

# Monthly Mustang



Mary Kay Bradshaw, Chloe Plusquellec and Vishwa Anandu at last year's Souper Bowl of Caring.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

BY CAROLYN RAY AND BRYCE SABLOFF

Each year around the time of the Super Bowl, our school tackles hunger in our community. Most of us don't realize that there are many families and kids in Houston that don't have enough to eat. These are kids just like us, that need our help. We can make a big difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us. For one week at the start of February, each of us is asked to bring in canned goods and lots of protein packed foods, like peanut butter. Once everything is collected and weighed, huge trucks come and haul it over to the Houston Food Bank. We really can make a SUPER difference in the lives of our fellow Houstonians in need.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is not just going to grocery stores and buying cans of food, and bags of rice. 6,538 participating groups have funded over \$10,000,000 in cash and food items to charities in 2017.

The Souper Bowl of Caring started with one prayer and a church youth group in Columbia, South Carolina. The church loved the idea so much they decided to invite other churches from the surrounding area. That first year they collected \$5,700. This national food drive has collected more than \$100,000,000 since when it started in 1990. When Houston hosted the Souper Bowl in 2017 we collected as Houston \$10,115,253.

According to the WUES PTO, West U has been participating since 2007 contributing the extraordinary amount of 260,938 pounds of food. Last year, we were first place collecting 57,320 pounds. Some children used their own money to purchase food items for donation, other children walked up and down their blocks to collect donations from neighbors, and parents donated truckloads of food.

Starting on January 29 and ending February 2, 2018, you can donate money or bring in food. Even if it's one jar of peanut butter it will help someone in need, which is what the Souper Bowl of Caring is all about!



Remy with Carolyn Ray at the Lion and Dragon Dance in Chinatown Houston.

The author in traditional Vietnamese outfit.

## CHUC MUNG NAM MOI! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BY REMY PHAN AND MARQUESA MADISON

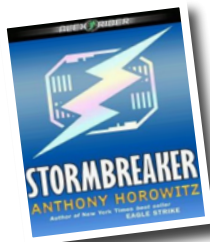
Chuc mung nam moi! This means Happy New Year in Vietnamese. Every country has their own different traditions for New Years. Vietnamese New Year is called Tet. It is celebrated for twelve days. It has many celebrations and traditions that includes formal dress attire, eating traditional food fair, festivals and game, and religious traditions.

The New year celebration begins and ends by honoring our deceased ancestors. The house is cleaned to sweep out all the old bad luck of the previous year and to welcome a fresh new year. We usually have a family dinner to welcome in our ancestors and a farewell dinner to send the ancestors off. The dinner includes traditional food such as *thit kho trung* (meat and egg stew), sticky rice in banana leaf (*banh trung*), *cha*, head cheese, soups, and desserts like dried coconut and *che*.

The traditional dress attire and garb for children, women and men is called *ao dai*. These are very colorful, beautiful and very ornate. Some even have matching hats.

The biggest festivity is watching the *Lion and Dragon* dances called *Lan*. Very loud fireworks are lit to scare away evil spirits. Kids and adults play various cards and dice games such as *Bau Cua Cac Cop* (squash-crab-fish-tiger) for fun and for money. We visit our friends and family and offer them gifts wrapped in decorated packages.

Another big tradition in the giving of Red Envelopes which are usually filled with money. They are usually given by Elders to younger kids as sign of wishing good luck in the New Year.

**BOOK REVIEWS****BENNER'S BOOK REVIEWS: ALEX RIDER STORMBREAKER** BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ REVIEWED BY WESTON

Fourteen year-old Alex is living with his uncle until one day, his uncle is killed. His bank says he wasn't wearing his seatbelt, but Alex knows that wasn't the cause of death. Investigating the accident, he finds his uncle's car riddled with bullet holes. Finding out his uncle was a secret agent,

Alex is caught in the middle of a ruthless terrorist plot against all of England. Anthony Horowitz blends terror and heartbreak to create this amazing book. I highly recommend you read this exciting book. Great for upper grades.

★★★★★ Out of 5 stars

**THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES** REVIEWED BY PRISHA SHIVANI

Shelby Holmes, a not average sixth grader has gone through many detective cases, but is friendship the biggest mystery for this super-sleuth?

When John Watson moves in her her apartment Shelby finds a friend out of him. Together they unravel a dog-napping mystery. Read this book by Elizabeth Eulberg to find out more.

**THE GUMAZING GUM GIRL** REVIEWED BY EMILY TANG

Do you like funny stories? If you do, you should read The Gumazing Gum Girl. It is a funny story about a girl who loves to chew gum. She gets gum all

over herself. Then she magically gets superpowers. She uses the superpowers to help people. If you want to learn more, read the Gumazing Gum Girl.

**TAIT'S TASTY TELLING SKEETER'S RESTAURANT REVIEW BY TAIT LOVE**

One of my family's many traditions is going to Skeeters Restaurant on Sunday evenings. Skeeters is a grill in Wesleyan Plaza that is casual and has décor that I call "eccentric American," with things like giant dominos, a deep fryer and canoe paddles on the walls – fun! There are TV's everywhere that always plays sports. The menu consists of Tex-Mex and American cuisine such as burgers, tacos and salads. At my family's recent visit, I enjoyed Chicken Quesadillas. The quesadillas had nice and smooth guacamole on the side. The chicken had a delicious grilled

flavor. I have to say that the tortillas are the best in town – you should try the breakfast tacos sometime; the tortillas are the star of the show. To top it off, we shared a Brownie which had a strong cocoa flavor. There is also an arcade there if you like claw games and have money to spare. Overall, the food is excellent, and the service is efficient. I award four out of five Mustangs.

**STAR WARS THE LAST JEDI** REVIEWED BY GREY AND CADEN WARREN

There is much to be excited about this holiday season, but nothing more forceful than the newest installment of Star Wars. The Last Jedi is the eighth installment of the Star Wars franchise, and offers a chance to see old friends and new ones battle the evil Empire. If you like lightsabers, epic battles, friendship, droids, explosions, and

heroics (and salt)... you will love this movie.

In this action-packed movie, the main character, Rey, her friends, Finn, Poe, and Rose, and the rest of the Resistance fight the First Order led by the evil leader Snoke and his second in command Kylo Ren (really, Han Solo and General Leia's son, Ben). In the last movie, The Force Awakens, Rey and the Resistance searched for Luke Skywalker, who hid from everyone a long time ago. At the end of the movie,

the Resistance finds Luke, and this new movie starts there.

It turns out that Luke found solitude in the ruins of an ancient Jedi temple. He hid there after he trained a new generation of Jedi, including Ben Solo, who betrayed him. Rey finds Luke on this deserted island of paradise, on a hidden planet. Rey then convinces Luke to train her to master the force. At the same time, the Resistance are being attacked by the First Order.

*Continued on page 3.*



**GETTO KNOW MS. VAUGHN, OUR NEW SECOND GRADE TEACHER** BY YUTIA LI



Q: How long have you been teaching, or is this your first year?

A: This is my first year teaching.

Q: Where did you go to college?

A: Baylor University.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: The Harry Potter books.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?

A: My pet peeve is when students talk when I am talking.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: We have classroom fish, but I don't have any pets at home.

Q: Who is your role model and why?

A: My mom, because she puts everyone first and is a good friend to all.

Q: What is your hobby?

A: Hiking and reading.

Q: What is your favorite quote?

A: "We must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy." - Albus Dumbledore

Q: What is your favorite subject?

A: Reading

Q: Do you like West U Elementary so far?

A: I love it!!

**GETTO KNOW MR. HIGGS** BY PRAKRATI SHENOY

Q: What college did you go to?

A: I went to Texas State University.

Q: When is your birthday?

A: 23rd of March.

Q: How many years have you been teaching?

A: I've been teaching here 6 wonderful years.

Q: What is one of your biggest pet peeves?

A: To repeat directions and the misuse of materials.

Q: What is your favorite subject?

A: Math, because everything in the universe must follow its rules.

Q: Who would you like to meet?

A: I would like to meet Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, and J.P. Morgan.

Q: What would you do 10 years from now?

A: I think I will be assembling robots for Skynet.

Q: If you would live in one place, where would you live?

A: Hamoa Bay, Maui.

Q: Who inspired you to become a teacher?

A: A University Psychology Professor.

Q: What do you like to do during your free time?

A: Kickback and Relax.



**GETTO KNOW OUR NEW KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, MRS. SRNKA**

BY CATHERINE VERA AND PRESLEY GREWAL



Q. What is your favorite color?

A. Gold.

Q. If you could teach any grade in the school what would it be?

A. Kindergarten.

Q. Do you like teaching at West U?

A. Yes I love teaching at West U.

Q. What college did you go to?

A. A&M.

Q. Who influenced you the most in your life?

A. My mom.

Q. Do you have a pet?

A. Yes I have a golden retriever named Cooper.

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. I like the Mo Williams books.

Q. Do you have any siblings?

A. Yes two brothers and two sisters.

Q. What was your favorite grade in elementary school?

A. kindergarten or second grade.

Q. Did you prefer elementary, middle school, high school, or college? A. College.

**The Last Jedi** *Continued from Page 2.*

It's a race to save the last remaining hope of the galaxy, the Resistance. Who will win? Who will die? Who will be betrayed? Who will betray?

We rate Star Wars, The Last Jedi a "force" on a four point scale. It had great

visuals, many humorous anecdotes, a beautiful soundtrack, great fight scenes, and lots of bombs. The new characters, especially new Resistance plumber Rose, were great additions to the cast. The new planets, especially the red salt planet, were fun to see. The only bad

thing we can say about the movie is that it was over way too fast! We look forward to seeing Star Wars movie nine and learning what happens to Rey, Finn, Poe, and the rest of the Resistance. Until then...MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.

**INTERVIEW OF MR. THREET** BY ALEXANDRE KEYES AND GUY SHAFRAN

Q: Who was the principal before you?

A: Dr. Ide

Q: What is your favorite sport/team?

A: University of Texas Longhorns

Q: What was your dream job as a kid?

A: Probably to be a fireman

Q: What were your parents' jobs?

A: My mom was a housewife and my dad was a principal in Fort Worth.

Q: What are your hobbies when you are not working?

A: I like to hunt, fish and do yardwork, but I don't get to fish as much as I would like to.

Q: What were your jobs before you were a principal?

A: I was an assistant principal, a general manager and a teacher (stopped teaching for 4 years at some point)

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: The Story of Ferdinand the Bull.

Q: What would be your job if you weren't a principal?

A: I would be a teacher or a football coach

Q: What school did you go to?

A: I attended Castleberry Elementary School and High School, and I went to the University of Texas

Q: Who was your favorite teacher growing up and why?

A: Mrs Worn, 4th grade. She made us work hard but she was nice.

Q: What is your middle name?

A: The T stands for Thomas.

**INTERVIEW OF MRS PINCHBACK**, BY GAVIN KEYES AND BARRETT MAGUIRE

Q: What did you do before working at WUES?

A: I was an assistant principal and taught 8th grade science.

Q: What was your favorite subject as a kid?

A: Math

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: It is Home Alone.

Q: Who do you look up to?

A: I look up to my grandparents.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Arlington, Texas.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: In my free time I enjoy puzzles, crafts and playing outside.

Q: What is your favorite sport?

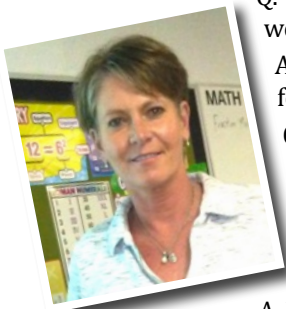
A: Tae-kwon-do, which I do.

Q: What is your favorite place?

A: The beach



Jayden Chen, 1st Place winner of the School Spelling Bee with Mrs. Pinchback

**GET TO KNOW MRS. DURHAM!**, BY JENNY LOCKHART

Q: What did you want to be when you were younger?

A. A vet until we went to the vet and found out about surgery.

Q: What subject do you teach?

A. Math, language arts, and social studies.

Q: How did you first start to enjoy math?

A. When I first started to understand it.

Q: Did you like math when you were younger?

A. No. It was my worst subject. I was the reader.

Q: What is your favorite part in math?

A. In February when everybody understands.

Q: What is the most frustrating part in math?

A. Teaching kids to show strategies.

Q: Why did you start tutoring after school?

A. Because so many kids were struggling with math, and the parents felt like it was their responsibility.

Q: Did you make any friends over your career, and if so who?

A. Yes, all of the teachers work together well, so even if one leaves we still remain in touch.

Q: Where did you go to college?

A. Kansas State University, and studied graphic design.

Q: Did you like it? Why or why not?

A. I liked it but didn't love it because I couldn't picture myself sitting in a desk all day.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?

A. I like gardening, sports, and music.




Q: If you could go anywhere or do anything, what would you do?

A. I would continue teaching math in fifth grade, because I have gotten so used to it.



## Winter Crossword

by Oliver Tan

The crossword puzzle grid contains 15 numbered starting points for clues:

- 1: Down, 10 squares
- 2: Across, 6 squares
- 3: Across, 6 squares
- 4: Across, 6 squares
- 5: Across, 6 squares
- 6: Down, 6 squares
- 7: Down, 6 squares
- 8: Down, 6 squares
- 9: Across, 6 squares
- 10: Down, 6 squares
- 11: Down, 6 squares
- 12: Across, 10 squares
- 13: Down, 6 squares
- 14: Across, 6 squares
- 15: Across, 10 squares

**Across**

- 2. A Christian holiday celebrated in December
- 4. These keep your hands warm in the cold
- 9. An African American celebration of community
- 12. "You can't catch me, I'm the \_\_\_\_\_ man!"
- 13. Pullers of Santa's sleigh
- 15. A warm chocolate drink

**Down**

- 1. Get a kiss if you are caught under this plant
- 3. A figure made of 2 or 3 large snowballs
- 5. A tightly packed sphere of snow
- 6. A large snow storm
- 7. Song starting with "Dashing through the snow"
- 8. The coldest of the four seasons
- 10. Precipitation in the form of ice crystals
- 11. These keep your ears warm in winter
- 14. Celebration on December 31st
- 15. A Jewish holiday celebrated in December



**A Skiing Disaster** By Jayden Chen



**Winter in Houston** by Marshal Edgecomb



**Spring** by Xinyuan Huang

