

---

---

# Westfield PTSA Minority Achievement Committee Newsletter

# THE MAC

---

1ST Edition June 2005

---

## WELCOME!

The MAC is pleased to introduce our newsletter. The purpose of this letter is to enlighten and inform minority parents and students of helpful information about their school and community. The MAC is extremely committed to reducing the achievement gap here at Westfield. We feel that knowledge is power and this newsletter can help empower parents and students to take charge of their child's educational success.

This newsletter is for *YOUR* benefit! Do you have questions, comments, or possible news articles? We want to hear from you. Contact Celeste Peterson @703 830-3795 or e-mail [cpeter40@aol.com](mailto:cpeter40@aol.com) or [celeste\\_R.peterson@Raytheon.com](mailto:celeste_R.peterson@Raytheon.com). Thanks!

## NOTES AND WELCOME FROM:

### **Mark Richardson, MAC CHAIR**

Welcome to all of our Minority parents and students. This is the initial release of the MAC Newsletter. I am very excited about the formulation of this newsletter as I believe it will provide a new and innovative means of communicating important information and news related to activities at Westfield High School that directly impact Minority parents and students.

Why a MAC Newsletter? The Minority Achievement Committee has been working diligently over

the past four years to identify more effective means of increasing the communication between Minority parents and the school faculty and administration. We feel that through better communications, we can increase the level of Minority parent awareness and thereby increase the level of Minority parental involvement at Westfield High School. The end goal is increased Minority student academic achievement and a reduced Minority student achievement gap.

As you will see, the newsletter is packed with up to date information on school programs and activities, events and clubs that are provided to assist you as Minority parents and students. Each issue also contains a feature student article highlighting a positive experience of one of our Minority students. I hope you find this information useful.

### **Mike Campbell, PRINCIPAL**

As we look back on the 2004-2005 school year there is much that Westfield High School can be proud of. We are a school that is only 5 years young, but a school that is already rich in tradition in academics, arts and athletics. I am delighted our Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) sponsored through our PTSA, is recognizing the achievements as well as where our MAC committee needs to go to support Westfield's students. Our Minority

Achievement Committee is spearheaded under the strong leadership of Mark Richardson, a dedicated Westfield parent who is supporting the academic achievements of all minority students. Thanks to his leadership, our faculty and staff are now aware through specific statistics and data what areas we need to help support the mission of academic excellence for all students.

Parent involvement in any aspect of your student's education is vital and we need all of you to be a part of our committee. The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Westfield and we need you to make the voice strong for student achievement. One distinct area where we have seen definite improvement is in increasing our minority teacher applicant pool. Westfield is committed to bringing in more faculty and staff who are representative of our student body. The second area where we have documented improvement is in offering remediation in our four core subject areas of English, Social Studies, Math and Science. Teachers have worked diligently to offer remediation both after school as well as selected Saturdays throughout the year. Our work at Westfield in continuing to close the achievement gap is slowly and steadily moving along. In order for the work to continue and gain momentum we are asking for each of you to be an active member of our MAC. We need to hear from

all parents, areas where we have seen success and areas where we can continue our efforts. Please contact either Mark Richardson or our Assistant Principal, Karla L. Butler in Sub School 4 for more specific information.

Enjoy your summer, please encourage your son or daughter to continue reading and mark your calendar for our first meeting in September.

**Dana Cimino, PTSA  
PRESIDENT**

Parent Involvement, parent involvement, parent involvement! The key to your teen's success is your involvement in every aspect of their lives. They may say they don't want you involved and that would be a time I would say to you "don't listen." Get to know their friends and their friend's families. Know where they are, whom they are hanging out with-give them rules and structure. Again they will say they don't want or need these rules and again I would say, "don't listen." Get to know their teachers and counselor. Ask questions; give them information about your teen that will be helpful to them in the classroom. They are another key to your teen's success-work with them to help your teen succeed. Your teen's success is our success. Let's work together to make it happen.

*Parents  
Listen up*

**IT'S THE MAC ATTACK**

- Did you know that nearly 50% of our minority students are failing SOL tests in one or more core subjects?
- Did you review your child's last interim reports?
- When was the last time you spoke with one of your child's

teachers, be it for something good or not so good?

- Do you know if your child is passing or failing?

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

**BITS**

**Bulldog Instructional  
Tutoring for Students**

We hosted an informal meeting with interested parents and students to discuss the coming school year on Saturday, June 4 @ 9 am in the library at WHS.

BITS calendar has been submitted. The BITS paperwork will be available online before the end of June.

**Reminders for Securing  
a Last-Minute Summer  
Internship**

Be inventive, proactive and polite. Contact businesses that have already turned you down to check whether their situation has changed.

Use any available resources, including school career centers, alumni networks, local newspapers, your parents, or your parent's friends! Good Luck!

**MAC Fact**

**Definition: a historical insight about a person of color or an event concerning persons of color designed to help shape and uplift pride in the heritage of our minority youth**

**John Mercer Langston**

**First Black American elected to public office in the United States.**

The only African American of the 19th century that was more prominent and influential than John Mercer Langston was Frederick Douglass. John Mercer Langston

was the first Black American elected to public office in the United States and was twice suggested as a candidate for vice-president of the United States on the republican ticket. During his lifetime, Langston's career would involve education, law and politics.

John Mercer Langston was born free in 1829 and was an orphan by his fifth birthday. As an orphan, Langston was raised in both black and white households. By the age of fourteen, Langston began study at Oberlin College where he obtained both a Bachelors and Master of Arts degree. By his eighteenth birthday he was a speaker at the first national black convention in 1848 on the subject of aid to fugitive slaves.

**Want to know more? Go to**

[www.blackusa.com](http://www.blackusa.com)

**Fairfax County  
Public Schools  
Summer Reading Lists**

*Rising Ninth Graders*

Read a book from one of the following genres. (Genres: class; a category of artistic composition marked by a distinctive style, form, or content)

- Mystery
- Science Fiction
- Fantasy
- Western/Adventure
- Historical Fiction

*Rising Tenth Graders*

Read a non-fiction book. Non-fiction may include autobiography, biography, history, humor or an informational book on a topic that interests you.

*Rising Eleventh Graders*

Read a book by any American author.

*Rising Twelfth Graders*

Read a novel or memoir (memoir: an account of the personal experiences of an author) by an author from a country other than America.

HAVE A WONDERFUL  
SUMMER, AND DON'T  
FORGET TO READ!

---

MAC Chair: Mark Richardson  
703-793-4947

MAC Editor: Celeste Peterson  
703 830-3795

Translation and Editing Support:  
Guillermo Lopez  
703-803-4011

BITS Coordinator: Carol Jasper  
703-830-3865