



## *PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE*

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year. We're excited to be back in full swing, with many great things happening, and I'm honored to serve as your principal! Seventh grade orientation and Back-to-School Night were wonderful. I want to thank students, parents and staff, for all of their help and support to make these events a big success. We also had a great experience with online enrollment again this year, thanks to you, our parents!

We have expanded our Learning Enhancement and Acceleration Program (LEAP) of intervention for students again this year. We are now holding twice-weekly LEAP intervention sessions to give students more time and support for learning in those subjects where they need the most help, and to give students who are showing proficiency in their classes opportunities to enrich their learning or simply have additional time to do homework, study or read. In addition, we have increased our after school tutoring offerings to include help and support each Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. See a schedule of offerings and room locations on our website at <http://westhills.jordandistrict.org/students/tutoring/>.

Parents may access student grades and attendance online from the Family Access link at the bottom of our West Hills webpage (<http://westhills.jordandistrict.org/>). If you need your student's Skyward password, or your own, please come to the main office or have your student ask the office.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter to receive school announcements and information from West Hills. To receive twitter messages sent directly to your cell phone, text the message: follow whmswildcats to the phone number 40404. You may also follow our Twitter account online at: <https://twitter.com/whmswildcats> (It is not necessary to sign up with Twitter to follow, or find us on Facebook at West Hills Middle School.

You may also be aware that we have an assistant principal who is new to the West Hills family. We are excited to Rochelle Waite, who comes to us from Riverton High School.

I look forward to seeing the great things our students accomplish over the course of this school year. Please contact me or one of the assistant principals if we can be of help to you or your student.

Sincerely,

Stacy Evans, Principal

## *UPCOMING CROSSWALK CHANGE*

West Jordan City has notified us of a necessary change to our current safe walking plan. A new crosswalk at the intersection of 8200 S and 5600 W will replace the current 5600 W crosswalk at the southwest corner of the school. To better accommodate our students, we will relocate the gate in the fence on the west side of our school grounds to align with the new crosswalk. Look for these changes sometime before Halloween. A new SNAP map will be posted online when the changes take effect.



## *PTSA PRESIDENT MESSAGE*

### West Hills Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Opportunities

Welcome to another great school year at West Hills! We are honored to serve you in PTSA, striving to support our outstanding students, faculty, staff and community. We've enjoyed meeting new administrators and teachers during Summer break and back-to-school night. The goal of our organization is to work together with school employees to provide the best environment possible for the safety, health, academic and extra-curricular success of all students. To achieve this, please consider participating in the following areas as much as possible. We want everyone to feel welcomed and encouraged to participate for the benefit of our great community. Please contact me any time with questions, comments or offers to help at [david@octappella.com](mailto:david@octappella.com). Thank you, and best wishes for a great school year!

Sincerely, David F. Pack, Ph.D., West Hills PTSA President

- **Membership**

\$6 for each person--both spouses, students, grandparents and other adult family members encouraged to join. PTSA is the largest organized child / education advocacy group. Dues help safeguard educational-friendly and family-friendly legislation and initiatives. Without strong lobbying efforts with legislators, education funding easily diminishes. Being a vocal majority better ensures our voice is heard amid other voices who would seek to divert educational funding for their own special interest. Being a member does not obligate you to volunteer, and you won't receive unsolicited contacts. If you support education, this is the least expensive and efficient way to demonstrate your support! Membership envelopes are available in the main office, and / or contact any PTSA board member for more information.

- **Fundraiser**

Memory books / yearbooks are our only fundraiser for the entire school year, with 100 percent of the net proceeds after all publication costs going toward supporting our school with programs such as the annual student musical, teacher classroom grants for needed materials not funded by the district, teacher dinners, dances, student representatives and many other activities to support our awesome students, teachers and staff. Your student is guaranteed to receive a copy--and they are less expensive--when ordered in advance.

- **Donations**

In lieu of / in addition to supporting our fundraiser, if you prefer to donate so that 100 percent of gross proceeds are retained, a suggested donation is the equivalent of one memory book order, which is \$25. PTSA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your donation may be tax deductible; consult your tax professional. Please contact your friends, family, coworkers and employers—you may have an employer donation match opportunity. All PSTA staff are volunteers; therefore, 100 percent of funds raised go toward our school. The budget has been discussed and set in open transparency with PTSA executive board, school administration and teachers to ensure funds are allocated in amounts and areas having the most significant impact for our students.

- **Open Meetings**

We encourage everyone to attend our public meetings to ensure transparency, communication and representation from all segments of our community. We welcome new people and new ideas! Meetings are generally held the first monthly Tuesday from 9:30-11:00am. If you can't attend the meetings, no problem—we welcome your input. Please contact the main office and / or any PTSA board member with your comments.

- **Volunteering**

Calling all women and men! Your time and talents are not only desired, but also needed! You can tailor-make your own involvement without fear of being hounded for anything else other than what you want to do. Serve where, when and how you wish. There are daytime and nighttime opportunities, at-home or at-school projects, one day per month or one week per year schedules. Our goal is to have much committee work since many people working in synergy lightens work load, increases success and enjoyment. We have pared down volunteer areas considerably, focusing on the core areas of reported impact significance to ensure your time and effort are well invested. Among many other statistics, it is empirically proven through many studies that PSTA membership and involvement at school significantly raises your child's / children's test scores and diminishes instances of substance abuse and truancy. Please volunteer! Thank you.



## MEMORY BOOKS



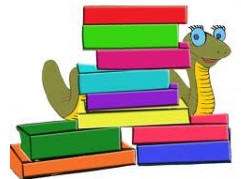
\*Students: there are still positions available for the Memory Book Staff. A sign-up sheet will be in the Main Office until October 10<sup>th</sup>. Come join us and be part of the fun!\*

## WHMS BOOK FAIR

The West Hills Middle School Book Fair will be held October 1-2 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 classrooms by purchasing books and donating them to your child's Language Arts class. Thanks for helping to get more kids reading and kids reading more. See you at the Book Fair!!



## 2014 UTAH PTA ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 22nd

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Salt Lake Community College - Redwood Campus

4600 S. Redwood Road - Student Center

Includes a workshop on the new SAGE testing and hourly workshops.

Anyone is welcome.

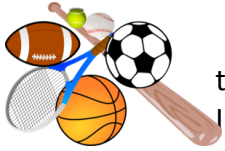
If you are a PTA member, contact [alishiahuefner@msn.com](mailto:alishiahuefner@msn.com)  
and we'll help you get registered.

Or you can register yourself at [utahpta.org](http://utahpta.org).

## NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

### ROCHELLE WAITE – VICE PRINCIPAL

Prior to coming to West Hills Middle School I spent the last year as a full time administrative intern sharing time between four schools: Copper Hills High, Valley High, Union Middle School and Foothills Elementary. Prior to that, I taught Health Science and Social Studies for eight years at Riverton High School. I love to travel, learn new things, watch just about any sporting event there is and spend as much time as possible with my family. I could not be more thrilled to be here at West Hills Middle School...where the Cats are WILD!



### JESSICA OTERO – COUNSELOR

My name is Jessica Otero and I am a new counselor at West Hills Middle School. Prior to West Hills, I worked at Beacon Heights Elementary School in Salt Lake District in their Child Behavioral Therapy Unit. I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Northern Arizona University in 2008, and I am almost finished with my Master's Degree in Educational Psychology at the University of Utah - GO UTES! I am originally from New Jersey and moved out west in 2000.



I enjoy doing many things including reading, scrapbooking, video games, watching scary movies, and swimming. I also play the violin and speak a bit (ok more than a bit) of Spanish.



I want the community to know I love working with their children and helping them solve their problems and reach their goals. I want them to succeed and I know it takes teamwork to get there. I love West Hills so far, and I think it will be a great year!

### JILL HOWELLS – SCIENCE TEACHER

I have taught 6th and 7th grade science in Vernal, and Earth science in Brigham City. I love Star Wars, Utah State Aggies (I Believe We Will Win!! - Go Aggies!), science fiction, Comic Con, weather, NASA, collecting rocks, looking into space, and any other science thing. I really enjoy working here and appreciate all the support and help I have received. West Jordan is a great community!



### LEAH ANDERSON LOFTIN - SPANISH TEACHER

I just graduated from BYU! But I recently did an ESL practicum at Centennial Middle School in Provo, my English student teaching at Lone Peak High School in Highland, and a few years ago I worked at Provo High School as an aide in the behavioral correction unit.

I love running, hiking, swimming, cliff jumping, traveling, and reading. I play a little bit of piano and a "littler" bit of guitar. I got married this July! :) My husband and I just moved to West Jordan and I am excited to be working here at West Hills.



**NATHAN MOHLER – SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER**

This is my first year of teaching! I graduated from UVU on May 1, 2014. I student taught at Pleasant Grove High School.

My interests center around family, my job and my family foundation. I worked long and hard to be able to have a family and then to have a job that I loved and felt right about. Then abruptly in January 2014 mine and my family's lives changed forever - my step dad was killed in the line of duty in Utah County. Since then, I have taken every opportunity to advocate for police and I often work on our family foundation so that we as a family can do what we can to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the funding issues they have, to ensure their maximum protection. That really sums me up right now.

I want the parents and students at West Hills to know that even though I am new to teaching I promise to be the best teacher I can. I truly want what is best for each of the students and the community that they are a part of. I feel like I was meant to be a teacher, and that coupled with a love for history, and a not-at-all easy childhood and past; I think I am uniquely positioned to teach and hopefully make a difference in the lives of my students.

**GEORGE TAYLOR – CTE TEACHER**

I graduated from Brigham Young University in December.

Immediately following student teaching, I taught at Tooele Jr. High School for the rest of the year.

I enjoy woodworking, art, backpacking, skiing and almost every other outdoor sport.

I'm excited to be here and love teaching CTE!!



**JONATHON GARFIELD – MATH TEACHER**  
**CANDACE MAYLETT – SPANISH TEACHER**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new staff members. We hope they enjoy working at here West Hills Middle School!!