

E-mail:
newsletter@windsorpark.info

Visit the website at:
Windsorpark.info

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SPONSORS:

We must receive your content and check by the 15th in order to include your sponsorship notice in the following month's newsletter.
Mail check
(payable to WPNA):
WPNA
P.O. Box 16183
Austin, TX 78761

For Questions or to send Graphic Content, contact:
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Type	Size (in.)	1 month	6 Months
Business Card	3.5 x 2	\$45	\$240
Quarter Page	7.5 x 2 or 3.75 x 5	\$90	\$480
Half Page	7.25 x 4	\$180	\$960

JOIN WPNA

All residents of Windsor Park are eligible to become voting members of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association. If you would like to join the association, please send your dues, at the level appropriate for you, to the address below or bring them to a monthly general meeting. Memberships are renewed yearly and expire on December 31 of each year. In order to vote on WPNA positions, you must have been a member for 30 days. Business members are welcome but do not have voting privileges.

The money received for dues is used to produce our newsletter and to support our other neighborhood programs. Because WPNA is a 501(c)(3) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax deductible.

- ☐ Student/fixed income — \$5/person
- ☐ Standard / Individual — \$15/person
- ☐ Family — \$20
- ☐ Sustaining — \$35 or more
- ☐ Non-voting donations - gladly accepted

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:

WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761

Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!

Windsor Park Library Updates and Events

Events and Book Club

Jan 5, 7pm: Indie Lens Pop-up - *In Football We Trust*

Jan 12, 3:30pm: Lego Lab

Jan 14, 21, 28, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime

Jan 19, 3:30pm: Free Play Gaming

Feb 2, 7pm: Indie Lens Pop-Up - *The Black Panthers - Vanguard of the Revolution*

Feb 4, 11, 18, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime

Feb 6, 2pm: Family Movie Matinee - Minions

Feb 9, 3:30pm: Lego Lab

Feb 16, 3:30pm: Free Play Gaming

Library hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 9pm

Friday: 1pm - 6pm

Saturday: 10am - 5pm Closed Sundays

5833 Westminster Dr. • 512-974-9840

<http://library.austintexas.gov/windsor-park-branch>

The Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (WPNPCT)

is a representative group of neighborhood stakeholders charged as stewards of the Neighborhood Plan, to uphold the implementation of the Plan's vision, goals and recommendations, and to review & vote on all proposed amendments to the Plan.

Meetings are the second Monday of each month at the Windsor Park Library (subject to change) at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Conor Kenny at conor@conorkenny.net or 512-968-3050

Everyone is always invited to attend and participate.

Numbers count! A strong neighborhood association advocates more effectively for Windsor Park! Join us today!

Austin Police District Representatives

East of Berkman

Officer James Scoggins

(512) 974-8393 | james.scoggins@austintexas.gov

West of Berkman

Officer James Hyatt

(512) 974-5500 | james.hyatt@austintexas.gov



WINDOW on WINDSOR

Vol XXXV No. 1

January 2016

Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Saturday, Jan. 9
at 10am.**

**Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Dr.**

We serve LOCAL Fair Trade coffee from Trianon Roasting Co.!

Windsor Park Contact Info

Website:

www.Windsorpark.info

Email:

president@windsorpark.info

Newsgroup:

groups.yahoo.com/group/windsorpark/



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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 15th of each month.

Email them to:

newsletter@windsorpark.info

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JANUARY LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors:

First, I'd like to thank the management and staff at the Nomad for hosting our holiday party in December. The event was a great success. If you did not renew your membership at the party and have not done so by other means, please remember to renew your membership for 2016. Our memberships renew on a yearly basis. You can renew/become a member by filling out and mailing the form on the back of this newsletter (and, yes, sending a check) or you can do so on our website: <http://www.windsorpark.info/>.

In 2016 I look forward to continuing to work toward finishing many of the projects we have started (and, yes, kicking off some new ones). I also look forward to opening up a dialogue as to how best to continue to enlarge and diversify our membership. Whether it be online voting; joining other councils in addition to the ANC; or doing more community outreach, I look forward to discussing these issues and others at meetings and on our list-serv in my final term as president.

Applications for the Windsor Park Scholarships for graduating seniors of Reagan high school will be due on March 31st. More information will follow in our February newsletter. These scholarships recognize and reward students who have demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement. Last year, the WPNA awarded two \$1000 scholarships. Our hope is to be able to award even more of these scholarships this year. If someone you know is graduating from Reagan this year and has contributed substantially to the community through volunteer work or other means, please encourage him/her to apply. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, you can do so on our website or via the post: WPNA; P.O. Box 16183; Austin, TX 78761. If you do write a check, please remember to put "scholarship fund" in the subject line so as to help our illustrious treasurer get the money where it needs to go.

Also, although independent from the WPNA, I would encourage anyone interested in (or concerned by) issues related to development and population density to look into becoming a member of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (WPNPCT). The neighborhood contact team "is a representative group of neighborhood stakeholders charged as stewards of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan, to uphold the implementation of the Plan's vision, goals and recommendations, and to review and vote on all proposed amendments to the Plan." Essentially, the WPNPCT fulfills the vital service of considering all changes to the existing neighborhood plan and, in turn, advises the city as to what our community wants and needs. So, for example, if what used to be a single-family residence becomes a commercial property or a duplex the likelihood is high that a zoning change or 'up-zoning' occurred. If such a change did occur, then it most likely went through our contact team. The contact team has 31 seats. However, only 14 of those seats are currently filled. What this means is that ample opportunity exists to get involved with that group, become a voting member, and directly impact the kinds of development and growth that occur in our neighborhood. The WPNPCT meets on the second Monday of each month at the Windsor Park Library at 6:30PM. You can contact Conor Kenny at conor@conorkenny.net or 512-968-3050.

[Letter continues on page 2]

[Letter from the President, continued]

I look forward to seeing many of you at our January meeting at which representatives from Friends of Austin Neighborhoods (FAN) will be giving a brief presentation.
Sincerely, Karen Pagani



Schools Committee Update

Meghan Dougherty

Many of you have probably seen the school transfer issue in the news recently. Here’s more detailed information, so you can be better informed.

Schools that have been frozen to transfers for 2016-17 due to over enrollment include:

- High schools: Akins, Anderson and Bowie
- Middle schools: Gorzycki, Lamar and Murchison
- Elementary schools: Baldwin, Baranoff, Barrington, Becker, Blazier, Brentwood, Casis, Clayton, Cowan, Davis, Doss, Gullett, Hill, Kiker, Menchaca, Oak Hill and Webb Primary

The Lamar MS freeze should not affect many households in our neighborhood, as many are already zoned to go there automatically if those students opt out of attending Sadler Means or Garcia.

Requests for in-district student transfers to schools that have not been frozen for the 2016–17 school year may be submitted in person or by mail to the Office of Student Services. Requests will be accepted Jan. 4–29, 2016; all requests submitted during that time will receive equal consideration.

Students who wish to attend one of the following must apply directly to that program: A magnet program at LASA or Fulmore or Kealing middle schools; an application program such as Anderson High School International Baccalaureate, Austin High School Academy for Global Studies, Lamar or Covington middles schools, or McCallum High School fine arts, Small Middle School Green Tech Academy, Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders; or a dual-language program.

The Schools Committee continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Contact Meghan Dougherty at doughtastic@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved!

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We would love to see you this Sunday
WELCOME ...A PLACE FOR EVERYONE
A great place to meet new friends, find needed encouragement and discover God’s plan for you.

January 2016 - page 11

[Continued from page 10]

My office helped create or restore three parks for our District, supported the creation of new neighborhood associations in underrepresented parts of town, and have followed through on necessary infrastructure improvements around Windsor Park, like the upcoming traffic-calming for Corona Drive and the natural gas line necessary for heating Bartholomew Park pool year-round.

Here’s what we’re getting done in the last days of 2015:


Expanding Housing Opportunities

In December, City Council passed a resolution I authored to make housing desegregation a top priority for the City as it rewrites its land development rules through CodeNEXT. The desire for a compact and connected future shouldn’t just mean that the streets and sidewalks need to be connected—we must have connected communities. This resolution will maximize our land planning’s potential to better integrate Austin, both racially and economically. This effort, along with the Council vote I led the charge on to make it easier for homeowners to build garage apartments, were two initiatives I was proud to accomplish in 2015 to create more housing options for Austinites.

Homestead Preservation Districts


One of my top priorities on Council is making sure that Austin does not become so expensive that no working families can afford to live here. The City Council’s Housing Committee has focused heavily on creating homestead preservation districts in Southeast, East, and North Austin. I proposed a strategy, supported by the Council’s Housing Committee, to fund attainable and affordable housing in areas where affordability is evaporating. Funds will come from new taxes generated from some of the high-rises you see Downtown on former City of Austin properties. Some of the multi-family areas in Windsor Park are eligible for funds to rehabilitate aging properties, construct new housing at attainable prices, or create land-banks where more affordable homeownership can be supported by the City.

I’m looking forward to 2016 to continue the work that still needs to get done, and am excited to work with you to make it happen! As always, please feel free to keep in touch by either calling my office at 512-978-2104, or emailing me at Greg.Casar@austintexas.gov. It’s an honor to serve District 4, and I can’t wait for what the new year will bring us!



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NOV 2015 Stats

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Nov 2015)	\$218.62
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (Nov 2015)	7
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,440
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	45
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	16*

*As of Dec 13th, 2015 - Single Family Homes

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Message from CM Ora Houston

In the spirit of the recent holiday season and the start of the New Year, we are encouraging everyone in District #1 to give back to the community.

We all could use a little help sometimes and sometimes we wish we could help a little more. In today’s society, we have to try a little harder to remember what peace and joy looks like - giving to others. We invite you to give a bit of your time and presence. I understand that not everyone has funds to donate or to purchase items to donate which is why we are suggesting you donate the most precious and priceless item you possess – your time and a smile.

Please feel free to share your photos of your volunteer adventures with us as well! District1@austintexas.gov or https://www.facebook.com/oraatx1/ As always, please feel free to call our office if you have questions or need assistance.

Message from CM Greg Casar

Hi everyone! Reflecting on this past year, I’m very proud of the work my office was able to accomplish alongside the community in 2015: we championed several initiatives to expand fair and affordable housing options for Austinites; we implemented more protections for vulnerable renters and homeowners; we’ve remained focused on expanding economic opportunity by increasing wages for some of our lowest-paid workers; we’re close to passing fair chance hiring practices citywide, and lastly, we were very successful in winning many on-the-ground improvements that North Austin desperately needs.
[Continues on page 11]

Windsor Park Resident
and Real Estate Broker



Jane Amschwand
Realtor®
Salt Homes, LLC
Owner/Broker
512.228.2484

www.salthomes.com
jane@salthomes.com



January 2016 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The January winners are Damon and Nannette Flowers of 2002 Rogge Lane. They have lived on Rogge for ten years. Three years ago they decided to revamp their front yard.

Friends helped Damon and Nannette design a low maintenance, water saving landscape. Along with help from friends, they used the free pamphlet, “Grow Green, Native and Adapted Landscape Plants,” published by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the City of Austin to help them choose plants that grow well in Austin. They replaced their St. Augustine lawn with Zoysia grass. They added a drip irrigation system to use water more efficiently. Though they and their friends did most of the work themselves, they did hire others to do some of the planting. All together it took about three months to transform their yard.

Rust colored metal borders frame their planting beds. These are their favorite part of the design because Damon and a friend from college cut, shaped, and welded the metal. They also like plants that bring color to their yard. They have Pink Skullcap, Dwarf Ruellia, and Salvia Greggii, aka Autumn Sage or Cherry Sage near the street. The same bed also has Mexican Feathergrass and Bicolor Iris. Near the house, Nanette and Damon have a bed of Knockout Roses. They also have Society Garlic, Cast Iron Plant, and Bottlebrush. Their trees include a mature Red Oak, Mexican Red Bud, Mexican Plum, Anacacho Orchid, and Desert Willow. By installing a drip irrigation system and choosing native and well adapted plants, the Flowers have cut their water use and their gardening effort. They “spend a few days every couple of months trimming, weeding and mulching. “ Even so “weeding can be tedious and time consuming. “

They advise, “Just do it! It doesn’t have to be perfect. Drawing out our design on paper and mixing and matching plants until we had the right depth and layout helped tremendously in the planning process. “

Mr. and Mrs. Flowers will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 Hancock Drive.

Pictures of the Yard of the Month are displayed on our website, www.Windsorpark.info as well as our Facebook page. Check them out.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? You can nominate more than one. Tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood every month. We may not have seen your great yard. Don’t be humble. We love to get nominations. To nominate a yard or yards, e-mail us at yom@windsorpark.info, call 928-0681 or write WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761



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Springtails

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Springtails are very small, jumping insects that can sometimes become a problem inside homes. Springtails are usually found in areas of moisture, so indoors they may be located near potted plants, sinks, bath tubs or kitchen compost areas. These insects are typically found outside in gardens, near swimming pools or near where there is excessive moisture or standing water.

Springtails are small (about 1/16 of an inch long), wingless and come in various colors. These insects have a “tail” that latches into a space on the underside of the body that they can use to “jump” several inches into the air.

Springtails are considered a nuisance insect, but some may chew on roots and leaves of sapling plants. They usually do not cause enough damage to warrant control measures to be taken. If you have springtails in your home it points to a moisture problem that should be fixed.

Options for helping reduce springtail problems:

- Remove excessive mulch and/ or leaf litter near the home
- Change watering schedule to reduce the amount of moisture near the home
- Use fans or dehumidifiers to reduce moisture indoors
- Seal cracks, crevices, pipe & wire penetrations on the outside of the home
- Replace or repair any screening on doors and windows that is damaged
- Replace weather stripping around doors and windows that does not provide a good seal
- Suck up any indoor infestations with a vacuum

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas AgriLife Research is implied.

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January 2016 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

In what has become a northeast Austin holiday tradition, the largest crowd ever attended the December 2nd 10th Anniversary of the holiday re-lighting of Mueller's former control tower. Reagan High School's drumline and the Huston-Tillotson Jazz Band entertained before Austin City Council Member Ora Houston threw the switch to illuminate the NOEL and edge lights on the tower.

Mueller's six-acre community orchard, along Manor Road east of Berkman, is now complete. Edible plantings show what is possible in our own backyards. In various seasons, the plantings will produce Loring peaches, Asian pears, cork oaks, figs, kumquats, loquats, Meyer lemons, olives, pecans, persimmons, pomegranates and a variety of herbs. Informational signage describes the harvest potential for each season. For the future, the Southeast Greenway will extend eastward with trails, a large pond complete with a boardwalk, recreational playfields, a child's play area and more native Texas landscapes. See more at: <http://www.muelleraustin.com/news/journal/muellers-orchard-officially-opens/#sthash.vb3yXjND.dpuf>

Currently under construction, the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas Bennett-Rathgeber Mentoring Center will allow the organization to better serve children and families in Central Texas. The 20,000 square foot building is in the Rathgeber Children's Village, which is at the far southeast corner of Windsor Park at 4800 Manor Road. It is on the WPNA's boundary with Mueller where Zach Scott Street has yet to be built. Named after the project's largest donors, Laura and Kyndel Bennett and Sara and Dick Rathgeber, the building's features include:

- A youth activity center for art projects, games, and workshops.
- Meeting rooms for volunteer training and education, private spaces where BBBS staff can conduct volunteer screenings, and space for community organizations to meet after-hours.
- Public and private spaces that will allow donors, families, volunteers and community members to visit BBBS' offices to learn about the programs and access information and resources while maintaining the privacy of clients being served.
- Park space behind the building for recreational activities.

BBBS hopes to open the facility by the fall of 2016.

The next meeting of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (i.e. Mueller Commission) is Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6PM in Meeting Room 1 of the Carver Library, 1161 Angelina Street. Please send Mueller-related questions & comments to bc-Rick.Krivioliak@austintexas.gov

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Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Service Specialist

Do you love to read? Reagan’s new librarian, Mrs. Stirrat, has entered Reagan into a friendly competition with Eastside. Whichever school reads 1 million pages first wins! Students and staff are participating. The competition began in November and currently, Reagan has read 37,499 pages. Please encourage your children to read at home and submit their page numbers to Mrs. Stirrat.

The Blue Jesters, led by the theatre program’s new director, E. Cesar Trevino, put on their first play of the year in December. The children’s play was called The Lion, The Mouse AND The Tortoise and The Hare. The play was enjoyed by all. They are currently holding auditions for the next play which will be Arsenic and Old Lace.

- The athletics programs at Reagan have had a tremendous 4 years. From 2011-2015 participation has improved 52% from 369 to 561 students. Highlights of the program include:
- Coach Nichols, head girls soccer coach, was named unanimous Coach of the Year in the district in SY 2014-2015.
 - Coach Thomas, head boys basketball coach, was named Co-Coach of the Year in the district for SY 2014-2015.
 - 20% (109) student-athletes are on the A/B honor roll.
 - The baseball program has grown from 15 to 49 since 2010. That is 220%!

Reagan is a community school that LOVES partnering with our neighbors. If you would like to partner with us please call Julia Remington, LCSW at 512-414-6361.



Holiday Tree Recycling
Amanda Rose

Austin Resource Recovery will pick up your Christmas tree with your regular curbside pick-up, so it can be recycled into mulch. Just remove all decorations and stands; trees over 6 feet should be cut in half. Lay the tree curbside - don’t place the tree in a bag.

Not a City of Austin curbside customer? No problem! All residents can drop off their trees (decorations and stands removed) for recycling at Zilker Park from 10am - 2pm the first two weekends in January.

A map and more detailed information is available at: <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/holiday-tree-recycling>



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: JESSE SIMMS
Martin Luecke

Our neighbor at Gaston Place Apartments for seniors and disabled, Mr. Simms has more than a few good stories of working with greatness. Back in 1942 Jesse played on a semi pro basketball team with Jackie Robinson, who lived in Austin for a couple years before he went on to break the color barrier in professional baseball. When Jackie left Austin to play for the legendary Kansas City Monarchs he borrowed money from Jesse’s best friend to get there!



After attending Tillotson College Jesse spent almost 20 years serving in The Back Room at the Austin Club, where a lot of Texas politics occurred during gin rummy card playing lunches. Legislators, lobbyists and the President of the United States were on his list of clients. Jesse laughs in telling how he was the important guy to know if you wanted a good table and the right food at what was then the most important private club in the city. “They said I was an excellent politician” he says smiling broadly.

Jesse served Lyndon Johnson long before he became the President, and had become so accustomed to approaching LBJ that he was almost tackled by the Secret Service when he was reaching to take a handshake tip from the President. But turning serious, Jesse says he personally thanked the President for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which may have been LBJ’s greatest legislative achievement, and gave Jesse the right to vote for the first time in his life.

Jesse left the Austin Club to run a program for Job Corp, taking troubled youth offenders into entry level positions and helping them get started in a career. Some of these kids were offered jail time, military enlistment, or Job Corp, so there were a few rough kids in the program. One of Jesse’s jobs was to deal with those who ran afoul of the police, and he discovered on many occasions these boys were getting beat up by the arresting officers. Jesse eventually brokered a deal with the police in exchange for teaching kids how to handle themselves in public situations.

The past eight years Mr. Simms has taken on a new role as unofficial gardener of Gaston Place, which is run by the Austin Housing Authority. “I started with a shovel” he says, then points at the successful flower bushes at the end of the garden: “this is my first project.” We are surrounded by a dozen big metal feed troughs which have been filled with dirt and are growing scores of herbs and vegetables. This past summer the Housing Authority granted Mr. Simms and Gaston Place these troughs to start its first ever community garden. There are 22 different residents with trough space at this time, and a list of interested parties. “It gives us something to do, and it feels good to watch plants grow from nothing.” What was once a dirt lot is now a thriving garden and Jesse Simms smiles at his creation. Pretty good for someone who never grew anything before in his life.

Thanks for all the nominations! Martin Luecke 536.0465 or mwluecke@hotmail.com



Austin Achieve

Christian Cabazos, Development and Communications

In December, Austin Achieve Public Schools graduated their first class of 15 parents from their Empower Computer Proficiency Series. In partnership with Skillpoint Alliance, Austin Achieve offered a ten-week computer training course to parents and community members looking to update their skills to meet the demands of today’s job market.

Josephina Ocha, mother of 6th grader Elyse, said she took this course as a way of achieving her personal goals. “This class has already impacted my life. Just recently, my daughter needed help with a project for school and I was able to pull up PowerPoint and help her complete the project,” Ocha said. In January, Austin Achieve will begin offering English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in partnership with the Worker’s Defense Project.

Bertha Sadler Means Young Women’s Leadership Academy

Ashley Ayala, Parent Support Specialist

2016 looks to be a great year for Sadler Means YWLA. We are only halfway through the year and our school has already experienced some really great things.

Ms. Tole led our Tech Girls to a First Place finish at the Samsung Challenge. Ms. Cantu received a grant from Austin Ed Fund to grow our Library’s Non Fiction collection. Our students are already excited to read all of the new material. Ms. Dyer worked really hard and received an amazing \$100,000 grant to create an awesome Science/ Maker Lab. Our girls are really hard at work preparing for our Talent Show.

We’re also looking forward to our CATCH night event, Thursday Jan 21st 5-7pm. We invite all of our students and their families to join us as we work on wellness.

Thank you for supporting Sadler Means YWLA where our girls “Lead the Way”!

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

The Blanton students will be on holiday break until January 5, but then it will be business as usual and back to our regular school schedule. Before school let out for the holiday we had a wonderful Winter Fest and Tamalada Festival, both were a huge success.

Each Monday and Tuesday, beginning January 11 & 12, in the gym from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. is our wonderful exercise class, designed for staff, parents and community. Everyone is invited to come join us in becoming fit and healthy. Participants seem to enjoy it greatly.

January 16 (starting at 10am) will be our garden/beautification work day. We have on campus fruit trees, raised planting beds and general landscape upkeep that is a part of a monthly work day to benefit our school. We invite the community to join us in keeping our school grounds healthy and vibrant.

January 28 our PTA will meet in the Parent Support room and on January 29 we will host a Principal’s Coffee, also in the same room at 8:30 a.m.

The ACE program will resume programming on January 19, 2016. ACE will be hosting programs in nutrition and computers for adults during January and February. Student after school classes will have a few new additions during this semester as well.

*****ACE will also continue collecting t-shirts for the ‘T-Shirts for Hunger Program’ which will be an ongoing activity. The shirts are collected to make grocery bags to be used by the food bank when handing out food to the needy. Clean, gently used (no holes) t-shirts may be brought to the school and put in the t-shirt barrel and ACE will see they are delivered to Travis County. The best sizes are youth large, adult small and adult medium...they can be long-sleeve, short-sleeve or tank tops. We welcome our community to participate in this activity....we thank those who have. The collection barrel is in the school office.**

Special THANKS to all of the parents and community members who have so generously donated old magazines for the ACE program, they will be put to good use. Remember this is an on-going need, so just give us a call if you have an excess of old magazines.

We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for any special events whenever they have the opportunity - just keep an eye on this column to find out what has and will be happening at Blanton Elementary. For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at karon.smutzer@austinisd.org or call 512-841-5678 to leave a message.

Harris Elementary - Early College Prep

Gloria Cano, school counselor

December was full of exciting learning activities mixed in with some fun. The winners of the Fifth Grade Science Bowl were students from Mr. Viloría’s class; student’s from Ms. Ruiz’ class came in second place. Our annual sing-a-long was enjoyed by all, led by our school choir and Ms. Napoles. Honor choir also sang holiday songs at HEB and other places in our neighborhood.

Thanks to ATPE and the Fire Station on Airport Road for sponsoring a couple of our families during the holidays. In addition to holiday projects, the students are working on the Monarch Butterfly Project. The garden is taking shape in order to attract as many butterflies with plants that will bring them to our school grounds.

We have about 15 students who will celebrate reading Blue Bonnet books at the end of January. Students have to read at least five selections and take a little quiz in order to be part of this special group. Thanks to Ms. Hinkle, our librarian, for working with our students on this project.

Thanks again to Memorial United Methodist Church for their partnership and letting us use their space for our ESL classes that begin in January. Parents were invited to a meeting to hear information about the registration process and meet with our partners from Manos de Cristo and MUMC. We are very excited about this learning opportunity for our parents. We also want to thank our Seedling Mentors and parent volunteers for all they do for our students and staff!

Finally we want to remind our neighbors to help keep our students safe. Please follow the school speed zones especially in the front of the school on Wheless Lane in the morning and during afternoon dismissal. Happy New Year to all our neighbors here in Windsor Park!

School updates continue on page 8....