

THE SPOTLIGHT

STONEWALL JACKSON ELEMENTARY

Straight from the Carny Barker: The Stonewall Jackson Carnival - Good old-fashioned festival fun for the family

By Abra Garrett

On October 22, Stonewall students, parents, staff and community all came together for the Annual Stonewall Carnival.

Traditional favorites included the always popular Wheel of Wonder, the midway games, and face painting (especially the new "First Aid Brigade" where the kids got Halloween-worthy faux bruises, black eyes and battles wounds painted on - no pain, all gain.) The Dunk Tank, a consistent fan fave, provided children (and adults!) the opportunity to send staff, coaches, teachers, moms and dads plunging into the 3 foot depths of icy waters. There were fun-filled rides for all to enjoy, including: Pirate Ship, Traffic Jam, and Super Slide! We also had Paint Ball Blast so our children could do their part in making our world a more colorful place. The Sports Tent kept even the most hardcore football fanatic happy with several TVs showing the various games of the day. Just to make sure all our little angels left nice and tired, we also had Bounce Houses, so they could jump and leap to their little hearts'

content. Dads' Club delighted with a new zip line and rope swing and of course, an awesome DJ who got us all into "BOOM BOOM POW" mode, dancing the day away. (And props to the 2nd Grade flash mob, who thrilled the crowd with their cool Monster Mash moves!)

Clearly, no good parent wants to send their child spinning, sliding, bouncing, dancing or running on an empty stomach – where's the sport in that? So we also had the very best carnival menu to-date - **TEXADELPHIA** provided the DELICIOUS fare, with all sorts of yummy, satisfying food for all. Additionally, there was a Sno-Cone Trailer and the ever popular Cake Walk (with several cakes provided by **Nothing Bundt Cakes**) thus even the most discerning of sweet tooth was sure to be satisfied.

We're not sure how Mrs. Ferguson does it, but we're sure glad she does! Many thanks to her and the Carnival Committee for another amazing **STONEWALL JACKSON CARNIVAL!**





About the PTA

The Stonewall Jackson PTA consists of parents, teachers, and community members who are dedicated to making Stonewall a great place for students to be nurtured and to learn. Throughout the year the PTA organizes volunteers and holds fundraisers to provide student and family programs, help the teachers in the classroom, and enhance the school.

PTA Board meetings and general meetings are held monthly. The Board meetings are open to all parents and are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

PTA Board

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Letter from The President

Greetings, Stonewall Families!

It's hard to believe we are moving through the 2nd six weeks of school and now well into our school routines! The first months have flown by quickly. Of course, the highlight of October was our FALL CARNIVAL, lead by Chair Jeanne Ferguson and a team of dedicated committee members. Many, many thanks to Jeanne for another successful carnival! And thank you, parents and teachers, for volunteering before, during, and after the event. We would not be able to have a carnival without your help. Our kids love seeing their parents participate, and everyone had a great time! Thank you for being a part of it!

As I write, the 5th graders are preparing for their annual week at Camp Grady Spruce. Thanks to all the teachers and parents who help organize this annual tradition, and thanks to everyone who made a donation to the trip so that all 5th graders could attend.

Now we can look forward to November and SPECIAL EVENTS, this year featuring Japan! More details will come from your teachers and room parents, but please mark your calendar for the week of November 14th - as always, many volunteers will be needed! Also, don't forget that Friday, November 18th, is Grandparents' Day at Stonewall, so let your family know.

Thank you for all of your support!

Elizabeth Greenwood
PTA President

Get in The Spotlight

Do you have something or someone you'd like to see in The Spotlight? Do you have a suggestion or story you'd like to submit? Is there someone you'd like to thank?

Email ideas, questions, comments, and/or (most appreciated) article submissions to: StonewallSpotlight@gmail.com.

If you received more copies of the Spotlight than you need, please return the extra(s) to the office for distribution.

You can download an electronic copy of The Spotlight at www.stonewalljacksonpta.org/spotlight.

Welcome Stonewall Jackson Class of 2017 (And their moms, too!)

By Abra Garrett

There are several sweet Stonewall traditions that make our school feel like family. One popular favorite is the eagerly anticipated "Welcome Party" that the 1st grade moms host for the incoming kinder moms. Each year the grade one moms open their arms, and one generous first grade mom opens her home, to bid greetings to the new crop of Kindergarten mothers.

This year's fun took place at the beautiful house of Kearney Crowley, where wine flowed, food was eaten, and lots of questions were asked by our new crew. While the first grade moms are responsible for supplying the refreshments and the party locale, it tends to be the kinder moms who supply the fodder for conversation; inquiring about everything from homework load, to carpooling, to afterschool activities (and generally a question or two about the often nebulous rules of Four Square - sorry ladies, but we can't help you there).

It is easy to see these new kinder wonders have hit the ground running and made their presence KNOWN! In the best way possible that is: with unwavering support and

loads of enthusiasm. Barely a month into the school year and approximately fifty, (yes, 50!!!) kinder families have sponsored carnival. Thank you, 2011-2012 Kinder Class!

And just as the class that preceded the current first grade parents welcomed them into the fold, so too shall this class welcome next year's new group. And so it goes, the baton keeps being passed....and the school keeps getting even better. Welcome Kindergarten families- we're so very happy you're here!



Innisbrook Sales Success!

Thank you for supporting Stonewall Jackson by selling Innisbrook fundraising items! All of the money raised goes directly to the Stonewall Jackson PTA, which provides funds for computer technology and Stonewall Gardens, supplies for classrooms and library, and equipment for our music and fine arts programs. You helped make a difference for our wonderful school!

So far this year, we have raised over **\$12,000** for these programs.

And keep in mind, you can purchase products from www.innisbrook.com for home delivery all year long and still benefit our dear Stonewall. Our school number is 108750.



Please "like" us on Facebook! Our BRAND NEW page showcases all kinds of marvelous SJE happenings while providing great community interaction. The official page is "**Stonewall Jackson Elementary (PTA Administered)**." Please come and share your stories and pictures!



CARNIVAL FUN!



LONG RUN 2011

On Thursday, October 6, 2011, over 800 students, parents and community members (including many Stonewall students) gathered at JL Long Middle School for the 15th annual Long Run, the school's only fundraiser. It was a beautiful evening for the 1-mile fun run and 5K race that winds through the picturesque Hollywood Heights/Santa Monica neighborhoods. After the race, all runners enjoyed food, drinks, and music.



White-Top Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

This season at Stonewall Jackson white is the new black - as in, *BlackTop*.

By Abra Garrett



It seems some people really do see the world in black and white, without any shades of gray, and certainly more than one child has been heard correcting his or her parents when they were instructed to meet on the blacktop after school. "It's a white-top, Mom, WHITE-TOP, whiiiiiiiite!" (Incidentally, if and when we ever get some rain, the concrete surface will actually begin to turn a bit gray.) But none of those pesky particulars mattered on the gorgeous, crisp morning of October 4th, at 8:30 am when students, staff, parents and community members gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the beautiful new white-top. Through the tireless efforts of the always impressive Stonewall Jackson PTA, our school upgraded this year to a beautiful, new, freshly paved "white blacktop" for the students to enjoy, and on the grounds of the new pavement, a ribbon-cutting ceremony commenced to officially acknowledge the completion of this two year long PTA-commissioned project.

The enthusiasm was infectious and PTA president Elizabeth Greenwood made it even more

so as she illustrated to the children that they too, were instrumental in creating this new surface, when she asked them to raise their hands if they had ever sold wrapping paper, bought a carnival wristband, sold or purchased raffle tickets and more. The excitement on the students' faces was evident as they realized they were a part of making this all happen. Mrs. Henderson then made a moving speech that touched everyone when she mentioned that long after we all have moved on from our dear Stonewall Jackson, this white-top would still be there, bringing joy to generations of students to come. Project Chair Helene Honeybone also got up on stage and explained some of the actual logistics and how it all came to pass.

Clearly it takes a village to build a blacktop and the most impressive aspect of this already inspirational project may well be that *100% of the funds were raised by our Stonewall Jackson PTA*. Generally a project of this size requires an outside donor. This was a highly unusual fundraising accomplishment.

The children of Stonewall Jackson have been zealously enjoying every minute on their new and improved blacktop since the beginning of the school year, however, October 4th's Ribbon-Cutting ceremony was surely the icing on the already tasty playground cake.

Alma Mater Madness

At last Spring's Urban Cowboy Auction, we had a little friendly competition called Alma Mater Madness to see which college alumni group was most passionate about their university, and the winner was Texas Tech University! The families from Texas Tech donated a large amount of money to Stonewall through the Auction and now we are ready to give them their well-deserved moment in the "Spotlight" - THANK YOU, RED RAIDERS!!!

Curious about Texas Tech? Well, Get your Guns Up!

Texas Tech University is a coeducational research university in Lubbock, Texas. Established on February 10, 1923, it is the leading institution of the Texas Tech University System. With 32,327 undergraduate and graduate students, it has the seventh largest student body in the state of Texas. Situated on 1,839 acres, Texas Tech has the second largest contiguous university campus in the United States. The Lubbock campus is home to the main academic

university, law school, and medical school. This arrangement makes it the only institution in Texas to have all three units on the same campus. The campus, which boasts Spanish Renaissance architecture, was described by American author James A. Michener as the "most beautiful west of the Mississippi until you get to Stanford" and by Stewart Mandel of Sports Illustrated as "easily one of the ten most beautiful campuses" he had been on.

Texas Tech's athletic teams are known as the Red Raiders with the exception of the women's basketball team, which is known as the Lady Raiders. Texas Tech competes in NCAA Division FBS and is a member of the South Division of the Big12 Conference. The Red Raiders football team is a member of the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision. In each of the last fourteen seasons, Tech has finished with a winning record, the fourth-longest streak in the nation. The Red Raiders have made 33 bowl appearances, which is 18th most of any university. The Lady Raiders basketball team won the 1993 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship.

The Masked Rider is Texas Tech's oldest mascot. The tradition began in 1936, when "ghost riders" were dared to circle the field prior to home football games. The Masked Rider became an official mascot in 1954 when he led the team onto the field for the Gator Bowl. Today the Masked Rider, with guns up, leads the team onto the field for all home games. Texas Tech's other mascot, Raider Red, was created in 1971 for situations



when the host school in away games did not want to allow the Masked Rider's horse onto their field. Though the Masked Rider's identity is public knowledge, it has always been a tradition that Raider Red's student alter ego is kept secret until the end of his or her tenure.

Throughout Texas Tech's history, faculty, alumni and former students have played prominent roles in many different fields. These impressive alum include three

United States governors including Preston Smith, Governor of Texas from 1968-1972, as well as four astronauts, including Rick Husband, the final commander of Space Shuttle Columbia and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Texas Tech's influence on the business world is seen in such people as General Motors' Chairman and CEO Edward Whitacre, Jr., Finistar CEO Jerry S. Rawls, Belo Corporation CEO Dunia A. Shive and Wellpoint, Inc. President and CEO Angela Brady, who was ranked by Fortune magazine as the most powerful woman in business.

Texas Tech alumni have also made contributions to sports, music, and acting. Texas Tech Red Raiders have gone on to play in the NFL, NBA, WNBA, and MLB. Current alumni standouts include NFL All-Pro Zach Thomas of the Kansas City Chiefs and Wes Welker of the New England Patriots. Others among the university's alumni are folk rocker John Denver, country singer Pat Green and CBS Evening News anchor Scott Pelley.



Stonewall Gardens FAMILY CAMPAIGN is UNDERWAY!

Our garden program is a great part of the Stonewall experience and an important element of the science curriculum. This program serves every student in every grade, every week at Stonewall. Support the program with your donation to keep it growing for our children!

Easy ways to donate (and get a thank you gift, maybe even a prize!)

- 1) Return the completed donation form to the garden mailbox outside the school office (checks payable to Stonewall Gardens, a 501(c)(3) organization) -- this is the best way to put all your dollars right to work in the classroom!
- 2) Look for the PayPal link on the home page of www.stonewallgardens.org or in the weekly PTA email -- fast, easy, and infinitely forward-able to your friends and family (we love the many grandparent donations!)



Zachary Padrick, winner of last year's Earth Day Greenhouse Mural Design Contest, and his friends Marin Tisdale and Gaby Pereira, painted Zachary's creation and proudly show their masterpiece here. Great job!



FIND OUT MORE AT

WWW.STONEWALLGARDENS.ORG.

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NATURE'S CLASSROOM!

