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## Supporting the read n' feed author

By Terra McKinney

This year's Spring Fling was coordinated by the language arts department to support our Read n' Feed author, Roland Smith. This was a great way for students to have fun and support an event for their school. The cost of the dance was \$3. Students could bring family members and friends to the occasion. One of the main attractions was the corn hole toss tournament. Innumerable students participated in this activity. "I think the corn hole toss tournament was a great idea, especially for students who are not interested in dancing," said Mrs. Kempe.

There were various activities students could take part in. There was face painting, dancing, and concessions which

tons of people enjoyed. "I like to dance and hang out with my friends at dances!" Faithful Fisher said, as many people do. Some teachers like to get in and dance with the students. Students really participate in dancing when there is a song that the entire group dances to, including "The Chicken Dance", "The Cha Cha Slide", and many more.

The dance was to raise money for the Read n' Feed celebration. Every year an author comes to our school. This year we needed to raise a great deal of money. The dance helped, but we still need more fundraisers. We may need to do more fundraisers; however, "I don't think the dance alone will get Roland Smith here. We need more fundraisers to reach

our goal." said Mrs. Kempe, a language arts teacher. We also had a fundraiser that allowed students to use coupons at Steak n' Shake; a percentage of the money went to West. The money we raised from the dance was \$745. We earned half of what we needed with the Spring Fling alone!

So for the students who did not go to the dance, you missed out on a great time. Students could have enjoyed a corn hole toss tournament, face painting, dancing, concessions, or just hanging out with their friends. There is always going to be a next time for anyone who wants to get out and have some fun. This Spring Fling was a blast thanks to the staff who organized it all.



These students were some of the many participants in the Spring Fling.



Sixth graders enjoyed the Spring Fling. Many students took part in the opportunity to get their picture taken.

## West student goes to state

By Rebecca Holmes



After the Geography Bee Mrs. Moss presented Kyle Childress with the first place medal. Kyle will be representing West Middle School at a state wide geography competition soon.

On November 26<sup>th</sup> West Middle held its annual Geography Bee. Many students tried, but only one came out on top. Kyle Childress represented West at the state wide Geography Bee.

Kyle Childress is a seventh grader and is very excited about the win. "This is the first time I have done anything like this, and I am very proud to be the first student to

represent West at state." He comped on April 3rd. He has been studying hard for the past couple months with Mr. Bain. In order for Kyle to get to the state competition he had to take a very long test.

"Right now all I am thinking about is doing my best, not disappointing my parents." He got a lot of support from the teachers and other students.

Kyle has proven that with the proper attitude

you can do anything you want to do. "I hope that by me doing this the other students will put their all into everything because there are a lot of bright students here." All we can say is good luck and we are all very proud of Kyle.

## Pennies for patients

By Ashley Daniel



National Junior Honor Society collected money for the Pennies for Patients program during February. The students and staff of West Middle School collected over \$800 in contributions benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

During the month of February, National Junior Honor Society worked diligently to collect money for the program widely known as Pennies for Patients. This program benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. West students contributed a colossal amount of donations for this cause.

"Leukemia and Lymphoma are types of blood cancers, stated Emily Edwards. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is the world's largest voluntary health organization devoted to funding blood cancer research, education, and patient services. Rudolph and Antoinette de Villiers founded the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society after their son passed away from leukemia in 1944. In the sixty years the Society

has existed over six hundred million dollars has been invested in blood cancer research. The Pennies for Patients campaign began in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's North Carolina Chapter in 1994. Since then millions of dollars have been donated in the form of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters across the United States. More than ten million elementary, middle, and high schools participate in this fundraiser.

A vast amount of students took notice of the many announcements on the W.E.S.T. News and in their homerooms concerning Pennies for Patients. As a result of their vigilance West students accumulated a grand total of \$829.82. Furthermore, National Junior Honor Society proclaimed that if West was

to collect over \$500 the staff would provide pizza for the homeroom that amassed the most money for Pennies for Patients. Every Monday members of the National Junior Honor Society gathered the donation boxes and counted each homeroom's contributions. In the end, Mrs. Moss's class raised over one hundred twenty-six dollars, and won the grand prize of a pizza party. The party took place on March 13, 2009, during homeroom.

"The money earned will be used to help find a cure for blood cancer," exclaimed eighth grader Emily Edwards. West students and faculty made an enormous impact on the lives of people fighting blood cancer, by their contributions.

## Spring break

By Ambra Wolf

Something happens at the very end of March that everyone looks forward to. Spring Break is the week long break students get from school to celebrate the coming of a new season.

One of the greatest things about Spring Break is the fact that it is an opportunity to leave for vacation. "I'm going to Panama City, Florida on Spring Break," stated eighth grade student, Chelsea Pickard. "I'm going to mostly spend my

time on the beach or in the ocean." Spring Break presents a plethora of good things for students. The weather gets warmer, some students think it is great that there is no homework, and some would also agree that they like to sleep in on the break.

While Spring Break is mostly a great time for students, it does have its detriments. "The only down side to Spring Break for me is that I don't get to see many of my friends,"

declared eighth grader Thomas Janssen. Many students would agree with this statement. Not getting to see friends, being bored, or maybe even being too busy are all possible bad effects of Spring Break.

While most students are excited for Spring Break, and some are not so enthusiastic about what they are going to be doing, Spring Break is a much needed vacation from school.

## Running from fear

By Stacy Barnett

Bullying is one of the worst activities going on in school today. The term bullying includes verbal, psychological, and physical actions that can have long lasting repercussions for both the victim and the bullies. Someone who is bullied may be excluded from a group, be called names, or endure physical abuse. It is not a sport, and it is not fun for the victims. Bullying leads to terrible tragedies, including having mental breakdowns.

Although bullying is trying to be prevented at our school, it is very hard to get rid of it entirely. It is like a stain on a shirt, or a mark on your skin. Bullying will not go away until you do something about it. "I think bullying is a big problem at our school," says eighth grader Kasi Conners. "When you look around, you see people

getting abused by people older or stronger than them, and it's just not right."

Bullying is not just about getting hurt physically; it is about getting hurt emotionally and mentally as well. Words can sometimes be greater than actions. The words a person uses can hurt another. The victims can think about it and convince themselves that what was said was true.

Everyone has been bullied at some point in their lives. Teasing or not, there is no way to know how someone is really feeling about what was said. "Bullying makes people feel bad, and like no one cares. Truthfully, I have bullied people before, but I've been bullied before as well, and it does not make me feel good," Destiny Bellinger stated. If someone is

bullied, seek help from an adult. Bullying cannot run your life.

Here at West Middle School, we are trying to obliterate bullying. If someone is bullied, he or she can write the name down of the person that was bullying them and turn it into the bully box in the office. The principal strongly encourages everyone to seek help by a teacher or an adult at the school if he or she is bullied.

Bullying will never go away; it will be around for generations to come. The school is trying its best to prevent bullying, but it will take awhile. People need to think before they speak. What they say can really hurt someone. Choose words and actions correctly because they can not be taken back.



West Middle School makes a tremendous effort to discourage bullying. Adorning the hallways are many posters, banners, and signs describing the many effects students feel as a result of bullying.



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# West girls take on arch rivals

By Tara Holland

This season has been really amazing and the girls have improved from last year to this year. Due to Coach Carter's work ethic and the girls' dedication they have continued to improve their game and learn from their mistakes. "The girls worked hard to represent West to the best of their ability and let the outcome take care of itself," replied Coach Carter. To get ready for their games the

girls worked on their defensive and offensive plays.

The girls participated in the County Tournament on February 28<sup>th</sup> and Mid State Tournament on March 16<sup>th</sup> at Paul Hadley Middle School. In both tournaments it was not good for the Artesian team. Our ladies were knocked out in the first round by the Mooresville Pioneers.

most intense game for our Lady Artisans occurred. They went up against their cross town rivals, East Middle School. Our girls were after some revenge as East handed us a loss earlier in the year. The girls now have a record of seven wins and seven losses. Every player put in a tremendous amount of effort this season and made the last game the best.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the



The students and staff of West Middle School gather for a pep session to inspire the seventh and eighth grade girls' basketball teams before their game against East Middle School.



The eighth grade girls' basketball teams stand in front of the crowd, taking in the excitement and faith their school has in them.



During the water balloon toss contest, Mr. Allanson dives to catch the balloon. Mr. Allanson and his partner Mrs. Payne defeated their opponents and won the competition.