



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Where has the school year gone? I can hardly believe we are already into the fourth quarter. With the start of a new quarter comes a great opportunity for students to re-focus their efforts and end the year on a high note! Here at West Hills, we offer lots of great supports to help students be successful in school. Here are just a few ways your child can get extra help.

- Ask questions during class.
- Make arrangements with the teacher to get extra help before or after school.
- Attend tutorials for help with homework. Any student can come...just show up! Tutoring runs from 3 to 4 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday. *Students must be in the tutoring room by 3:00 p.m.*
  - Language Arts
    - Tuesdays in Room 504 with Ms. Smith
    - Thursdays in Room 204 with Ms. Waite
  - Math
    - Tuesdays in Room 328 with Ms. Beatty
    - Thursdays in Room 219 with Ms. Habermeyer
  - Science
    - Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 210 with Ms. Blake
  - Social Studies
    - Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 503 with Mr. Mohler
  - Study Hall/General Help (computers are available)
    - Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Media Center with Ms. Walker
- Make effective use of LEAP Intervention Time.
  - LEAP is built into our bell schedule following 2<sup>nd</sup> period, and is normally held at least two days a week, offering students extra time and support for learning within the regular school day.
    - Teachers can pull in a specific group of students during LEAP to re-teach those students who did not show understanding of a concept during regular instructional time.
    - Teachers hold study sessions in their subject area to allow students time to work on assignments, with a teacher available to help them
    - Students who do not need additional help can attend a general study hall to work on homework or do additional reading or research, or choose one of several enrichment activities.

Please encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities as needed. We look forward to a great fourth quarter with our students, and a positive ending to our school year!



## MESSAGE FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

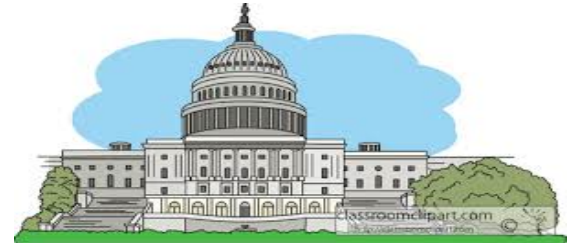
Our community is blessed with a great group of dedicated PTSA volunteers offering many selfless hours of service for the benefit of our students! Since our previous newsletter two months ago, PTSA has sponsored many activities. The Valentine's Day dance was well attended and had a flash mob Xanadu dance. Our Xanadu musical production would not have happened without many parents working together. Thank you for your support in allowing us to work with your children to make it a reality. Our PTSA student representatives enjoyed a great day at Capitol Hill meeting legislators, engaging in debates and seeing how government works. We had over 60 people attend--the largest group from any school! We've been able to staff Book Fair and offer meals to teachers to keep them going during conference days. Basically, we are just striving to make a difference by supporting students, faculty, staff and administration. Please double check to ensure you have ordered a memory book for your student(s), and perhaps consider gifting one, too, for a student who may not otherwise receive one. Memory book sales is our only fundraiser, which allows us to fund many programs and events, such as the ones mentioned above, that otherwise would not occur. If you are not already a PTSA member, please consider joining! Fundraiser money stays completely within our school, and membership dues help fund efforts to safeguard educationally-friendly legislation--our student representatives were able to see this first-hand! We could always use more volunteers, too! Please feel free to contact me any time at [david@octappella.com](mailto:david@octappella.com) and we can tailor-make a service opportunity that fits your schedule! Thank you.





## *PTA DAY AT THE CAPITOL*

Forty-two students and eighteen adults went on a fun field trip to PTA Day at the Capitol on February 18th. We participated in a mock debate, met with legislators, and went on a tour. We also got to eat a delicious lunch in the rotunda of the Capitol Building. We rode Trax and UTA buses to get there. A wonderful time was had by all. We want to thank West Hills PTSA for sponsoring this annual event. And we invite all students to sign-up to be PTSA Student Reps next year so you can come with us.



## *SAGE WHAT???*

The Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) is Utah's computer adaptive assessment system aligned to the state's core standards. The SAGE testing schedule is as follows: Special Education – April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>, Language Arts – May 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, Science – May 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>, Math – May 18<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>.

***Parents PLEASE make sure your student is at school for SAGE Testing! ☺***

***Listed are some test taking tips for students...***

- 1) **Starting Now** – Keep a positive attitude. A positive attitude goes a long way towards success.
- 2) **The Night Before the Test** – Remember your brain and body need sleep to function well, so don't stay up late!
- 3) **The Morning of the Test** – Did you know that you think better when you have a full stomach? So don't skip breakfast the morning of the test.
- 4) **Right Before the Test** – Before the test begins, make sure you have everything you'll need – scratch paper, extra pencils, your calculator, (if you're allowed to use it).
- 5) **While Testing** – Answering easy questions first can be a time saver and a confidence builder. Plus, it saves more time in the end for you to focus on the hard stuff.
- 6) **When You're Stuck** – Don't get worried or frustrated. Reread the question to make sure you understand it, and then try to solve it the best way you know how. You can come back to it later.
- 7) **When You're Done** – Not so fast! When you complete the last item on the test, go back and review your answers.



## ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to the Orchestra for their *Superior* rating at the Jordan District performance assessment festival. They played music by Senaille, Puccini, and Tchaikovsky. This marks the 32nd year of *Superior* ratings in instrumental music at our school, going back to 1982 when the school was located in Copperton.



## TEACHER OF THE QUARTER

Students nominated Ms. Loosle as our second “Teacher of the Quarter”. Here are some things that were written about our winner:

- Ms. Loosle teaches us to be kind to others.
- She has gone above and beyond to help students.
- She cares about her students’ needs.
- Ms. Loosle has a happy and outgoing personality.
- She makes learning fun and you can tell she loves teaching.
- She tries her hardest in everything.
- She really wants her students to understand their work, and helps them until they do.
- She has a positive attitude and teaches her students to show gratitude.
- Ms. Loosle makes her students want to read more.



Ms. Loosle is a great teacher and we are lucky to have her. Thanks for all you do for West Hills! And thank you to all the students who turned in nominations: we had 550 forms filled out. That says a lot about our awesome students as well as our great faculty!

## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4 – 8. Please take time during that week to recognize and show appreciation for your child’s teachers who work so hard and put so much energy into teaching our children here at West Hills!!

There is no substitute for a great teacher!



Teacher Appreciation Week