



## *Message from the Principal*

West Hills Middle School **Loves** Trust Land Funds.

I wanted to take the time to let everyone know how our school has benefited from the School Trust Land funds. At West Hills Middle School, we use these funds to provide the following supports for student learning.

- **We provide after school tutoring with a licensed teacher each Tuesday and Thursday in Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Study Skills. This program is structured to support students struggling with concepts or attendance issues, giving them extra time to make-up missing work and get remediation.**
- **Students involved in the English as a Second Language (ESL) language acquisition class benefit from a 17 hr. aide who monitors grades and reading score progress, assists the teacher in one-on-one tutoring and lesson and test preparation, assists students in difficult classes, and visits teachers requesting accommodations for ESL students. With the highly skilled aide, we are working towards closing the achievement gap for our ESL students.**
- **Money is used for mobile computer lab upgrades, audio and computer equipment and software.**
- **We are dedicated to continuing implementation of middle level philosophy complete with integrated curriculum, developmentally responsive instruction, and collaboration between staff members. Funds are used for in-school mentor training with substitutes to cover, team curriculum planning, registration fees for local middle level education conferences with substitutes, and professional development in content specific areas. Progress will be assessed through surveys, test results, and long-term impact on student achievement.**

I sincerely thank our School Community Council members for their support and help in writing the School Land Trust proposal each year. We would also like to thank the Utah Legislators for their continued support for the School Land Trust Fund; we see tremendous benefits.





## *Message from the PTSA President*

Happy New Year! It's off to a great start. We have many dedicated PTSA volunteers putting in long hours with our students to produce our yearly musical. Please come see Xanadu Jr. March 13-17! It will make you want to dust off your roller skates.

You can still order a memory book for your student--and perhaps an extra one to gift to another student--at a discounted price by logging into Skyward.

Our Valentine's Day dance is on lucky Friday, February 13 after school and is free to all PTSA members.

All three of these events--Xanadu, memory book and dance--are sponsored by your West Hills PTSA.

The memory book is our only yearly fundraiser, and it is less expensive to become a PTSA member than to pay for yearly dances.

Many support services and events would not be possible without your generous support of membership and memory books.

Even if you believe you are a member and/or have ordered a memory book, perhaps double check on Skyward to ensure there isn't any disappointment toward the conclusion of the academic year.

Lastly, an outstanding annual event is PTA day at the state capitol February 18. PTSA volunteers are accompanying students for an extremely educational experience on Capitol Hill, meeting legislators and seeing how government operates.

Please consider signing up your student(s) and also chaperoning with us that day. Our presence--and membership--helps ensure that educationally-friendly initiatives and funding are safeguarded from other special interests.

As always, please feel free to contact me any time with questions at [david@octappella.com](mailto:david@octappella.com). Thank you for your support!





## *Xanadu Musical*

The PTSA is producing Xanadu for the school musical this year. Tryouts are over and rehearsals are well under way. The kids are very excited to perform. The performance dates are: March 13, 14, 16 and 17 so keep these dates open. You won't want to miss this highly entertaining musical!! For more information, you can go to the website at [www.westhillsmusical.wordpress.com](http://www.westhillsmusical.wordpress.com).



## *Sealver Saliga - Former WHMS Student*

Congratulations to former West Hills Middle School student, Sealver Saliga. Sealver attended West Hills from 2003 to 2005. After a great career at the University of Utah, he now plays professional football for the New England Patriots. Sealver will be in the Super Bowl on February 1st. He wears the number 96 and plays defensive line.



The West Hills Community would like to recognize Sealver for this amazing achievement and wish him good luck. We are so proud of so many of our former students. This is just another example of students who go on to success after their time at West Hills. Good Luck Sealver!

## *SAGE TESTING*

The Sage Writing Test will be given to all students here at West Hills between February 2nd and February 13th. All students have been working diligently to prepare for this test. Parents can help them be successful by making sure their child has a good breakfast and plenty of sleep on those days. Student attendance is very important, of course! Thanks in advance for supporting your West Hills Language Arts teachers!





*Reading is important to your student's overall success in school and in life.*

## PRINT THIS CHART

### WHY READ FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY?

STUDENT A	STUDENT B	STUDENT C
20 MINUTES PER DAY	5 MINUTES PER DAY	1 MINUTE PER DAY
1,800,000 WORDS PER YEAR	282,000 WORDS PER YEAR	8,000 WORDS PER YEAR
SCORES IN THE 90 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS	SCORES IN THE 50 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS	SCORES IN THE 10 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS



**So, how do you make a child a better reader?  
READ MORE!**

## STUDENT REPS

PTA Capitol Day is Wednesday, Feb. 18th. Remember to wear your shirts as we will be taking memory book pictures at the Capitol. Meet at the Trax station (4800 W. and Old Bingham) that morning to buy your ticket (watch for an email with the exact time). You will be home around 3:00. Please arrange to have someone to pick you up at the Trax station. It is an excused school absence, but you are still responsible to get with your teachers to make up the work you will miss. It will be a lot of fun, see you then!





## TEACHER OF THE QUARTER - MS. FAWCETT

We would like to congratulate Ms. Fawcett for achieving **Teacher of the Quarter**. She is an amazing teacher and we appreciate all she does for her students at West Hills Middle School. Her students have many positive things to say about her. Here are just a few:

- She is always happy.
- She has a positive attitude.
- She listens to students' concerns.
- She is willing to stay after and help students.
- She makes learning fun.
- She is helpful and fun.
- She cares about her students and their education.



## WHMS Book Fair March 4 & 5

### During Student-led Conferences in the Media Center

Come in for some great deals and reward your student for their hard work.

All Scholastic Book Fair purchases benefit our school. You could also help add books to our classroom shelves by purchasing books and donating them to your child's class. Thanks for helping get more kids reading and kids reading more. See you at the Book Fair!



**Reading Takes you Places!**