



Kindergarten students enjoy a fall festival, hosted by the Linking Adults and Students in Self-Discovery Activities (LASSO) program



Wranglers in the FISH energy and natural science club collect items to recycle



The Wrangler Chorale performs at a Houston Aeros hockey game

JAMES WILLIAMS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Wrangling up leaders for the next generation
 Written by Mary Hogan
 Photos Courtesy of Williams Elementary School

Since first opening its doors in 2000, James Williams Elementary School has made a mark in the community with its spirit of student, teacher, and parent cooperation. Rated Exemplary by the Texas Education Agency, the school celebrates opportunities to go the extra mile. "Smiling faces are commonplace, as teachers, parents, and community members come together to provide meaningful instructional opportunities for students," shares Principal Ronnie Lee.



Learning about the anatomy of a pumpkin during the Eureka science program, which is led by parent volunteers



Having fun exploring the world of bugs with a parent volunteer

Leading the Way in Learning

Teamwork is everything at JWE, with teachers, staff members, and parents working closely with students to help them achieve success. "The faculty and staff are motivated to learn new innovative instructional approaches that will benefit the children we serve," shares Lee. The core subjects of math, science, language arts, and social studies come alive with a variety of hands-on programs that get students actively involved in learning. In the FISH Club (Fourth- and Fifth-graders Investigating Science Horizons), students interested in the environment and energy sciences can help with campus recycling efforts and learn about environmental biology and renewable green energy designs.

The Wrangler Chorale allows students to perfect their singing and musical skills, while performing for others at venues around town. Fifth-graders who are interested in TV can learn to operate technology like video cameras and sound boards and can help to report the weather and anchor the morning news.

Giving Back to Katy

Along with academic achievement, JWE teaches students about giving back and has been designated a No Place for Hate school for the past five years. The Read, Deed, and Run program requires students to read 26 books, run 26.2 miles, and complete 26 acts of community service every year. "Our students learn how to organize an activity to meet community needs," shares JWE PTA president Wendy Duncan.

That spirit of serving others is also extended to newcomers, who are welcomed by a group of their classmates known as Howdy Partners. During the New Wrangler Café, Howdy Partners and new students meet for a fun luncheon.

Wrangler Pride

It's easy to see why the Wranglers are making such a splash in Katy ISD. Duncan shares, "Williams Elementary is an exceptional place to learn, because home and school are united to fulfill the mission of helping every child reach their potential." KM

MARY HOGAN enjoys being associate editor of Katy Magazine and is inspired by all of the ways Katy students and teachers go above and beyond every day.

JWE Fast Facts

Principal: Ronnie Lee

Assistant Principal: Angel Bateman

Location: 3900 S. Peek Rd.

Phone: 281-237-7200

Mascot: Wranglers

Colors: Maroon and silver

Enrollment: 797 students

Opened in: 2000

School theme for 2011-2012: JWE – leading the next generation

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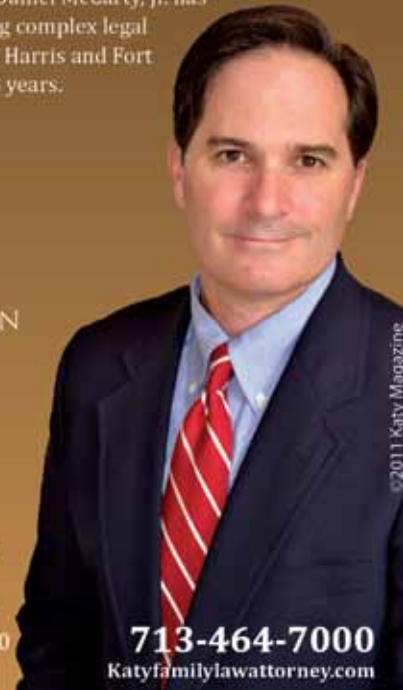
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1400 Broadfield, Ste. 200
Houston, TX 77084

713-464-7000
Katyfamilylawattorney.com

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