

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER / PLAYA



NCWP Helps Fund Peters Procedures at Orville Wright

By Ann Wexler, Westchester/Playa Education Foundation

Peters Procedures, a program long desired by local public schools, is becoming a reality at Orville Wright Middle School, thanks to generous gifts from Neighborhood Council, Playa Vista, Westchester/Playa Education Foundation, community members, and Orville Wright parents. The program got a jump start by Wright's new principal, Dr. Kenneth Pride, when he started the job in late August. Pride, an attorney and former assistant principal at Westchester High School, learned of WPEF's campaign to fund the school-wide character education program. "After hearing what Peters Procedures had accomplished, I knew it would take our school to the next level of excellence, especially when combined with Cambridge, an academic data-analysis program I was bringing in," said Pride. "Ms. Peters has jumped right in and is working with our teachers to lay the foundation for the program."

WPEF decided to make Peters Procedures its funding priority, since principals and teachers who had seen the program were eager to get it. WPEF board members first observed Peters in action at Global Education Academy, a charter school in Watts. That school posted an API of 954 – one of the highest in the state – within a few short months of implementing the program. "We were impressed with the program's synergy – students behaved better, teachers then had more time to teach, students then learned more, and everyone was happier and more positive. When we learned the kids were taking their skills home to the delighted surprise of their parents, we knew we had a winner," said WPEF president Kelly Kane.

Genevieve Peters feels right at home at Wright, since she developed Peters Procedures while teaching at a large middle school in Long Beach Unified School District. "As a new teacher, I found it incredibly difficult to teach with the behaviors my students were displaying. I realized if I was going to be an effective teacher, I would have to first establish foundational behavior skills for all of us to operate successfully. I needed to make sure the Procedures not only helped them succeed in school, but in situations outside of school – in life."

Peters established "Procedures," or high-standard behaviors, for every situation that comes up during the school day. Students learn the appropriate skills

for entering class, answering questions, resolving conflicts, and even socializing during lunch. The students become "professionals" and "experts" in their Procedures, and have the responsibility to help train others, including substitute teachers. "By making students responsible, they take pride and ownership in their behavior, and in their school," Dr. Pride stated.

Having completed the observation phase, Peters is now creating a sixth-grade Peters Procedures Academy, with seventh- and eighth-grade academies to follow. Full school-wide implementation will culminate with the entire staff and parents trained by the end of January. "I couldn't have asked for a more inclusive welcome and a more outstanding, caring and dedicated group of people to work with," Peters says about Wright staff and parents.

Peters Procedures training and support will continue at Wright over the next three years to ensure sustainability and consistency. Should funding allow, the program will be available to other Westchester schools. Donors who would like to support the program may contact Kelly Kane, kelly@wpef.org.

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa contributed \$5,000 to bring Peters Procedures to Orville Wright Middle School.



LAX Town Hall Set for December 7

Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is currently seeking authorization to expand its north runway complex, which would mean more flights closer to homes and, likely, the removal of a major portion of the Westchester business district. One onerous plan element calls for moving runways as much as 400 feet north and lengthening them – a move that would increase noise, pollution, and traffic to the surrounding area.

Be sure to attend the LAX Townhall at 6 p.m. on December 7 in the Westchester Senior Center, 8740 Lincoln Boulevard in Westchester. Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who continues his mantra of "Modernization Yes! Expansion No!" will be featured. LAWA Executive Director Gina Marie Lindsey and several Airport Commissioners are also expected to attend.

To make your voice heard on airport issues, please attend the NCWP Airport Relations Committee, which meets the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, please visit www.NCWPDR.org, www.OurLAX.org, www.LAWA.org, and RegionalSolution.org.

Attend NCWP Committee Meetings

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa has eight standing committees that discuss various topics of interest to our community. To learn about these issues more in-depth, please take the time to attend our committee meetings and let your voice be heard.

Meeting Time/Date	Meeting Location
Airport Relations	Third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Budget and Finance	First Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
Education	Fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Government Affairs/City Services	Third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Homelessness & Vehicular Living	As needed – please check website for time and location
Outreach	As needed – please check website for time and location
Planning, Land Use & Development	Second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Public Safety	As needed – please check website for time and location



www.ncwpdr.org