



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 2 - Kids Night Out--WO
- 3 - Market Day
- 6 - WO Band Concert
- 7 - 3rd Grade Concert DL
- 8 - Winter Choral Concert
- 9 - Barnes & Noble Fundraiser
- 9 - Dine-Out @ McCarthy's
- 16 - Winter parties
- 19 - Winter Break Begins
- 21 - PTO Meeting

JANUARY

- 3 - Return to school
- 7 - Market Day
- 16 - No School
- 18 - PTO Meeting
- 25 - No School

FEBRUARY

- 3 - Sweetheart Ball
- 4 - Market Day
- 14 - Valentine's Day Parties
- 15 - PTO Meeting
- 13-16 - WO Book Fair
- 13-16 - WO Conferences
- 13 - Blood Drive at WO
- 20 - No School
- 21-23 - FH Book Fair
- 21-23 FH Conferences

Las Palmas Dine Out

Thank you to all who joined us for two nights out at Las

Palmas, with a holiday boutique thrown in for extra fun! We raised \$350 during these two nights.

Thank you so much Claudia Winter and Laura Vogt for organizing!!!!

Market Days

Pick up some convenient and delicious food and support your schools as well. The last day for orders is Wed, Nov. 30th. Drop your order form at school in the morning or you may order until 11 pm on-line. Pick up is on Saturday, December 3rd, between 8:30 and 9.

Note from the President



You heard the call and came running! So far this year, we have raised more than \$13,000 for our schools! I can't thank you all enough for your support! You have made this job easier for me, and if you keep it up, I might just continue it into the new year!

The month of December offers some great opportunities to continue your PTO support. On Fri., Dec. 2nd (6-8 pm), we will host Kids Night Out and show "The Smurfs!" The event is \$5, with pizza and water available for purchase at the event (\$1 each). The kids have a great time enjoying a Friday night movie with their friends, and you can get some shopping done!

Speaking of shopping, the following Friday, December 9th, will be our Barnes & Noble extravaganza! All day long you can shop at Barnes & Noble and support the PTO!!!! After shopping, stop by for dinner at McCarthy's for our December Dine-out! Bring a flyer and the restaurant will donate 10% of the bill to District 76!! Also, make it a double donation and purchase Barnes & Noble gift cards in the next Manna order!

Speaking of Manna, as the holidays approach, please consider doing some of your gift shopping through the Manna program. For this month only, we will offer the opportunity to purchase the gift cards through a paper order form, which will be distributed shortly. For your teacher and bus driver gifts, consider purchasing Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, or Lettuce Entertain You gift cards (among many, many more) through Manna.

As is now customary, I would like to highlight a few of our great PTO volunteers. Anna Schreck and Melissa McKinley are our fabulous West Oak representatives. They each have their last child in 8th grade this year, and I am not sure what we are going to do without them next year! These ladies work so hard to make life at West Oak great for our middle schoolers. They threw themselves into the West Oaktobertfest and created such a successful event that we had to re-create it for the entire district! If it were not for the hard work of these amazing ladies and their posse (you know who you are Rose Panches, Evelyn Maratos, Enze Baker and others), we could not have pulled it off! Thank you so much, Anna and Melissa, for all of your support and hard work over the years!

Jamie Epstein, PTO President, 847-968-2815, jamieeps@aol.com

Barnes & Noble/McCarthy's Fundraiser



Book fans, your lucky day has arrived – our annual D76 PTO Barnes & Noble fundraiser! Friday, December 9 is the day to load up on great books & games for you, your children, family & friends at the Hawthorn store. To assist you in your reading selections, at noon readers can meet in the café for a presentation by book reviewer Dan Radovich. Youngsters will enjoy Mrs. Fergus' story time at 5:30 and a poetry & short story presentation by Diamond Lake School students at 6:30. Middle schoolers are invited to participate in a storewide scavenger hunt anytime between 8 and 10. The West Oak choirs will be performing throughout the evening, and student artwork will be on display all day.

Mention D76 when purchasing café items, books, games, journals, and all other BN products to support the PTO. If you can't make it to the store, or want out of town family to help support the PTO, we have an online book fair. From December 9 through December 14 when shoppers make an online purchase, they should enter code #10557841 at checkout to benefit the PTO.

Kids' Night Out

Get some holiday shopping done while your kids enjoy a movie out with friends. On Friday, December 2nd, we will show the *Smurfs* at West Oak from 6-8!!! The cost of the event is \$5/student and popcorn and lemonade are included. Students can purchase pizza and bottles of water (\$1 each) at the event. Look for flyers in your child's backpack!!!

**District 76 PTO
Directory 2011/2012**

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From the Treasurer's Corner



For the month of November our fundraisers have included: Great American (\$8,500), Dine out-Las Palmas (\$350), Market Day (\$364), Manna (\$420), Our District Wide Oktoberfest (\$2,000), and 4th Grade Concert-Concessions (\$200).

We have raised over \$10,000 this month and are SUPER excited to give back to our schools! We have given back to Diamond Lake for a few school grants!

As always, thank you for ALL your generosity! We couldn't do it without you!!!

Manna for the Holidays

Deck the Halls without going to the mall this holiday season. Buy gift cards for your teachers, bus drivers, friends, and family from Manna! This month we will even offer a paper order so that you can enjoy the Manna program without signing up via e-mail. We offer gift cards from Barnes & Noble, Starbuck's, Lettuce Entertain You, Dunkin Donuts, Macy's, and many more! Look for a flyer in the school mail!!!

Great American Sales

Way to go 76 Families!! The catalog/giftwrap fundraiser was a HUGE success with a school **profit** of over \$8,700!!!! Thank you to all the kids and families that worked so hard towards the success of this event. This year's grand prizes sellers TIED! We had 2 winning families: Matt Dutler and the Rodriguez family (Amelia and Sebastian). The winners will get to spend time in the money booth to catch as much cash as they can. This event and the distribution of the money pens (to all who ordered over 20 items) will be held at the PTOs Barnes and Noble on Dec 9. Look for times and details to come to this distribution. A BIG thank you goes out to Elise Hauptman, Carol Lambert, Cary Markeli, Haley Pomerantz and Jamie Epstein for your hard work in helping with the distribution. We couldn't have done it without you!!! Great Job District 76ers!!!

Community Corner

As December approaches, our thoughts go out to the less fortunate in our community. The school district and the PTO are working hard to help brighten the holidays of at least 125 struggling district families. Here is how you can help:

Contribute canned goods or toiletries to the supply drive. These items will be used to make holiday baskets for the 125 families. A letter was sent home with suggestions for each grade (for example, if you have a child in kindergarten, peanut butter and jelly was your suggested donation.) However, please know that any donation will be accepted and greatly appreciated. Send in items to any school by Monday, December 5th.

Donate clothing, high chairs, cribs, small household appliances, books, games, toys, etc. The district hopes to meet as many of the needs of these 125 families as possible. Please consider donating gently used items to West Oak for the supply drive. They will get the items directly to the district families who need it the most!

Adopt a family for the holidays. The social workers have chosen 10 of the neediest families who all have children who might not otherwise receive any presents this holiday season. You can "adopt" one or more of these needy children and buy them gifts (clothing and toys) from their wish lists. Please consider really making a difference in the lives of one of these children this holiday season. If you are interested, please E-MAIL LORI BRIERE DIRECTLY AT LODERICK2000@COMCAST.NET.

Misc. Items

- Holiday parties are coming up Monday, December 17th. Party moms have been chosen. Make sure your party money (\$6) has been turned in and if you are interested in helping out, please contact your class party mom.
- Don't throw away your Capri Sun packages! All schools will collect Capri Sun juice packs for the Terracycle recycling program. An easy way to earn additional funds for our schools!
- All schools accepting donations of old cell phones
- If your kids have grown out of last year's winter coats or boots, please consider donating them to Del Parra in the Family Resource Center at West Oak.

Volunteers

Thank you to our parent, teacher, and student volunteers - Debbie Einhorn, Marla Adams, Nancy Wayne, Elisa Bailis, Grisell Avita, Andrea Fisher, Jennifer Erenberg, Jen Brunkow, Elise Hauptman, Anna Schreck, Debbie Less, Carol Lambert, Pam Wagner, Maureen Collier, Sol Cabichuela, Cary Markeli, Haley Pomerantz, Alice Dutler, Jill Schwartz, Kelly Peterson, Kyle Peterson, Marcia Peterson, Haley Pomorantz, Joanne Moscovicz, Pam Baker, Liz Plummer, Jen Fragassi, Rhobyn Youngman, Mrs. Ziem, Mrs. Chyung, Joy Hail, Jennifer Brunkow, Julie Jacoby, Maureen Collier, Mala Singh, Evelyn Maratos, Enze Baker, Rose Panches, Andrew Kaboff, Melissa McKinley, Pamela McFeeley, Julie Carey, Melissa Noesges and Catherine Shannon.