



WESTER'S NEWS FLASH

January 22, 2010

<http://www.friscoisd.org/schools/wester>



January, 2010

Wester Community,

Congratulations on completing our first semester of school! With half of the school year behind us, we are looking ahead to the many activities that are coming our way this spring. Of course, our first priority is for our students to continue to learn in a safe environment. I have seen this occur last semester as students completed science labs, wrote essays, learned to play instruments, competed in athletic events, and participated in club activities. It is always amazing how much growth our students make in such a short period of time! Beginning in March, we will have an opportunity for their growth to be measured through the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests. This series of tests will measure our students' proficiency levels on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). While we review for the TAKS tests and encourage students to participate in tutorial sessions, we strive to ensure that our daily instruction not only helps students learn the required TEKS, but goes beyond the minimum level skills to better prepare students for their future learning. We anticipate that our students will continue to perform well on the TAKS tests, but would also advise students to attend review sessions and tutorials as needed. The schedule for TAKS testing is as follows:

March 3: 7th grade Writing test

April 6: 8th grade Math test

April 7: 8th grade Reading test

April 27: 6th & 7th grade Math test

April 28: 6th and 7th grade Reading test

April 29: 8th grade Science test

April 30: 8th grade US History test

For more information regarding TAKS testing, please see the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) website: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/> or feel free to contact one of our counselors at 469-633-4800.

I want to thank the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for the dedicated support that they provide to the teachers and students at Wester. I know that our success at Wester is a result of the collaborative efforts of the teachers, students, and parents. I would also like to invite you to save the date of March 9th for our Open House. It is a wonderful opportunity for your children to showcase what they have been doing and learning in class. Our Book Fair will also be available that evening as well. Look for more information to come.


Thank you,

Angela Romney
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

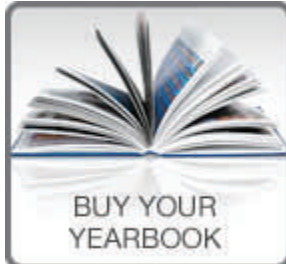
1/28—Basketball vs. Griffin
 2/1—CHS Parent Meeting @ CHS
 2/2—**Spring Picture Day!**
 2/3—Cross Country Meet
 2/4—Basketball vs. Stafford
 2/5-6—Orchestra Fiddle Fair
 2/8—Basketball vs. Scoggins
 2/9—**Registration Night**
 6:00—6th grade (incoming)
 7:30—7th & 8th grade (incoming)
 2/10—Cross Country
 2/11—Track Parent Meeting
 2/15—**NO SCHOOL**

SPRING PICTURE DAY
 February 2nd



We are scheduled to have Spring Pictures on Tuesday, February 2. They will be taken on the stage via social studies classes. We will be sending home picture order forms the week of 1/25/10. Students who wish to purchase pictures should bring their orders and money to the photographer at the time their picture is made. Extra picture order forms will be located in the office.

Slideshows of student artwork can be found at <http://westerart.blogspot.com>



Yearbook orders are coming to a close. All yearbook orders must be complete (ordered & paid for) by January 29, 2010. This will be the last date that personalized yearbooks can be ordered this year. Find the Order Confirmation form you received in the mail from Jostens to complete your order today! You can log in with your order confirmation number at "jostensyearbooks.com" or, if you do not have access to your customer number, you can call their customer service number at 1-866-282-1516. Either way, order your yearbook today!

On December 5, 2009, the Wester Math and Science Team had their first competition at Cross Timbers Middle School and did an excellent job. The students have been working very hard these past couple of months to get ready for this meet and it has paid off. Of all the students that participated, 2 walked away with trophies and 2 with medals and many had qualifying scores for the state meet. HUGE congratulations to all members and a job well done.

Results:
Medals and Trophies:
 John Petersen – trophy – 8th grade science – 3rd place
 Bill Kim – 2 medals – 7th grade number sense-12th place; 7th grade calculator – 20th place
 Seth Harbin – trophy- 7th grade general math- 9th place
 Max Guan – medal – 8th grade general math – 14th place

Members:
 Edward Su, John Petersen, Morgan Noble, Danny Sheehan, Cameron Khoshgam, John William VanDerSchans, Dean Wooten, Megan Kiser, Rachel Bennett, Max Guan, Jessica Chen, Bill Kim, Abigail Eilar, Seth Harbin, Nicole Kiser, Sharnali Ghoshdastidar, and Hunter Anderson.

Registration for the 2010-2011 School Year

Current 8th grade students:

Centennial counselors will be at Wester on February 1st to help students know what to take as freshman. There will also be a parent information meeting at Centennial High School at 6:30 p.m. that evening; located in the auditorium. Both parents and students are invited to attend.

Current 6th and 7th grade students:

Wester will host a **Parent Information Night** on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m. We encourage all parents to attend.

Ms. Shari Sanders and Ms. Kim Arasato will be presenting registration information **to the 6th and 7th grade students** on Thursday, February 11th through the student's PE/Athletics classes. Students will receive packets of information at that time to help them make choices for next year. Please help your child with decisions regarding next year's schedule. Student's selection sheets are due back to their PE/Athletics teachers by Wednesday, February 17th.

Students will have a follow up registration date through one of their classes to help them learn how to input elective choices into the computer.

Next year's 6th grade students:

If you have a current fifth grade student who will be a Wildcat next year, the following dates will help you plan for them as well. There will be a parent night on Tuesday, February 9th, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Parents will get a chance to hear about the different elective choices and see the school. Students will have an opportunity at a later date to tour the school.

The middle school counselors will be at elementary schools to give registration information to students on these dates:

Shawnee Trail – Wednesday, February 10th

Curtsinger – Friday, February 12th

Gunstream – Friday, February 12th

Student's selection cards are due to their elementary counselor on Thursday, February 18th.



PAP/AP Parent Night

Heritage High School Auditorium

Monday, Jan. 25th 6:30-7:30

Come learn about advanced academic opportunities at the high school level.

All rising 8th and 9th grade parents and students are encouraged to attend to learn from counselors, teachers, and current PAP/AP students about the requirements, realities, and benefits of taking advanced courses in high school.



Example topics for the evening:

- What do colleges look for in a student's academic choices?
- What do we expect students to be able to do by the end of a course?
- What advice do students have for students considering PAP/AP?

*PAP/AP stands for Pre-Advanced Placement (usually 9/10 grade courses) and Advanced Placement. Advancement Placement courses are designed by the national College Board and could earn students college credit.



GIFTED AND TALENTED DISTRICT TESTING

GRADES 2ND through 11TH

- Frisco ISD will begin taking nominations for the Gifted and Talented program from Friday, February 5th through Friday, February 19th.
- Students currently enrolled in Frisco ISD in grades 2nd-11th may be nominated by parents, teachers, counselors, administrators or other community members for formal testing. *Students who were tested by the GT program during the 08/09 school year are not eligible for further testing at this time. Standardized test scores are considered valid for two years.
- PHASE I assessment consists of the Cognitive Abilities test, which will be administered on Saturday, March 6th. Only students who receive a score of 130 or higher on any subtest, or receive an overall composite score of 128 or above will be eligible for further testing.
- The PHASE II assessment process includes the Iowa Test of Basic Skills Achievement test, as well as performance products for elementary students and core subject grades for secondary students.
- If you would like to refer your child for PHASE I testing, please contact the Gifted and Talented Teacher on your child's campus to request a nomination packet. The completed packet must be returned to the GT Teacher no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19th.

*Students already identified for the FISD Gifted program do not need to retest.