



2010-2011 Parent Group

West School

Hillsborough City School District

July 1 , 2010

Dear West School Parents;

This community continues to be amazing – with literally 99.9% of families having contributed West Parent Group Dues this past year and 99.5% the year before. That’s an incredible, unprecedented contribution rate! It is also a testament to West families wanting to provide the best possible educational experience for our kids. Our motto at West is – “We’re all in this together!” And, Parent Group Dues absolutely make a difference for our children at West. Here are a few important points to keep in mind:

- I. Each year these funds are used for a variety of important items to directly benefit our children’s experience at West. These are items that are otherwise not funded by the School District. In 2009-10, for example, in addition to basic school supplies used by all our children, a few of the items purchased were music books, scholastic supplements and 12 NetBooks for computer based learning.
- II. The West community conducts no school fundraisers other than the traditional Book Fair and Birthday Book Club for the library. It’s a simple “one check” for families and that’s the end of it. Please note that field trips and other items that are teacher driven are not covered by Parent Group Dues.
- III. Because our families pay these dues, our parents don’t have to scramble to do school fundraising. Therefore, our parent volunteer time is focused on efforts that directly benefit all of our children. There are far too many examples to note them all here, but a few examples of the unsung volunteers are: the emergency and traffic safety crew; those assisting in the library, lunch room, and at recess; the volunteers organizing many of the children’s programs and assemblies such as nutrition & wellness, Character Week, and Career Day.

Parent Group Dues remain unchanged in 2010-11 at \$190 per child.¹ All that we ask is that you please return the attached Parent Group Membership Dues Form with your check by September 13, 2010. This will ensure that you receive a copy of the West School Handbook & Directory. Also, with your payment, each of your children at West will receive a West School Yearbook at the end of the year. West families have delivered with essentially 100% participation three years in a row – let’s make it four years of full participation! Please send in your Dues payment today and let’s keep West the best!

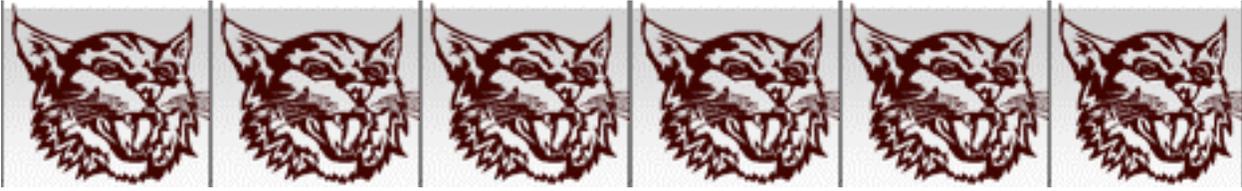
Kindest Regards,

Diane Hong
Treasurer, West Parent Group
2009-10

Melissa Dresselhuys
Treasurer, West Parent Group
2010-2011

¹ Please see the back of this letter for a breakdown of how your funds will be used in 2010-11. Also, there is a complete West Parent Group budget posted on the West School website.

The back page....additional information:



Approximate Breakdown of Usage of Parent Group Dues for 2010-11

Given the roughly 371 students at West, we'll collect about \$75,000 in annual dues. These funds serve to enhance our children's educational experience at West. A detailed budget is available on the West School website, but a summary of how your \$190 per child annual dues are allocated is as follows:

- * **Staff Recognition** **29%**
(i.e. Primarily gifts from all parents to your child's wonderful teacher, specialists, and school staff distributed via your child's classroom parent. Also, for instance, Staff Appreciation Week when our staff is celebrated in May!)
- * **Capital Allocations** **23%**
(i.e. Funds allocated to permanent items for the school that are not able to be funded by the School District. Examples of recent purchases include science lab equipment, new computers, and scholastic supplements.)
- * **Classroom & Educational Enhancement** **23%**
(i.e. These funds go directly to our kids, such as: supplement classroom supplies selected by your child's teacher, Art-in-Action materials, reading buddies, "grade level" parties, classroom specific activities which are teacher-directed, lunchtime programs, assemblies, and support for Student Counsel)
- * **Publications** **13%**
(i.e. Yearbook & school directory)
- * **Hospitality** **4%**
(i.e. New parent activities, School Board meetings, and conferences)
- * **Associated Parent Group of HCS/HSF** **9%**
(i.e. For programs impacting the entire district)

Please remember, with your contribution each of your children at West will receive a West School Yearbook, and you will receive a bound copy of the West School Handbook & Directory. But, this can only be assured to families whose check is received by September 13, 2010. So, please fill-out the attached Parent Group Membership Dues Form and mail it back with your check in the enclosed envelope today. Let's once again achieve 100% family participation at West to ensure that our school has everything it needs to help our children reach their fullest potential!