

West Nichols Hills Elementary School

September 6, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 1

Mr. John Addison, Principal



*Even if you're on
the right track,
you'll get run over
if you just
sit there.
-Will Rogers*

Also Happening This Week

- ◆ 'Helping Hands' Hurricane Relief Fund Drive for the American Red Cross
- ◆ Fall Benchmark Testing
- ◆ Fall Picture Day on Friday
- ◆ PTA Howdy Night on Friday evening

A Few Notes from Mr. Addison

Parents, Students, Families, Neighbors, and Adopters, welcome back to another great school year at West Nichols Hills Elementary. The 2005/2006 school year is off to a good beginning.

And, speaking of good beginnings, I want to take this opportunity to once again tell you what an honor it is to have been chosen as your principal.

I can tell you that, outside of the district, West Nichols Hills has the reputation of having fine teachers, effective programs, great students, and high scores. I have found all of these to be true since my arrival.

I see it as my personal challenge to, at the very least, assist WNH in doing what it has already done - achieve high goals, and, if at all possible, assist this school in reaching even higher goals.

School improvement is not a solitary task. The research on effective schools

cites, among other things, parent involvement, as a necessary component for higher achieving schools. I have already seen a lot of parent interest and involvement at WNH, and I encourage you to keep up this important work.

Communicate with your children about school often, asking about their studies and checking on their homework. Communicate with your child's teacher often, about what the class is studying and how your child is progressing.

And, finally, be involved whenever possible. There was a wonderful turnout for Parent Night last week, and we are expecting a full crowd for Howdy Night coming up this Friday evening. I'll be seeing many of you then.

Thank you! And, have a wonderful school year.

Upcoming Events to Add to Your Calendar

Here are a couple more items to add to your school calendar for the month of September.

First of all, our first monthly Johnnie's Day will be on Tuesday, September 27th, at the Johnnie's Restaurant on Britton Road. They'll be recognizing WNH patrons all day long and into the evening.

Just tell them when you place your order that you are with West Nichols Hills Elementary School, and a part of your total will be given back to WNH to help support the school.

In addition, while you eat, you get to enjoy the company of other WNH parents, students, and teachers! Mark your calendars now, and I hope to see you there.

The next thing to add to this month's calendar is our first monthly, school-wide assembly. This will be a good time for a few performances, recognitions, and rewards. Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 29th, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. for the assembly. Thanks, and we'll see you all there.



Our WILDCATS are
the best!

*If you want to be
successful, it's just
this simple...Know
what you are
doing, Love what
you are doing, and
Believe in what
you are doing.
-Will Rogers*

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We're on the Web!
[http://www.okcps.org/
sch/el/wnhills.htm](http://www.okcps.org/sch/el/wnhills.htm)

A Uniform Focus on Learning

I would like to send out my thanks to the many students who consistently "follow suit" in wearing their school uniforms daily, and to the parents who support this practice.

As found on the Department of Education website, <http://www.ed.gov/updates/uniforms.html>, many believe school uniforms have the potential to make schools a better place for learning, citing the following benefits:

- Decreasing violence and theft
- Preventing associative colors and insignias
- Instilling student discipline
- Helping parents and students resist peer pressure
- Helping students concentrate on their school work, and
- Saving parents money on clothes

Talking With Children about the Disaster

The following recommendations come from the NYU Child Study Center website concerning talking to children about disasters. For the entire article and more information, connect to http://www.aboutourkids.org/aboutour/articles/talking_to_kids_natural_disaster.html

- Reassure children that every effort is being made to assure their safety.
- Know that more than one talk may be necessary as events unfold.
- Wait for children's questions, or an opportune moment to bring up the topic.
- Be aware of your own reactions, as these are apt to be reflected by children.
- Consider each child's personality and temperament. Some may be more prone to fear and anxiety.
- And, adjust your response to the age of the child.

A Few New Faces to Smile About

We are very pleased to introduce you to the following individuals new to the West Nichols Hills staff. Welcome everyone! We are proud to have you as a member of our team!

- Ms. Anya Roland, Third Grade
- Mrs. Michelle Bobbitt, Kindergarten
- Ms. Yolanda Buckley, Pre-K teacher
- Ms. Stacie Pugh, Pre-K Assistant
- Mrs. Laura Nguyen, Media Specialist
- Mrs. Linda Emmons, Principal's Secretary
- Mrs. Larinda Skaggs, School Nurse

Just for Laughs

Early one morning, a mother went in to wake up her son. "Wake up, son. It's time to go to school!"

"But why, Mom? I don't want to go." "Give me two reasons why you don't want to go," said the Mom. "Well, the kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me, too!"

"Oh, that's not true, they don't hate you. Come on now and get ready." "Give me two reasons why I should go to school," said the son.

"Well, for one, you're 52-years-old. And for another, you're the Principal!"