

CWE was recently named a Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll School for the third consecutive year



Commonwealth's green team helps recycle phone books, techno-trash, and water bottles



# COMMONWEALTH ELEMENTARY

Students, teachers, and parents provide a one-of-a-kind community

*Written by Julie Dold | Photography Courtesy of Commonwealth Elementary School*

Commonwealth Elementary is anything but common. From the moment you walk into the school, you are instantly greeted with warm and welcoming smiles. It doesn't take long to realize that this is one bright school. With activities ranging from math clubs to art clubs, it is clear that the school is overflowing with independent, smart, and creative students, teachers, and parents.

One of the biggest things that makes CWE stand out from other schools is that it has an extremely diverse culture. Because of this, every class of students has the opportunity to learn about new cultures, activities, and that being different is okay. "When you visit the classrooms, it is easy to see why they excel," shares CWE Principal Joanna Hagler. "Our students are highly motivated and are learning at the highest level."

## A Team Effort

Parental involvement at CWE is anything but ordinary and really helps the school to shine. They are continually volunteering to help with classrooms, clubs, and whatever else might be needed. This way, teachers can truly focus on

teaching the students, while the parents can help out with extracurricular activities.

Micole Roy is just one of the many parents who volunteer. She started an after-school contest math club called Math Masters four years ago when her oldest son was in the fifth grade. She and the kids loved it so much that she decided to continue the club even after her son left. The parents' involvement not only helps the teachers, but shows the students that they really do care about their education. "I believe the presence of parents communicates to students that school is valued and important," says Roy. "Also, the parental involvement is what allows the students to have the experiences that they are likely to say makes school great to attend."

Parents also volunteer their time by coming in a few times a month and presenting Art-a-la-Carte, assisting with math and science labs, and helping with the many different assemblies. Without the aid of all the parent volunteers, CWE would not be quite as successful. "The CWE motto, 'caring with excellence,' comes to life each day as our many



CWE Math Masters is just one of many campus groups headed by parent volunteers



Commonwealth fifth-grade student council members

## CWE FAST FACTS

**COLORS:** Burgundy, green, and beige

**MASCOT:** Cougar

**PRINCIPAL:** Joanna Hagler

**MOTTO:** Caring with excellence

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:** Lauren Sanford

**ENROLLMENT:** 704 students

**LOCATION:** 4909 Commonwealth Blvd.

**PHONE:** 281-634-5120

**OPENED:** 1997

volunteers support the school in a wide variety of ways,” says Hagler. “The success of this school truly is built on a team effort between the staff, parents, and community.”

### From Technology to Creativity

CWE knows that technology helps shape the future, so the school makes sure its students have all the latest and greatest technology and equipment. The school has Elmo document cameras in every classroom, Smart Boards in every grade level classroom, and a set of Smart Response systems for every grade level.

They also have a program with Encore Bank, which helps promote the importance of saving financially. Kids meet every Friday in the cafeteria from 7:30 to 8 a.m. and each week, students who have saved money earn rewards. If kids have 25 cents they can join. Children who are in fifth grade and need to express themselves a little can also join the morning news show, which airs every morning and is shown throughout every classroom. Students can learn about what goes on behind the scenes of a news station by getting hands-

on experience with the music, transitions, chroma key, and video technology.

Along with striving to foster each student’s individual talents, CWE also teaches students about how to be good stewards of the community. Students learn the importance of recycling and how it affects Mother Nature. “We have a green team, where students promote recycling by collecting water bottles, grocery bags, and newspapers,” says Assistant Principal Laurie Sanford.

### Leading the Way

With all of the wonderful things going on at CWE, it’s no wonder the campus has been named a higher performing school by the National Center for Educational Achievement and was recognized as a 2010 Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll school. With dedicated teachers, students, and parents, the CWE Cougars shine a light into an already bright future. SLM

*JULIE DOLD enjoys being the editorial coordinator for Sugar Land Magazine and misses the days she played on the elementary playground.*