Campaign is ongoing - your donations are always welcome. As the end of year approaches, remember that your donation is completely tax deductible, and 100% of your donation goes to our school! We are well on our way to meeting our goal, but please remember, our need never ends, and we are always looking ahead.

#### PTA Meeting

The next PTA meeting is January 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome!

Enjoy this time of year with the little ones and your family! Please contact me with any questions and comments, [krehring@gmail.com](mailto:krehring@gmail.com).

Happy Holidays,  
Karla Rehring  
President, Westerly Creek PTA

## We're Committed to Education!

### Thank you to WCE supporters!

Would your business like to be a WCE sponsor?

For more information go to:

[westerlycreekpta.com/WCE\\_2009-10\\_Sponsorship.html](http://westerlycreekpta.com/WCE_2009-10_Sponsorship.html)

Annual  
Leader of the Pack Sponsor



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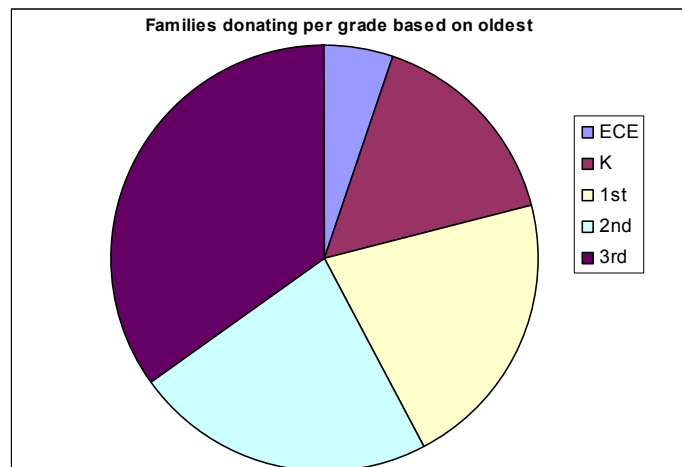
Annual Wolf Pup Sponsor



## WCE Direct Giving Summary as of Nov. 2009

Total \$34,550 donated - Goal \$60,000 57.5% completed

Grade	total students participating (includes siblings)	total students per grade	% Participation by total number of students	families participating	total families	% Participation by total number of families
ECE	9	78	12%	3		
K	23	96	24%	9		
1st	20	74	27%	12		
2nd	17	69	25%	13		
3rd	20	54	37%	20		
	89	371	24%	57	254	22%



# Psychobabble...

Sarah Kohn, Ed.S.  
School Psychologist

## **BULLYING: The Real Truth**

Bullying occurs when a student is *repeatedly* harmed psychologically, physically or both by another student or group of students. There are multiple ways of being bullied, including physical assault, verbal threats, intentional exclusion from a group, spreading of rumors, menacing faces/gestures and name calling. It is important to note that the difference between bullying and fighting is the *power differential* between the individuals. When two (or more) individuals are fighting (verbally or physically) there is an equal balance of power. However, when bullying occurs, the bully is using his or her *power* (real or perceived by others) over the other person to *gain recognition* and *attention*. Additionally, bullying can occur at any age and often begins earlier in elementary school than we would all like to believe.

### **Key Terms**

**Bully:** A person who repeatedly threatens, hurts or abuses another person.

**Victim:** A person who is the target of another person's threats or aggressive behaviors.

**Bully-Victim:** A person who has both bullied others and have been bullied themselves.

**Bystander:** A person who witnesses bullying, but is not the direct target of the bully.

**Tattling:** A person that tells on another person (or group of people) just to get them in trouble.

**Reporting:** A person that reports bullying because he or she feels unsafe.

### **Facts About Bullying**

- **Bullying is more than just teasing.** Although this is in fact the most common form in elementary school, it quickly becomes more than that and lead to negative effects of academic achievement, behavioral outcomes and lower self-esteem.
- **Anyone can be a bully.** There is no one reason why a child may become a bully; both biological and environmental factors play a part. Influences can include: genetic predispositions; not enough supervision by adults; witnessing of physical and verbal abuse between caregivers or other adults; harsh physical punishment to the student; verbal and physical aggression by peers; and constant negative feedback.
- **Anyone can be a victim.** People can be victimized for any number of things, including how they dress, what color their hair is, their weight, their family life, their status in the community or school, etc.
- **Bullying is not a modern problem.** One of the first documented cases of bullying was written about in the 1850s. A young boy at an English boarding school was subjected to a painful and sadistic roasting in front of a fire by a group of older students.
- **Bullying affects everyone.** Even if the bullying is not happening directly to you, you may still be involved in the process. Bystanders are often the most important (but forgotten about) group, because if they don't do something proactive about the situation, they are passively participating as well.
- **Bullying is a serious problem.** Research has shown that approximately 1 in 7 school children are directly affected by bullying, which is approximately 5 million students in the United States.
- **We must work together to find solutions.** School personnel must work with parents and other professionals in the community to teach prosocial skills and how to effectively deal with bullies. Positive Behavior Support systems can be an effective universal school measure to decrease the bullying referrals.
- **A comprehensive plan will produce the best results.** Teaching appropriate social skills in isolated classrooms or grades will not do the trick. Instead, we must work as a school community to use the same language and effectively teach our students to be assertive.
- **Students at risk can be helped.** As adults, we must recognize potential victim warning signs, including social withdrawal; excessive expressions of sadness or isolation; victim of violence; feelings of persecution and rejection; low school interest; poor academic achievement; or uncontrolled anger.

## Students of the Month

### Evan Liu October 2009

*My favorite subject in school is . . . math because it's easy and fun.*

*My favorite things to do at school are . . . math and reading.*

*School is fun because . . . you can play with friends at recess.*

*When I grow up I want to be . . . a baseball player.*

*My favorite things to do at home are . . . playing with my sister and watching *The Amazing Race* with my family.*

*Other hobbies / activities . . . playing baseball soccer/basketball.*

*Family / Pets . . . Mom, Dad, sister Emma, me, 1 dog Pixie and 2 cats Luna and Ginny.*

*Anything else you want people to know about you? I was born on February 20 at 4:56 pm. I was born in Loma Linda, CA.*



The WCE Student of the month receives a \$50 gift certificate to Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q. Thank you!



### Gabrielle Spaeth November 2009

*My favorite subject in school is . . . reading because I love stories.*

*My favorite things to do at school are . . . play outside and play on the ring-a-lings.*

*School is fun because . . . I make new friends everyday and I have a great teacher.*

*When I grow up I want to be . . . a hair stylist.*

*My favorite thing to do at home is . . . go to gymnastics.*

*Other hobbies/activities . . . ski and dance.*

*Family / Pets . . . Siblings - Caroline, Caleigh and Lucas. Pets - cats Black Jack and Charlie.*

*Anything else you want people to know about you? My favorite colors are pink and purple.*



*WCE Families enjoy the annual Thanksgiving lunch in the school cafeteria.*

