

## **A Weekend to Remember**

By David Truitt, Superintendent

This weekend, October 7-8, 2016, is destined to be one of the biggest celebrations in the history of the West Independent School District. With Homecoming Festivities set for Friday, October 7, and the dedication of the new West Middle and High School campus scheduled for Saturday, October 8, West is the place to be for fun and excitement and the celebration of the mighty West Trojans.

Friday, October 7, is Homecoming and Trojan football versus the Whitney High School Wildcats. The Homecoming Pep Rally is set for 1:15 PM in the Arena at the new campus. The theme is "Trojans Love the Red, White, and Blue" and will include a flag ceremony by our West VFW. The Lady Trojan volleyball teams will play Whitney at 4:30 PM (Varsity) and 6:00 PM (Freshman and Junior Varsity) in the new gyms. The Trojan football team will play Whitney at 7:30 PM at Trojan Field. Please arrive early to ensure you have a seat. West ISD will honor the state champion baseball and softball teams during the pregame time. The state championship ring ceremonies were rained out back during the Mart game. During halftime, the West High School Homecoming Court will be recognized and crowned. Following the game, the West High School Pride of West Marching Band will even perform their marching contest routine.

Saturday, October 8, is the Dedication Day for the new West Middle and High School. The festivities kick-off at 10:00 AM with guided tours of the new campus. The tours will be led by West Middle and High School Student Council members. The tours will continue at 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, and 2:00 PM.

At 11:00 AM, a special screening of the Huckabee-produced documentary, "A Bright Future: West Rises Up," will be held in the Auditorium. Also at this time, Texas Poet Laureates, Karla Morton and Alan Birkelbach, will be on hand to present donated books from Texas authors to the West ISD libraries. At 12:00 PM, the new West High School Improv Troupe, Mission Improvable, will showcase their improv skills in the auditorium. At 1:00 PM, the documentary will be shown again in the Auditorium. Also at this time, students will highlight their engineering skills and projects in the new STEM Lab. At 2:00 PM, Mission Improvable will again perform live in the Auditorium along with the Ag Showcase in the new Ag Workshop. Student work and projects will be on display throughout the campus.

At 7:00 PM, a community-wide Dedication Ceremony will be held in the Arena. During this special ceremony, students, staff, and community members will reflect on our Journey since the Fertilizer Plant Explosion. The welcome will be provided by Dr. Larry Sparks, Board President. Student leaders will assist with the prayer and pledges. The District will honor several individuals and companies for their acts of service throughout our Journey. West Mayor, Tommy Muska, will share a few words and present a Proclamation to honor the event. The West High School Band and Junior Historians will perform, and former Texas Education Agency Commissioner of Education, Michael Williams, will be on hand to share his thoughts on the occasion. Several state-wide and local government representatives will also take part in the ceremony. Judge David Pareya will serve as the host.

Following the ceremony, a special lantern-lighting ceremony will be held outside in honor of the special occasion. Ice cream and cobbler will be served, and the Jerry Haisler Band will perform live music. Our hope is that West ISD has planned something for everyone. Our desire is that the community will come out and help celebrate all that West ISD has accomplished over the past three years. Our future is bright,

and we want to ensure we give proper thanks to everyone who has supported and helped us along the way. We have much to be proud of in West. West is truly blessed. See you this weekend! Go Trojans!