

The Leader in Me™

great happens here

WESTLAWN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

FIFTH SIX WEEKS 2021-2022



ELODIA WITTERSTAETTER
Principal

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello Westlawn Students and Families.

It is hard to believe that we are already in our last six weeks of the 2021-2022 school year. There have been a lot of celebrations and some tears along the way. I think we can all relate to tears of sadness and tears of joy.

We all (staff, students, and families) go through a time in our lives where it seems as though the world is on our shoulders. Yet, we can persevere and get ahead by focusing on things that bring us joy, not being afraid to ask for help, and by not letting the past rule our present. We've all had those moments....keep pushing through.

There have been many reasons for joyful tears with students: celebrating students when they meet their personal goals, seeing how much they have matured, and even just listening to them share the exciting news with a family member during a positive phone call. I've also shed joyful tears when seeing how hard our staff work each and every day to serve our students and support one another. Educators are working the hardest they have ever worked and together, we can. Please join us in celebrating our staff and their successes along the way.

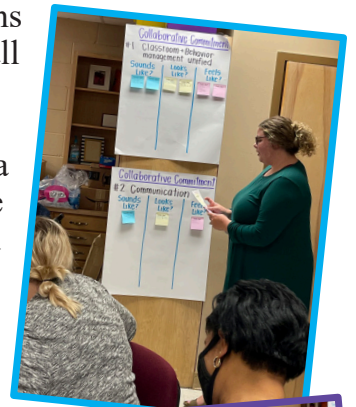
One of the biggest celebrations is the amount of learning and growth that we all, as a staff, continue to embrace as we continue to be committed to our students and the work we do as educators. We are truly all Leading, Learning, and Growing at Westlawn Elementary.

We hope you enjoy learning about the great things happening at our campus.

With love,

Mrs. Elodia Witterstaetter

Proud Campus Principal
of Westlawn Elementary



We are preparing our students to be leaders by teaching the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People:



Habit 1 – Be Proactive

You're in Charge of You

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.



Habit 2 – Begin with the End in Mind

Have a Plan

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.



Habit 3 – Put First Things First

Work First, Then Play

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.



Habit 4 – Think Win-Win

Everyone Can Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.



Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

Listen Before You Talk

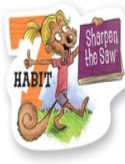
I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.



Habit 6 – Synergize

Together Is Better

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.



Habit 7 – Sharpen The Saw

Balance Feels Best

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.

7 HABITS IN ACTION (Reported by Teachers & Students)

We use HABIT 2: BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND by practicing our spelling words regularly so we are prepared for our test each Friday. Families, please encourage your students to practice their words at home. Ms. Capps' class

We had the 1st Annual Benchmark Awards in our 5th Grade Math classroom. We celebrated the students who made Approaches, Meets, and Masters. Students were also rewarded for growth from their Fall to Spring Benchmark. Students who showed their strategies and completed their "Brain Dump Cheat Sheet" that they are supposed to complete before the test were also recognized.



HABIT 6: SYNERGIZE

Students in Mrs. Shimanek's Reading class worked in teams to create a storyboard for "A Bad Case of Stripes." The students sequenced the plot; identified plot elements; and learned that self-confidence and loving yourself are important in school and life.



IMPORTANT DATES:

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: MAY 2-6

- **MONDAY (5/2)** - Do something kind for your teacher or write them a kind note.
- **TUESDAY (5/3)** - Tell your teacher something they taught you that you will always remember.
- **WEDNESDAY (5/4)** - Draw a picture for your teacher.
- **THURSDAY (5/5)** - Bring something special for your teacher - a flower, a treat, etc.
- **FRIDAY (5/6)** - Staff Snack Day - VIPS is taking donations

STAAR TESTING: MAY 10-13

- All grade levels will be testing across these 4 days. Please make sure that your student is well-rested and on time so that they can do their best on this required state test.

FIELD DAY MAY 16-18

- Third Grade: **MAY 16**; 9-11 a.m.
- Fourth Grade: **MAY 17**; 9-11 a.m.
- Fifth Grade: **MAY 18**; 9-11 a.m.

MAY 24 Early Release

MAY 25 Early Release LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Watching our students, staff, and community supporters come together to synergize in this final stretch of the school year has been amazing! I am proud of the ways in which our students have demonstrated leadership and taken ownership of their learning and service this year.

“The highest of distinctions is service to others.” - King George VI

Student lighthouse continued our journey of leadership this six weeks with an emphasis on servant leadership. Members learned what it means to grow as leaders by assessing the needs of others and synergizing to meet those needs, not just as leaders, but in service. They learned that a servant leader focuses on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. Students took an inventory of our school and our community and matched the needs with the skill sets of our group in order to develop service opportunities for hands-on learning.

A few of my favorites included working with 50K souls and the local Rotary Club to bag and distribute food items down the street from our school. Students worked together without breaking for the duration of our trip and served over 200 families!



Here our school appreciation action team is putting together items for our bus drivers. They volunteered to create tags and assemble sweet snacks to say “thank you!” Also pictured is our team with Assistant Principal, Mr. Jones, with a special book created by our students for AP appreciation week. Students each created a page for Mr. Jones and Mrs. Allen.



We are so grateful to some special supporters of our students who made it possible for our SLT, Precious Gems, and Gents groups to attend a leadership day hosted by Texas High Student Council at Williams Memorial Church. Student Lighthouse members were able to bring their learning back to campus and apply it while planning a student led family night! Our Texas High students have returned to our campus to work with our 4th grade girls who will be teaching and leading a line dance to our families. Talk about synergy!

Teach TISD is a special way our district has used to create a talent pool of students who exhibit talents necessary to possibly go into the field of education. Students will be provided mentor support as they move through grade levels and grow as hopefully future teachers in TISD. This six weeks two students, Oshei Jack and Kadarrius Mason, were recognized as Teach TISD student leaders. These students were recognized with a special signing day and treated to lunch at Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers. We are so proud of them!



APRIL WAS
Autism
AWARENESS MONTH
ACCEPT | UNDERSTAND | LOVE

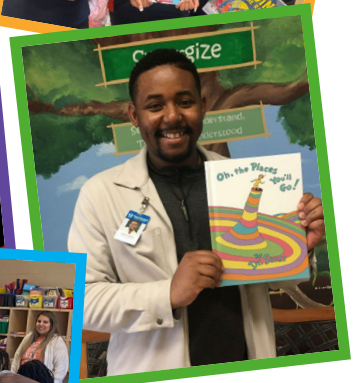
**WE CELEBRATED
TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
(FEB 28-MARCH 4)
WITH SEVERAL UNIQUE
EVENTS THAT GAVE STUDENTS
THE OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- **Connect With Families & Community Members (HABITS 4 & 5)**
- **Create & Lead Presentations (HABITS 1,2, 3 & 6)**
- **Express Their Creativity & Have Fun (HABIT 7)**

We kicked off the week with a Monday morning event on February 28 that celebrated Black History Month and Texas Public Schools Week. This included Muffins in the Morning, a VIPS Update, a presentation from Student Lighthouse on the connection between prominent African American figures in history and the 7 habits, and a Black History Month Program presented by 5th grade students. It was a great morning!



Wednesday we celebrated Read Across America Day with a Read A Thon. For an hour and a half, approximately 40 different community members, district staff, and high school students read to different classrooms. Students enjoyed the stories and getting to meet the readers. The following organizations sent representatives to read: THS Cheer, THS Leadership, THS Student Council, Literacy Council, First Baptist Church Texarkana, 1st Choice Pregnancy Center, Texarkana Texas Police Department, Williams Memorial UMC, Educational Opportunity Center at TC, Texarkana College Adult Education & Literacy, and TISD Staff.



The week ended with a celebration of Big Art Day and Chalk-A-Palooza! Our students had so much fun! We were impressed by their creativity!

ACE OPEN HOUSE

On March 29, our ACE program had their first open house, and it was a huge success! ACE students and their family members learned more about the program while enjoying snacks, fun activities, and even door prizes! We are grateful for our ACE program!



STAFF CELEBRATION/APPRECIATION WEEKS



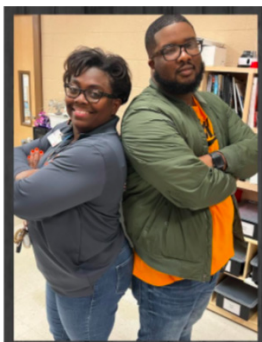
March 7-11 Educational Diagnosticians' & School Social Workers Appreciation Week

These ladies have a set of specialized skills that they use to make sure that all students' and families' needs are being met.



April 4-8 Paraprofessional Appreciation Week & Assistant Principal Appreciation Week

We are blessed to have many paraprofessionals on our campus. They are always willing to do whatever it takes to keep our campus running smoothly. We could not make it without them!



We can't say enough about our Assistant Principals, Mrs. Allen & Mr. Jones. They work hard to make sure that our school is a place where all students are exposed to great learning opportunities in a safe environment and that our day to day operations run smoothly. They do a great job!



OUR STAFF ARE LEARNING NEW WAYS TO TEACH OUR STUDENTS!

Have you heard your student talk about doing a round robin, timed pair share, or stand up, hand up, pair up? Have you wondered what these are? They are Kagan Structures!

Kagan Structures are instructional strategies designed to promote cooperation and communication in the classroom, boost students' confidence and retain their interest in classroom interaction. They keep our kids engaged while learning! The Structures work in all teaching contexts—regardless of subject, age group, and number of students in class.

We have a pilot team of teachers who are becoming experts in the use of these strategies, and the results are very positive. Over time, these practices will be used more and more in every classroom. Here are some pictures of classrooms using Kagan structures to actively engage students in their learning.



THANK YOU to St. Luke's for warming our hearts and our bellies!

We are blessed to add St. Luke's to our list of community partners who are willing to pour into our school. They provided a loaded baked potato bar lunch for all of our staff on the Friday before we left for Spring Break. This is a great demonstration of **HABIT 4: THINK WIN-WIN**. Their kindness filled us up as much as the huge potatoes!



A FIELD TRIP TO THE FAIR DEMONSTRATED HABITS 6 & 7

Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Capps, & Mrs. Whitfield's classes attended Kids' Day at the fair. This was a great opportunity for them to practice **HABIT 7: SHARPEN THE SAW**, which teaches us that we can learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just school. It was also a great example of synergy because many people worked together to make this field trip possible.



WE LOVE TO CELEBRATE IN ALL KINDS OF WAYS!



Mr. Elder, our 3rd Grade Reading interventionist has become known for his creative ways of celebrating student achievements. He allows them to pop a balloon that reveals a special experience. These have included such things as a "camping excursion," which involved eating lunch in a tent and telling spooky stories by the campfire and a "beach party" complete with "beachy" music and reading on beach towels! We appreciate Mr. Elder's creativity in rewarding our students' accomplishments!

Our Checkpoint Store is another popular way that students are rewarded this year. They earn "checkpoint cash" for their growth and performance on their checkpoint assessments and then spend it on little toys, trinkets, and snacks! All of the students love shopping day!



The M&M club is an exclusive group that celebrates achievement of math goals! Students must master their math facts to get in. Check out those shirts!

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

AWARDS

Every year, each TISD campus asks their staff to nominate one of their peers for Teacher of the Year. Our Westlawn nominees were: Ms. Perez, Ms. Sampson, Ms. Glass, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Shimanek, Ms. Duhart, Mrs. J. Harrison, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Reid, Ms. L. Parker, Mr. Elder, Mrs. Roberson, Mrs. Capps, and Mrs. Whitfield. And our Westlawn Teacher of the Year is:



**Teacher Of The Year
Ms. Chelsea Glass**

Leader In Me Champions

Every 6 weeks, teachers from each TISD elementary campus are asked to nominate small number of students to be considered for the honor of Superintendent's Leader in Me Champions. **THE HABIT 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD** winners from Westlawn for the fifth six weeks were: **Jacquette Simpson & Zayde White.**



The other nominees were:

3rd Grade: Sunderick Franklin, Kaiden Benson, Ja'Quavion Sims & Dae-Shanique Johnson

4th Grade: Marquese Richards, Destiny Akkard & Colten Myers

5th Grade: Jairo Torres, Tarolyn Sanson & Reagan Nguyen

ALL "A" HONOR ROLL ~ FIFTH SIX WEEKS

3RD GRADE

Logan Akin	Jeremiah Moore
Zakaria Butler	Reagan Nguyen
Zane Cox	Lylah Norton
Keymariyah Hillis	Laddey Tallant
Tracy Larry	Carlos Gael Vasquez

4TH GRADE

Lilium Barnes
Barry Harris
AyDreean Henderson
Daniel Hogue
Carson Neal
Alexander Solkema

5TH GRADE

Michael Chambers	Madison Richards
Kaniyah Cox	Jamir Roberson
Anthony Hernandez	Dareon Shaver
Ariel Hernandez	Ashley Threadgill
Devin Jones	Zaria Tyson
Jacob Lee	Zayde White
Malachi Nobles	

"A-B" HONOR ROLL ~ FIFTH SIX WEEKS

3RD GRADE

Jykeice Aldridge	De'Kita Kendrix
Kelton Anderson	Zaylah Leaks
Trevor Barnes	Leonora Leggiton
Tkyndra Blackmon	Waylon McClure
Cameron Camble	Zakadyn Muldrew
Adrian Estrada	Melody Romine
Donavin Gray	Iyris Sanders
Jacadence Green	Allie Taylor
A'Aliyah Harrison	Sir Tucker
Aiden Hollins	Heaven Walker
Ny'Omi Hyman	Nathan Washington
Dae'Shanique Johnson	Harmony Wrightner
Solomon Johnston	

4TH GRADE

Destiny Akkard
Malachi Baker
Brandon Barry
Londyn Black
Lapayton Bragg
Zamariuna Brown
Dakeelyn Burks
Rylie Cannon
Kharma Cooper
Carter Dansby
Kamron Davis
Jazlyn Forte
Jonathan Gailes
Yoselin Garcia Olalde
Jaylon Graham
Taylyn Hamilton
Eric Hancock

5TH GRADE

Taliah Abraham	Oshei Jack
Bryant Barksdale	Heath James
La'Mya Barry	Jordan Lewis
Jakyrion Brown	Keontee Lomax
Sha'Ciayah Bush	Braidan Long
Ka'Mire Carrigan	Javyn Long
Nevaeh Chiles	Kadarrius Mason
Cortez Collins	I'Mya Morris
Mariyah Crawford	Kameron Powell
Aeryanna Daniels	Deanna Puga
Gabriel Diaz-Bane	Brooklyn Reynolds
Ke'Shaun Evans	A'Aliyah Ross
Bryden Ewings	Roderick Stevens
Jaiden Gailes	Arrianna Stevenson
Decourion Gant	Christopher Strickland
Laquadria Gullatt-Hurd	S'Quoya Taylor
Zariyah Hernandez	Vincent Vo

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Making a Difference!



Texarkana
Independent School District