



# The Wilchester Herald

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2011

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

- **December 10**  
Wilchester Fun Run



- **December 16**  
Winter Parties 11 am  
Early Dismissal noon  
Winter Break Begins!
- **January 4**  
Classes Resume

## A note from our Principal...

Happy Holidays!

I hope that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving break. Everyone is looking forward to the events of the coming month and for another chance to get together with family and friends. It is amazing what a bit of turkey and some rest can do for your mood. We only have a few short weeks until we break again. Our winter break will begin Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at noon and school will resume on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

As we enter the holiday season, please remember to bring your children on time to school. The bell rings at 8:00am. As well, we want to continue to keep our attendance records high. If you need to take your child to the doctor or dentist, please wait until after the attendance period at 9:00am so that they can get credit for being here.

Last week, I attended the November school board meeting and Wilchester received five TEA Gold Performance Acknowledgements. Our campus was recognized for Attendance (97% or higher), as well as our Commended Reading, Commended Math, Commended Writing and Commended Science scores. I am so proud that we are able to work together to provide a quality education for our students and that all of their hard work is recognized by the school district and the state.

We wish you an exciting and fun-filled holiday season!

*Happy Holidays!*



Regards,

**Rian Evans**

# Wilchester PTA President

One of my favorite Christmas songs is one written by a busy Mom in need of a “silent night”. It’s a sweet song that ponders the question “Did my own Mom keep this pace?” My wish for each of you this holiday is that you get a “Silent Night” to rest and relax and enjoy special moments with family and friends. Thank you for your “hustle and bustle” on behalf of your kids and PTA! I hope you know how much you are appreciated!

There are so many of you who are busy in the daily grind of PTA! You keep all of us moving and keep PTA a well-oiled machine! To **Renee Ash** for your countless and often endless hours of reconciliation, check writing and bookkeeping, **Tamma Howell** for your dedication and commitment to making sure we operate within budget! Thank you **Leigh Fowler** for recording the minutes of our PTA Meetings – your attention to detail is unsurpassed! **Alaine Djuvik, Amy Delgado** and **Julie Siciliano** for keeping us “in the know” with weekly e-blasts, PTA website and monthly newsletters respectively! Thank you **Tracy Ashmore** for logging volunteer hours, **Jeannie Able** and **Michelle Payne** for copying whatever comes your way, **Teresa Cannon** for revamping and revitalizing our Math Stars program, **Susanne Miller** for planning our fun and festive Los Tios Nights and skate parties, **Diane Rominger** and **Carma Gibler** for coordinating our friendly and fabulous 5<sup>th</sup> grade Safety Patrol (don’t you just love that friendly “Have a Nice Day!” as they close the door!), **Alaine Djuvik** (again!), **Sue Bach, Kim Zander** and **Ashley Satterwhite** for making sure Paw Print Express is delivered rain, sleet or snow, **Patti Klasing** and **Debbie Dodds** for keeping our Wildcat memories alive with their yearbook efforts, **Laura Ashley** for making sure Wilchester news is heard by one and all with her public relations and publicity efforts, **Leigh-Leigh Melcher, TK Harrison, Cheryl Lasater** and **Stephanie Tippit** for their great teamwork on recycling and box tops, **Sara Oliver** and **Cathy Maxon** for planning our great Cultural Arts programs and **Amy Badger** and **Lissa Purcell** for continuing to welcome new families by giving tours of the school.

It is time to nominate a teacher for a Crystal Award! We have so many deserving teachers at Wilchester, please be sure to check your online Tuesday folder for the link to download a nomination form or print it from this newsletter.

We have no December PTA meeting, but PLEASE save the date for **January 17 at 7:00 PM** for our **Budget Planning Meeting**. **If you only attend one PTA meeting of the year, this is THE one!** We will conduct some brief PTA business and then breakout into groups to brainstorm ideas for how we can best utilize our PTA funds for next year. We are one of the only, if not THE only, PTA who asks the entire campus to be a part of the budget process. We value your input more than you know.

We are all so very excited about our first ever **Wildcat Jingle Bell Fun Run!!!!** Hopefully, you have all registered and your kids are in training for this FUNdraiser! My runner has play practice, so she will be a sleep-in sponsor, but I will be out there cheering on the masses and hope to see you there!

May you and your family have a much earned “Silent Night” together this holiday.

**Sharon Muschalik**

**Texas**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>



## CRYSTAL AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHERS NOMINATION FORM

You may nominate more than one candidate, but you must use a separate nomination form for each. Your candidate(s) must be a certified teacher currently teaching in a Gulf Coast-area elementary, middle or high school – public, private or parochial. Four outstanding teachers will be selected from the nominations submitted.

On a separate but attached sheet, please explain with specific examples how, as an exemplary teacher, the nominee has been a positive influence on students.

**NOMINATOR'S NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

State

ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to candidate:  Principal  Fellow teacher  
 Student  Parent  Other

Because further information may be required, please include your address and phone number. Your name and all information will be held in the strictest confidence.

**CANDIDATE'S NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

State

ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Course or grade level of instruction

\_\_\_\_\_

School

\_\_\_\_\_

District

\_\_\_\_\_

School address

\_\_\_\_\_

School phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Recipients will be contacted by telephone, so please include phone number(s).

For more copies of this nomination form, please go to [chron.com/cie](http://chron.com/cie), select the "Teachers" tab, and click on "Contests."

Mail to: Chronicle In Education, c/o Houston Chronicle, 801 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002.  
**Nominations must be postmarked by December 16, 2011**



# How does the Wilchester PTA spend the money we raise?

The Wilchester PTA encourages feedback from parents and teachers as to how PTA funds should be dispersed, which is unique in among SBISD elementary schools. It all begins with the January PTA Budget Planning meeting. This year it will be **Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00PM** in the cafeteria. Breakout sessions (Curriculum, Technology, Facilities/Landscape and Enrichment) are held and comments are recorded by the Budget Planning Committee. **ALL SUGGESTIONS** are then brought to WCE's Leadership Team in a subsequent meeting where it is decided if the ideas fit within the SBISD/Wilchester curriculum. If they do, the Budget Planning Committee then researches the cost of every item and meets again with the Leadership Team. From there, all items that have been researched and are financially and logistically feasible are put on the survey. Based on survey response, the monies are then appropriated accordingly. In the past, PTA has given funds for laptop computers, an additional field trip for grades K-5, reading specialists, additional support materials for the teachers, technology support, and so on.

## Do I have a say in how the money is spent?

Yes, but only if you come to the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and complete the survey. If you are not able to attend the January meeting, you can email or call any of the Budget Planning Committee members and they will add your suggestions to the list. Expect to receive your survey after spring break.

## See you at the January meeting!

Sincerely,  
Your Budget Planning Committee

**Laura Ashley** [lrbashley@gmail.com](mailto:lrbashley@gmail.com)

**Valerie Cassady** [valerie.cassady@earthlink.net](mailto:valerie.cassady@earthlink.net)

**Beth Roberts** [broberts@osome.com](mailto:broberts@osome.com)

**Kristina Seiler** [kristinaseiler@comcast.net](mailto:kristinaseiler@comcast.net)



# Health Reminders



## Tis the Season for Cold and Flu

**Germs aren't limited to bathroom door handles or super market carts...**

It's difficult, if not impossible, to avoid germs. Defined as tiny organisms that can cause sicknesses like cold and flu, germs are lurking on just about every imaginable surface, from doorknobs to store shelves. About 50 million days of work are lost annually due to the **common cold**. You probably already know the usual hangouts for germs, like bathroom door handles, but some germ "hot spots" are less obvious. Here are some of the places you might encounter them, along with how to stay nearly germ-free during cold and flu season.

### Germs and Airplane Seat Backs

Travelers may unwittingly touch the seats of an **airplane** as they walk down the aisle — and everyone else ahead of them has probably done the same thing, possibly leaving behind cold and flu germs. Try to walk without touching the seats; if contacting them becomes necessary, wash your hands or use an alcohol-based cleanser afterward to help make them germ-free.

### Germs and Office Workspaces

Even if you're the only one who uses your computer, it can still harbor germs and the potential for **cold and flu**. You can bring cold and flu germs from other surfaces, like doors, back to your computer keyboard with your hands. To protect your workspace, use disinfecting wipes on all surfaces periodically.

### Germs and the Kitchen Faucet

Kitchen faucets are frequently touched and also near food-preparation areas, making them likely to carry food-borne bacteria. If you handle raw meat and touch the faucet handle, then the juice of the raw meat will be on there. Raw poultry, for example, can carry *campylobacter*, which are bacteria that can cause fever and diarrhea. To help make your **kitchen** germ-free, wash your hands and all kitchen surfaces before and after each meal preparation.

### Germs and Your Cell Phone

Your cell phone is another item that comes into contact with hands many times over the course of a day, so it's likely to carry germs as well. In fact, British researchers found that as many as 25 percent of all mobile devices are contaminated with pathogenic bacteria. To keep your phone germ-free, wipe down its surface every day or so, carefully following the directions from the manufacturer since contact with liquids can damage it.

## Germes and Laundry

It's hard to think that just-washed clothes aren't germ-free, but the average washing-machine load can contain 100 million *E. coli* bacteria at any given time. Germs on clothes can also spread to other pieces of germ-free clothing during washing. To avoid germs on laundry, wash clothes in water above 60 degrees Fahrenheit and launder heavily soiled items separately. Clothing should also be dried immediately after washing, to avoid germ buildup on damp items.

## Germes on the Remote

A study by the University of Virginia found that television remote controls are likely resting places for rhinovirus, a germ that can cause the common cold. Disinfecting wipes can reduce the amount of germs on the remote control. Frequent **hand-washing** will reduce the likelihood that germs on your hands from the remote will make it into your body, causing illness.

## Germes on Communal Condiments

Restaurant tabletop items like **salt** and pepper shakers are used by multiple diners every day and not always washed frequently, so they can harbor cold and flu germs. You don't know what the last person has touched before using that salt shaker or maybe he/she went to the bathroom without washing his hands. To avoid catching something from a ketchup bottle, rub it with a disinfecting wipe before touching it, or simply don't use it.

## Germes on Shower Curtains

Researchers at San Diego State University found that the film of **soap** scum that develops on vinyl shower curtains can play host to a number of germs, including *Methylobacterium*, a group of bacteria that can cause infections. To reduce germs on shower curtains, wash them regularly to remove soap scum; stubborn residue might need a more abrasive scrubbing sponge and an antibacterial cleaner. Sometimes the only way to get a shower curtain germ-free is to buy a new one — replace it periodically.

## Germes and Your Pets

Your pets can't give you a cold or flu. Household **pets** like cats, dogs, and reptiles can spread germs like salmonella, a bacterium that can cause diarrhea and fever. To avoid getting sick from your pets, always wash your hands after contact with their stool, and after any kind of contact with reptiles.



Myrtle Herbst, R.N.

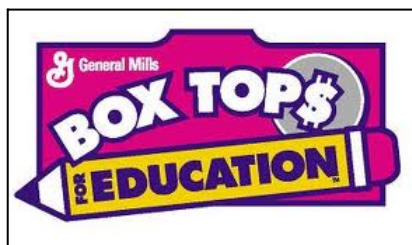
# Wilchester Volunteers

Thanks for your hard work so far this year to help make Wilchester the great school it is! Please click here to log-in your Volunteer Hours:  
<http://wilchesterpta.com/volunteering/logvolunteerhours.html>.



Note: Register at [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com) to be a volunteer. You must be registered to volunteer for any classroom, library, field trip, etc.

# Help raise money for the Wilchester School Library!



Keep collecting BoxTop\$ for our Spring Due Date. The collection box will be in the library all year.

Raid your grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors and friends pantry when you visit!

**\*\*\*Remember\*\*\***

When you shop online this holiday season use

**<http://www.btfe.com/marketplace>**

Wilchester will receive automatic eBoxTop\$.



**OUR RECYCLE BINS ARE BACK!!**

Look for them in the teacher parking lot and don't forget to bring your cardboard too.

All money goes directly to Wilchester.



Please take a few moments to make the following changes to your 2011-2012 Wilchester Student Directories. We want to ensure all families have the most up to date information. Please submit any additional changes to the directory content via email to [kmadaras@comcast.net](mailto:kmadaras@comcast.net). If needed, modifications will be published in the January newsletter.

**Harsley, Susie & Martyn**

314 Yorkchester Drive 77079  
713-464-5118  
Cell: 713-306-6989 (mom)  
[sharsley@comcast.net](mailto:sharsley@comcast.net)

**Rachel Harsley 5<sup>th</sup>**

Roster : Wannarka

**Corley, Candice & Kenney**

13930 Woodthorpe 77079  
Cell: 832-444-8038  
[candicemichelle123@mac.com](mailto:candicemichelle123@mac.com)

**Ashlyn Tompkins, 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Roster: Luong

**Lenna Corley, K**

Roster: Bedford

**Shamburger, Jenn**

14131 Myrtlea 77079  
281-493-6448  
Cell: 832-741-0911  
[jenn.sham@yahoo.com](mailto:jenn.sham@yahoo.com)

**Chandler Taylor, 4th**

Roster: Bates

**Miller, Amy & Chris**

13603 Pebblebrook Drive 77079  
Cell: 713-870-6776 (mom)  
Cell: 713-870-6641 (dad)  
[millerc@gtlaw.com](mailto:millerc@gtlaw.com)

**Frankie and Jackson Miller, K**

Roster: Bedford



Continued...

**Moon, Michael and Thuy (Twee)**

13919 Queensbury Lane 77079

713-474-5507

Cell: 832-444-9400

[m.j.moon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.j.moon@sbcglobal.net)

[@tweetymoon1@sbcglobal.net](https://twitter.com/tweetymoon1)



**Sydni Moon, 4th**

Roster: Cupic

**Tyler Moon, K**

Roster: Henson

**Durnell, Lyn & Keith**

302 Southchester Lane 77079

713-899-8578

[imdurnell@gmail.com](mailto:imdurnell@gmail.com)

**Addison, Pre-K**

Roster: Stovall

**Maddox, 1st**

Roster: Khoury

**Turner, Mary & Steve**

13706 Barryknoll Lane 77079

713-485-6304

Cell: 713-516-7612 (mom)

[mstunas@hotmail.com](mailto:mstunas@hotmail.com)



**Lauren, K**

Roster: Herbst

**Wu Quan (dad) & Shining Wang**

13830 Saint Mary's Lane, 77079

713-280-5693

[shiningw@gmail.com](mailto:shiningw@gmail.com)



**Catherine Wu, 4th**

Roster: Bates

**Kuan, Pearl & Chee Ong**

Change last name: Ian Ong, K

**Kim Perdomo**

New Email: [kim@perdomoproperties.com](mailto:kim@perdomoproperties.com)

**Shim, Kathy**

Diane, K

Roster: Pope



Mark your Calendars!

# Wilchester Elementary **SCIENCE FAIR 2012**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

Projects Due 7:45 am - 8:00 am

Projects on display 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Judging 3:00 pm

**Friday, February 24, 2012**

Donut party 7:30 am

Awards ceremony 8:15 am

Projects on display 8:00 am - 9:30 am

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## **Parent Information Meeting**

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

Wilchester Library

For parents of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders

and

K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom volunteers.

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The Science Fair packets will  
be available at the Wilchester PTA web site  
at [www.wilchesterpta.com](http://www.wilchesterpta.com)

## Wildcat Updates



## Wilchester Annual Spelling Bee

For 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students  
January 13, 2012

## Music Notes

Take note: The third grade music program has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2012 in the cafeteria. See you then!

Maureen Johnson



## Way to Go Wildcats!

Thank you Wilchester families for a very successful coat drive for Spring Shadows!! We were able to donate over 100 coats thanks to your generous donations!!!

Patrice Jegi



## Reflections Update

Wilchester students submitted 127 entries to the Reflections contest in early November! The creativity and talent of our students is really wonderful to see. The judging process continues to progress and results will be announced at the Reflections Ice Cream Celebration on January 19th. Watch your Tuesday folder for more details as the date approaches.

Jenni Emery & Trish Padilla

## December Turkey Drive



If you would be interested in donating a turkey to a family at our sister school, Spring Shadows, please contact Patrice Jegi at [patricejegi@yahoo.com](mailto:patricejegi@yahoo.com). We are in need of frozen turkeys 10-12 lbs.

We have 10 turkeys offered so far and hope to be able to offer more if possible. Thank you for the 15 turkeys we were able to donate at Thanksgiving!! Your support is so appreciated, and the spirit of your giving touches so many!!

# Looking Ahead...

## Upcoming Wilchester Events



### January 2012

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Details</i>
4		School Resumes	
16		School Holiday	
17	7 pm	PTA Meeting/Budget Planning	Cafe
19		Reflections Recognition/Award Celebration	
24-26		Used Book Fair	Library

### February

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Details</i>
14	2 pm	Valentine Parties	Classrooms
20		School Holiday	
21		Spring Pictures	
21	9:30	PTA Meeting	Flex Room
24		Science Fair	
24		Go Texan Day	

## Wilchester Elementary School

13618 St. Mary's Lane

Houston, TX 77079

713-251-7700

713-365-4912 Fax



[wilchesterpta.com](http://wilchesterpta.com)