

WOODCREST NEWS



A Newsletter of Woodcrest Elementary School

January 2017

JANUARY

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2017! Students have returned ready to learn from teachers who are ready to engage them in exciting lessons and activities!

As you have probably noticed, we have new plants and trees in the parking lot and along Washington and Krameria. A white vinyl "split rail" fence has been approved as well and should be installed soon along the sidewalk. This long overdue facelift to our campus has already begun to lift the spirits of students and staff alike.

In the interest of safety, we are asking that students do not walk through the parking lot at drop-off or dismissal times unless you have parked in a parking space and are walking with them. Those students who are dropped off or picked up on Krameria need to stay on the sidewalk and either walk down Washington to/from the front gate or walk down Krameria, across the driveway, and continue down the school sidewalk to/from the front gate. We will have someone posted at the exit driveway crossing students safely before and after school.

Please do not encourage your child to come out to your car if you are double parked in a traffic lane. Teach safety at all times so that when you are not there, your child will continue to make safe choices about behavior. Let's not wait for something tragic to happen before we start to make better decisions.

We are looking at ways to make things flow smoothly at drop-off and dismissal times. If you would like to volunteer for a parent safety crew, please let me know.



The Great Kindness Challenge

Woodcrest Elementary will be participating in the Great Kindness Challenge the week of January 23rd-27th. This is a national event started by the "Kids for Peace" non-profit group a few years ago. The week is devoted to doing as many acts of kindness as possible with a goal of building a positive school culture and encouraging unity and respect.

There will be many opportunities for you to join us in sharing the kindness during the week. We will need volunteers to help at the morning recess at "Kindness Stations" that will be set up with activities for students to complete if they would like during their recess.

This is normally the week we would be having Spirit Week, which we will still have, only with different dress-up days than normal. Everything will be geared toward our kindness theme.

If you would like to be part of our Great Kindness Challenge by volunteering your time one morning that week, please let your child's teacher or the office know of your interest.

Remember, "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." Aesop

Character Matters

The character traits we are focusing on for the month of January are Initiative and Goal-Setting. As adults, we often begin the new year with a new batch of goals for ourselves. Many of the teachers have had their students set personal and academic goals since we returned from Winter Break. Take a minute and talk to your student about what they are working toward in this new year.

National History Day

Our sixth grade students each participated in National History Day (NHD) this year. "NHD motivates students to discover history by:

- Cultivating interest: students research a topic of their choice;
- Developing research skills: students act as historians discovering how to uncover primary sources, build historical context and form historical interpretations;
- Becoming experts on their research topic: presenting their research to teachers, students, and historians; and
- Achieving success: The shy student gains confidence when speaking about a topic he/she has researched, the apathetic student gains passion by choosing a topic of personal interest, and the high achieving student increases his/her ability to articulate learning through presentation."
(from the NHD website)

Our students who are moving on to the district contest level include:

Individual Exhibit: Edward Cahill, Pia Prashanth, Arianna Mejia, Marissa Garrett, Ashlynn Dodson

Group Exhibit: Andrew Lee & Bodie Winters, Alexis Bullock, Brooke Bullock, & Sana Manoj

Individual Website: Shakeeb Harb, Hannah Schles

Group Website: Janneen Kamara & Sophia Marrujo, George Nicholaides, Julian Caicedo, & Joshua Rodriguez

Historical Paper: Madelyn Olsen

Congratulations to these and all of our sixth grade students for the research you accomplished, the level of scholarship you demonstrated, and the new knowledge you have gained.

Thank you also to Mrs. Mugridge for coordinating and encouraging the successful completion of these amazing projects.



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



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

Coming Events

January 16	ML King, Jr Holiday (no school)
January 23-27	The Great Kindness Challenge
January 23	PTA meeting @ 3:00
January 24	ELAC Meeting @ 3:00
January 27	Awards Assemblies
January 27	Father/Daughter Dance @ 6:00 pm at Miller MS

Safety Committee

If you are interested in being part of our School Safety Committee, please let me know. We will meet about once a month to discuss safety concerns schoolwide and develop a plan of action to address those concerns. Some of our recommendations will require district level support. Others we may be able to implement at the school site level.

We need your voice and your ideas in the interest of staff, student, and community safety. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

