



## Growing Together!

What a fabulous first trimester we have had here at Woodcrest! Students are learning and growing daily in so many ways. As I walk through classrooms I see hands-on science, collaborative math discussions, close reading of text materials, and lots of technology integrated throughout. Thank you for coming and hearing about your child's progress at Parent-Teacher Conferences last week.

Our landscape is growing as well. We are getting some irrigation issues repaired which has helped our field and some planters begin to green up again. Each grade level has now adopted a planter on campus and will be discussing what to plant and how to maintain it. Watch for a flyer about a Woodcrest Weekend Work Party where families can come and help to prepare the planters and beautify our campus.

The landscaping project at the front of the school is continuing. There will be a drip system and new plants installed, and possibly a decorative fence along the sidewalk on Washington and Krameria. We will keep you posted. Watch for the new plants in the next couple of weeks!

Thank to the passage of Measure O, we are looking at ways to increase the parking for Woodcrest. Various options have been discussed and are being considered. We know it is a challenge out there, so please be as patient and as careful as you can in the interest of safety for all of our students.

## Attendance Counts!

One of the best things you can do to influence your student's academic success is to get him/her to school every day and on time. Read the following information from "AbsencesAddUp.org" for some key reasons why.

*Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school.*

*When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.*

*But when kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused— it can have a negative impact. These absences can affect kids as early as Kindergarten.*

*For example, young elementary school students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. But when students are able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, which is when kids transition from learning to read to reading to learn, they are three to four times more likely to graduate high school and attend college, post-graduate, or professional development classes than their peers who struggle with reading.*

We will be rewarding those students with perfect attendance each trimester with an award at the regular assembly. Perfect attendance means no absences, no tardies, and no early releases. This first trimester that is over 60 students!

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

## PTA Corner

First of all, we wanted to thank all of the families that made it out to the Woodcrest Barnes and Noble Book Fair. The Book Fair was a great success and the funds raised from the event will be used to help with the activities and assemblies provided to the students.

### Upcoming Events

**Dec 12-16: Kids Korner Gift Shop** (Students will be able to shop for family during school hours.)

**Dec 19th: PTA Meeting** (Anybody is welcome to attend the PTA meeting.)

(Mother/Son event is in the Calendar of Events twice. Because of scheduling conflicts with Miller's gym, the new planned date for the Mother/Son event will be 2/10/17.)

Please remember that order forms for the **yearbook** have been sent home with students. Yearbooks can be ordered for \$22 up until March 31st. After that the price will go up and will be available while supplies last. Order forms can be submitted to the office. Additional order forms can be found in the office. This year we will also have a Yearbook Cover Coloring Contest. Entries need to be submitted by Monday January 9, 2017. Please see the contest flyer for details and rules. More information can also be found at [www.woodcrestpta.org](http://www.woodcrestpta.org) and the Woodcrest PTA Facebook page.

It still isn't too late to join the PTA. PTA membership forms can be found in the office.

⇒ Check out our school website at  
<http://www.rusdlink.org/Domain/37>

(The school district is creating new websites for every school, but in the meantime, our current one is still up and running with a current calendar of events.)



⇒ Like us on Facebook at:  
[Facebook.com/WoodcrestRUSD](https://www.facebook.com/WoodcrestRUSD)



## Coming Events

December 7 Early release 1:25

December 12-16 Kids Korner Gift Shop

December 14 Early release 1:25

December 15 ELAC Meeting 2:45

December 16 Awards Assembly

December 19-23 Spirit Week

December 19 PTA Meeting 2:45

December 21 Early Release 1:25

December 24-January 8  
Winter Break

## Reflections Contest

The PTA Reflections Contest is a national event and an opportunity for students to explore the arts by creating a work of art based on a common theme. This year's theme was "What is Your Story?"

We had many wonderful entries in the categories of Literature, Photography, Visual Arts, and Music. The winners in each grade range have been sent on to the next level for judging. Those winners include Andrew Sihotang (K-photography), Julieta Tlaxcala (Gr.1-Literature and Visual Arts), Ashlynn Waggener (Gr. 4-Literature), Ben Burrell (Gr. 5-Music), Michael Petrick (Gr. 5-Photography), Winston Clark (Gr. 5-Visual Arts), Madelyn Olsen (Gr. 6-Literature), and Sana Manoj (Gr. 6-Music)

Congratulations to the contest winners and to all who participated and took the time to explore the arts and create a memory..