



# Walnut Grove Gazette

## The 2008 Erin Mullican Book Fair

Dear Parents,

It's time to jump in and take a Reading Road Trip to the WGES Book Fair! This school fundraiser is named in memory of Erin Mullican (1989-98), a former student and avid reader. All profits provide books and equipment for our library. The decorating committee headed by Natalie Pearce has done a super job of transforming the library. The merchandise is here and the selection is, once again, fabulous!

You are welcome to visit the book fair at any time - especially during your child's class visitation. The class schedule went home on the back of the green newsletter that was attached to the book flyer. We will be having a Road Rally Family Event on Tuesday, January 29 from 5pm - 8. And there will be theme days to promote excitement!



### Book Fair Schedule:

1/25 Friday	8 am-4pm	
1/28 Monday	8 am-4pm	Sunglasses Day
1/29 Tuesday	8 am-4pm	Backwards Day
	Tuesday	5pm-8pm Road Rally Family Night
1/30 Wednesday	8am-4pm	Destination TShirt Day
1/31 Thursday	8 am-4pm	Wacky Hair Day
2/2 Friday	8am-4pm	WGES Tshirt Day

Don't forget to send in your "One for Books" donation! Each dollar donated goes directly to our school library. In addition, for every dollar raised, Scholastic matches that dollar with a book donated to one of three non-profit literacy groups. Look for the "One for Books" display in the hall outside the library. It will be filled with the cars that your child can sign and return with the donation!

Finally, don't forget to check the "Faculty Wish List" display in the library. This is a great way to help our faculty expand their classroom libraries.

**PTA**  
everychild.one voice.

**Walnut Grove  
Elementary School**

**"AIM HIGH"**  
Jan/Feb 2008

### Dates to Remember:

- ☉ Jan 14 & 15-Jim Williams speaks to 4th Grade
- ☉ Jan 22-Jump Rope Assembly
- ☉ Jan 25-Feb 1st Book Fair
- ☉ Feb 14-Valentine's Day Parties, 2:15pm
- ☉ Feb 18- Professional Day-No School
- ☉ Feb 21-4th Grade Program
- ☉ Feb. 22- Love In A Big World Assembly
- ☉ Feb 29-Read-A-Thon
- ☉ March 6-Spring Photos

## Rock 'n Roll Read-a-thon is Coming!

Dust off your poodle skirts, peddle pushers and letter jackets - guys get ready to slick back your hair - dress up as your favorite character from "Grease"! Elvis may even be in the building! The 2008 Rock 'n Roll Read-a-thon is scheduled for Friday, February 29th from 1:00pm-5:00pm. WGES students can look forward to a fun-filled afternoon of reading, author visits, storytellers and the famous sock hop hosted by Mrs. West, Mrs. Crow and Mrs. Taylor! This year's event will feature children's author and illustrator Tammy Carter Bronson; to learn more about her books and exciting program you may visit her website at

[www.tinysnail.com](http://www.tinysnail.com). The students will also enjoy performances by local storytellers. The Read-a-thon is an educational event and is our annual Principal's fundraiser. Information with details about the schedule for 2/29, how the fundraiser works and permission slips will be sent home with the students in mid-February. The Read-a-thon committee is collecting donated prizes that will be used to reward our students for their hard work raising pledges. Please contact Caroline Saliby at [saliby@bellsouth.net](mailto:saliby@bellsouth.net) with questions or prize donations.

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## Book Fair Funds Benefit WGES Library

The Library staff have put the funds raised in the 2007 Erin Mullican Book Fair to great use. Ms Elizabeth Barnes details the following use of the funds:

- \* Heinnemann Company Third Grade Writing Kits - Four additional writing kits to supplement the two kits already owned by school.
- \* Brodart Trapezoid Computer Table—Table replaced the more cumbersome square tables.
- \* Nystrom/Herff-Jones Maps and Globes - Maps and globes requested by teaching staff to enhance the social studies curriculum. The Nystrom representative installed the wall maps and completed a survey of exactly what we have in each classroom and provided list of areas that need updating.
- \* Brodart Wooden Picture Book Shelves - Twenty one wooden shelves to accommodate library inventory.

Ms. Barnes said “There are always needs that arise from time to time and having this source has been a great blessing to everyone in our school.” She continued to thank the volunteers that make this annual library fundraiser such a success and the parents for their continued support.



## Walnut Grove Family Night

### \* Mark Your Calendars \*

Walnut Grove will be hosting another family night this year! The event, held at Pump It Up, will offer a wonderful opportunity for family and friends at our school to get together. In addition, WGES receives \$2.00 for each admission paid to Pump It Up.

Date: Tuesday, Jan 22nd  
Time: 4:30-6:00  
Cost Per Student: \$6.00  
Location: Pump It Up

Play time will be the entire 1 & 1/2 hour (no pizza will be served) with two rooms reserved for WGES. Space is limited to the first 100 students. Many thanks to our families who have supported these fun events!

## Ropeworks Assembly—Rene Bibaud

The PE Teaching Staff is pleased to announce that

### Rene Bibaud with Ropeworks

is coming to WGES on January 22nd. Rene Bibaud, who founded Ropeworks in the fall of 2001, is a five-time world jump rope champion, ESPN commentator and former artist and coach of Cirque Du Soleil. She performs worldwide, combining her skills as an entertainer and articulate speaker to inspire, educate and entertain. Rene motivates youth regarding fitness by sharing the benefits of the single best fitness tool available—the jump rope. In addition to her work with schools across the nation she also performs at special events such as NBA halftime shows, Cirque Du Soleil Specials and other entertainment venues. She founded Ropeworks, with a special focus on using the rope as a means to convey both the importance of physical activity and exercise as well as sharing positive life messages to the youth of today. Please go [www.jumpropenet.com](http://www.jumpropenet.com) for more information on this wonderful program!



## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration dates for the '08-'09 school year:

- \*Tuesday-April 1st \*8:00am—2:00pm
- \*Thursday-April 3rd \*11:00am—4:00pm

Please check the Williamson County School's web site [www.wcs.edu](http://www.wcs.edu) for information on what documents to bring to registration. There is such a large number of parents enrolling on these days the office staff needs assistance. If you can give an hour, two (or more) during these dates please make arrangements with Amy Kinsey at 472-4870.

In addition, the Kindergarten Student tours will be held on the following dates:

- \*Wednesday-April 9th \*9:00am—10:00am
- \*Thursday-April 10th \*9:00am—10:00am

## Author Visit for Read-a-thon

Tammy Carter Bronson is the author and illustrator of three picture books: *Tiny Snail*, *The Kaleidonotes* & *the Mixed Up Orchestra*, and *Polliwog*. She travels across America teaching children about the writing, illustrating and publishing process. Ms. Bronson has visited over 300 schools in 15 states.

In her school program Tammy will connect her real world experience with classroom lessons on reading and writing. She will improve our students' understanding of the revision and editing process. In addition, she provides an overview of how books are created from the first draft to the finished, bound book.

Children will see her binder filled with early drafts of her first book, *Tiny Snail*. She reviews the illustrating process by describing and displaying early sketches, the storyboard and dummy book, and the final art. Throughout her program she emphasizes the importance of rewriting. She also emphasizes the importance of using the library as a resource. Tammy explains the three 'R's' essential to every writer: **READ / RESEARCH / REWRITE**.

Walnut Grove is excited about our students learning the details of getting a book published by such an accomplished writer. If you would like to read more about Tammy Carter Bronson you can visit her website: [www.tinysnail.com](http://www.tinysnail.com). Parents can review her presentation which will enable you to discuss the assembly at home with your child.

Many thanks to Caroline Saliby for her work in inviting this author to participate in the 2008 Rock and Roll Read-a-thon. Also, thanks Mr. Jordan and the committee chairs for your hard work in making this such a special event for our students!

## School Supply Sale

Be on the look-out for information about the 2008-2009 school supply sale! We will sell supplies during the PTA's second 30 day sales period (4/1-4/30). Please note, while TN tax code considers this a "fundraiser," the school supplies are sold to students at cost. This is a service provided to teachers and families by the WGES PTA. If you do not order supplies during the 30 day period, you may order them directly from [www.Innisbrook.com](http://www.Innisbrook.com). A word of caution—if you wait till just before school starts, they may be low on inventory.



## Upcoming PTA Board Elections

Elections for the 2008-2009 PTA Board will be held in a few months. Each year the election begins with the selection of a Nominating Committee. School parents representing numerous neighborhoods will serve on this 7 member committee. Our goal is to have a representative from most of the neighborhoods feeding into WGES. The committee members are selected by our PTA membership so please return your ballot when it comes home via backpack mail. After this committee is selected, they will meet to nominate parents to serve on the board and will present a list of names to the PTA parent membership for voting.

The positions open this year are as follows:

- Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary
- 2nd Vice President (Directory)
- 1st Vice President (Volunteer Coordinator)
- President

If you would like to be considered for a PTA Board position or need information of board officer responsibilities, please contact Lisa McReynolds at [lbmcrey@comcast.net](mailto:lbmcrey@comcast.net). **If you are interested, please do not wait to be asked. The board needs interested, energetic parents to serve!**

## Lost and Found—1/31 Deadline

The Lost and Found will be taken to a charity on January 31st. If your child has lost an item please stop by the Lost and Found prior to this date to claim your items.

## WCS & TCAP Writing Assessment

The WCS writing and TCAP writing assessment is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> with all make-ups on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Parents please avoid travel, doctor appointments, etc for their children on this important testing date.

**Mark your calendars!**



## \* WGES Teacher of the Year—Mrs. Teresa West\*



We are pleased to announce Mrs. Teresa West has been named "Teacher of the Year!" Mrs. West is recognized by the WGES staff for her endless efforts to educate the student body in the world of music. Her love of music is on display each day as she strives to expose the children to many aspects of music from singing to various musical instruments. She employs many different instructional strategies to keep the children learning about music from different periods of time and different cultures. Each year Mrs. West selects musical productions for each grade level which are enjoyed by the student body, parents and most of all the children participating. In addition, she directs the school chorus which performs several times during the school year. WGES is proud to have such talented and dedicated music teacher at our school. Mrs. West exemplifies the best the teaching profession has to offer and our school is so fortunate to count her as a member of the Walnut Grove Faculty.

**Congratulations to Mrs. West for being recognized by her colleagues as the Walnut Grove Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008!**

## Love in a Big World—Coming To WGES!

A Middle Tennessee Electric Corporation Grant will bring a character based program' "Love in a Big World" to WGES on February 22nd. "Love in a Big World" addresses various character traits important for our children to do well in life. The concert assembly program explores the challenges and choices students are faced with every day. Character traits such as **Courage**, **Honesty** and **Kindness** are offered as the standards of love we use to make wise choices in our big world.

Over the past eleven years, "Love In A Big World" has grown from the founder, a substitute teacher in the urban Nashville area, to a team of people reaching out to kids across the country. The program has worked with over 325,000 kids in over 225 schools throughout 10 states...and it keeps growing. "Love In A Big World" is participating in the first Federal Social & Character Development Research Project with the U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Educational Sciences and Vanderbilt University and is currently developing an educational television show for kids ages 8-12. The goal of Love In A Big World is to connect with kids and let them know that they are not alone in this big world.

The mission of Love in a Big World is:

**"to educate kids to make wise choices, build strong character, and inspire hope in America's youth".**

## Excused Absences

Please be reminded that excused absences for out of town trips must be approved in advance. We encourage you to limit these absences to five days or less. Each request is considered on a case by case basis. Please check the Williamson County School System web site ([www.wcs.edu](http://www.wcs.edu)) for test calendar dates prior to making your request. It is imperative that your child be in attendance during testing periods.