



The Welby Way

BEE LINE

THE LATEST NEWS AT WELBY WAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bridget Keyser, Editor

Wednesday, December 1, 2004



MESSAGE FROM MRS. EDLER, MS. YOO AND MRS. KOFF

Welby Way's "You are the Magic" Dinner Dance and Silent Auction was a great success! Approximately 310 Welby Way parents and staff members attended, and hundreds of items were sold at the popular Silent Auction. **WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED SO HARD FOR SO LONG TO MAKE THIS EVENT MEMORABLE.** Thanks also to Ms. Plaisance and our teachers for their entertaining original song and dance, which was enjoyed by everyone. We hope that all who attended had a wonderful time, and will continue to attend the Welby Way Dinner Dance events in years to come. Complete final revenues from the Dinner Dance are currently being assessed and the proceeds will soon be announced.

The 2004/2005 school year has been a challenge in light of the current state of the economy. It has been even more difficult to insure that we have funding to continue to offer all of our special programs to our students here at Welby Way. We know that many of our families have had more difficulty making ends meet, and we fully appreciate your efforts and donations. Be assured that we are committed to giving your child the best education possible.

As the holidays approach, enjoy the time with your families. There is no replacement for time spent with family, whether it is spent visiting museums or libraries, or enjoying quiet time at home. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year and want you to know that we fully appreciate how our Welby Way community contributes to the success of our school.

Gigi Edler, Jennifer Yoo and Marcia Koff

WINTER MUSIC PROGRAM

December 15th will be our annual Welby Way Winter Music Program. The presentation will take place in the auditorium. There will be two performances – one at 8:30 AM and a second performance at 1:00 PM. Mrs. Petersen's Welby Way Singers, and Mrs. Smith's Chamber Players are scheduled to perform, along with individual classrooms. Families of performing classes will be notified by their teacher. Classrooms that do not participate in the Winter Music Program will perform in the Spring Music Program.



IN HONOR OF WELBY WAY GRADUATE EVAN ASHCRAFT - EVAN ASHCRAFT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Army Sgt. Evan Ashcraft, 24, an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division, was one of three soldiers killed in Iraq on July 24, 2003, when the convoy in which he was traveling came under attack from gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades. Ashcraft's division led the fiery assault in northern Iraq that killed Saddam Hussein's sons Odai and Qusai Hussein.

While his country will remember him as a hero, his family remembers him as a man of exceptional character. He was an accomplished student and musician, and aspired to finish his college education upon completing his military career. *Evan culminated from Welby Way in June of 1991.* "He was a person who really wanted to help other people, to protect them," says his wife, Ashley. For his exemplary military service and the valor he exhibited in rescuing two soldiers from a disabled vehicle in April of 2003, he has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star medals. Evan Ashcraft was buried with full military honors in Chatsworth on Saturday, August 2, 2003.

The *Evan Ashcraft Memorial Scholarship Fund* has been established by his family to distribute college scholarships for United States military personnel living or deceased who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or for their dependents. Those who wish to contribute to this fund can do so by sending a check into the office made out to "Evan Ashcraft Fund" **OR** you can make a donation via credit card online at http://www.calfund.org/8/giving_ashcraft.php It is hoped that during this holiday season, our Welby Way families will help our soldiers and their families by donating to this fund in honor of Evan.

THANK YOU TO **Office DEPOT**® AND OUR WELBY WAY PARENTS

We would like to thank all of the Welby Way families who participated in the school fundraising program at Office Depot. We received an Office Depot gift card for \$137, which will be used for needed school supplies. THANK YOU AGAIN!

MAGNET SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Mrs. Koff will be conducting a Welby Way Magnet orientation for parents of prospective magnet applicants. The orientation will be held on Tuesday, December 14th at 8:30 AM in the school library. All families should be receiving their "Choices" magnet applications soon. Magnet applications are due in mid-January.



NEW – THE WELBY WAY STUDENT HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

The Welby Way Concerned Parents Foundations are pleased to be able to offer a new service to Welby Way students – the *Welby Way Holiday Boutique*. Students may purchase small items to use as holiday gifts at the Boutique. The Boutique will be open December 13th through December 17th during recess, lunch, and after school in the *Parent Center* (by the Welby Way Daycare). Prices for the wide assortment of items range from 15 cents to \$14. Look for more details in a flyer that will be coming home soon!

WELBY WAY NIGHT AT CASA DI PIZZA

On Thursday, December 9th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Casa di Pizza (7543 Fallbrook Avenue) is having a Welby Way night. Casa de Pizza will donate a large percentage of sales on this night only, as well as sales of "Casa Bucks." "Casa Bucks" will be available for purchase Wednesday, December 8th by the school office from 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM. "Casa Bucks" can be redeemed at any time at Casa di Pizza for in-house dining only.



WELBY WAY LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found is completely filled with jackets and other lost items, so please check for any items your child has misplaced. **Any items left in the Lost and Found as of Thursday, December 16th will be cleared out. Don't wait – check the lost and found now! THANK YOU!**

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS – L.A. CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MUSIC ASSOCIATION

We have several talented students who may qualify for this scholarship. Students in grades K through sixth grade are eligible. Students may enter on a standard orchestral instrument or on piano. Piano students must have at least two years of experience. Applications are due December 17th & are available in the magnet office.

READERS ARE LEADERS

All students should be bringing home a "Readers are Leaders" form at the beginning of each month. Each student is expected to read or be read to at home each day for a period of time based on the student's grade level. Studies have shown that the amount of time children spend reading silently or aloud in school and at home is directly associated with year-to-year gains in reading achievement. Parents – please follow the directions on the "Readers are Leaders" log. It is mandatory that all Welby Way students participate in this at-home reading program. Participation in this program will appear on students' report cards. **YOUR commitment as a parent is to:**

1. Help your child take responsibility for the "Readers are Leaders Log."
2. Ensure that your child reads or is read to nightly.
3. Make sure all completed books are recorded, including title, author, and number of pages, on the "Readers are Leaders Log."
4. Help your child total the pages at the end of the month by using a calculator.
5. Sign the record on the due date so it can be submitted on time.

PLEASE KEEP UP WITH THE READERS ARE LEADERS PROGRAM OVER THE WINTER BREAK!

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>5th Grade Trip Meeting – Home School:</i>	Wednesday, December 1 st at 7:00 PM in auditorium. <i>Prospective chaperones MUST attend.</i>
<i>Make Up School Photos</i>	Friday, December 3 rd
<i>Prospective Magnet Applicants Orientation:</i>	Tuesday, December 14 th at 8:30 AM
<i>Site Action Council Meeting:</i>	Tuesday, December 14 th at 7:00 PM
<i>Winter Holiday Music Program:</i>	Wednesday, December 15 th at 8:30 AM & 1:00 PM in the auditorium
<i>Honors Assembly:</i>	Thursday, December 16 th at 8:15 AM (weather permitting)
<i>Minimum Day:</i>	Wednesday, December 17 th with dismissal at 12:35 PM
<i>Winter Break:</i>	Monday, December 20, 2004 through Friday, January 7, 2005
<i>Return to School:</i>	Monday, January 10, 2005