

# West Nichols Hills Elementary School

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Mr. John Addison, Principal



*"Nurture your  
mind with great  
thoughts, for you  
will never go any  
higher than you  
think."*

*-Benjamin Disraeli*

## Happenings This Month

- ◆ This week - Turn in Fall Fundraiser Packets
- ◆ October 10<sup>th</sup> - Professional Development Day for Teachers - NO SCHOOL
- ◆ October 14<sup>th</sup> - End of 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr
- ◆ October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> - Fall Break - NO SCHOOL

## A Few Notes from Mr. Addison

What a busy school year it has been so far. We have had four opportunities to be together with parents; PTA Howdy Night, Open House and a PTA meeting, Johnnie's Night, and Parent Teacher Conferences. Teachers have begun instruction, given the benchmark tests, sent home progress reports, and met with me for staff meetings. We've had school pictures taken already, started a PTA fundraiser, and had an all-school awards assembly. And this is only the beginning! WOW!

Looking forward to the next month of school, things will be slowing down just a bit. The teachers will be having a professional development day next Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, so there won't be school then. And, the following week is Fall Break on Thursday and Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, so no school on those days either.

Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October marks the end of the first nine weeks, and report cards will be handed out shortly after that. Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> is our next Johnnie's Night, and the next All-school Awards Assembly will be the next day on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Principal for a Day

This last Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, we were honored to welcome and host a "Principal for a Day" at West Nichols Hills. Our guest was Mrs. Mary Delafield, with the Junior League of Oklahoma City.

The Principal for a Day program is sponsored by the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, and matches up community and business leaders in various schools throughout the district. Ms. Delafield was one of 50 such "principals."

Remember that Daylight Savings Time ends on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Now let's see..."Spring forward, Fall back." So, you'll turn your clocks back when you go to bed on the 29<sup>th</sup>. If you don't, you just may be an hour early for services the next morning!

Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> is Halloween, of course. And speaking of Halloween, just a reminder that students do not wear costumes to school. Sorry, but it's just not one of our two designated school party days. We'll still be focusing on learning on that day. And that pretty much takes care of October!

I would like to say thanks to everyone for the great turn out at all of our school events. We truly do believe that the education of our students is a partnership with the parents. And, once again, thanks to everyone who helps keep our uniform policy...well, uniform! There is a difference when the focus is just on learning.

Call me with questions or concerns, and let's have a great rest of the school year!

During her visit, Mrs. Delafield found out quite a lot about WNH. She had an opportunity to read to a kindergarten class, meet and visit with teachers, and visit with many of our boys and girls at lunch.

When a leader of the community takes a day to see what's going on in our schools first-hand, it shows tremendous commitment to education and dedication to the community.

Thanks for visiting, Mrs. Delafield!



Our WILDCATS are  
the best!

*"The future  
belongs to those  
who see  
possibilities before  
they become  
obvious."  
– John Sculley  
Former CEO of  
Pepsi and Apple  
Computer*

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## Benchmark Testing Provides Direction

There's a common adage about men; that they would rather drive around endlessly lost than stop and ask for directions.

Well, whether that is true or not, it provides a pretty good analogy for what "benchmark" (or "formative") testing is all about.

In the last newsletter I explained how PASS Objectives are the state's curriculum for each grade level for every school in the state. This is our "map," and just like being on a trip, we look at it often to see that we are going the right direction.

Just recently, the second through fifth

grade students at WNH took a test that covers their PASS objectives, and looked similar to the test that third through fifth graders will take in the spring of this year. This tells us how we are doing on our trip, and provides us with additional directions.

The results of the benchmark testing tell us if we need to turn toward more or less instruction in certain areas. It tells us which skills our students have already mastered, and which ones still need our instruction.

By checking our directions at key times throughout the year, we are sure to get to the destination on our map.

## Raising Generous Children

Hurricane Katrina rolled through and the news was filled with tragic stories. Everyone felt the need to do something, to give in some way - even our children.

At WNH, we started a donation drive through our PTA, and our students answered the call. We recently took all of those pennies, nickels, and dimes to the bank to be counted, and were able to make a donation to the American Red Cross in the amount of \$280.00.

Raising generous children is a noble task. And, more than anything else we can do for our children, setting an example of generosity will influence

them greatly. There is an old adage, "Attitudes are caught, not taught."

According to Mr. Rogers, "When children see that we adults are gracious receivers of what they give to us -- their drawings or little gifts or kind words or even their "successes" at toileting -- then they're more likely to want to be people who continue to give ... and who are gracious receivers themselves."

For the article, "Visiting with Mr. Rogers About Children and Giving," visit [http://www.onphilanthropy.com/prof\\_inter/pi2001-09-10e.html](http://www.onphilanthropy.com/prof_inter/pi2001-09-10e.html).

## Just for Laughs

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But, no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up

from her drawing, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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A heavy snow storm closed school for a few days. When the children returned one grade school teacher asked her students if they had used their time away from school constructively.

"I sure did, teacher," one little girl replied. "I constructed a snowman!"