

## What's Happening in September 2008 (corrected version)

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#### Recording Secretary:

[Mary Coleman](#)

#### Treasurer:

[Kathy Sanders](#)

[View more board member](#)

### Calendar

#### Sep 2

School Begins

#### Sep 16

Back to School Night 11th & 12th 7PM

#### Sept 18

PTSA Monthly Meeting 7PM Library

#### Sept 23

Back to School Night 9th & 10th 7PM

## President's Message

Welcome to a new school year at Westfield High School. This is my first year as the PTSA president and I look forward to serving you. I have been a parent at this school since it opened 9 years ago. We have just fewer than 3000 students registered, which is a drop from last year. Jennifer Campbell did an awesome job the past 2 years and I can not thank her enough. She is now the 1st vice President and will continue to be involved and guide me.

Our school theme this year is "**Bridging Gaps and Building Relationships**", and I hope that this year we can reach more parents than ever before. By developing a strong relationship and partnership between school, community and parents we can continue to benefit all our students and overall achievement levels.

Thanks to Kym Sunday—our Membership chair—this year we have an environmentally friendly, easier to use, [all in one form](#) for the PTSA. You can Volunteer, join the PTSA, donate, buy a school student directory, and pay all in one check. Please check it out and join us.

I also invite you to come to as many meetings as you can. We meet on every 3rd Thursday of every month at 7pm in the library. I have always found these meetings to be very beneficial and informative. They taught me a lot about the school system, Westfield itself and the community. There are many opportunities to help and volunteer in the school, feel free to call or write to me at

[ptsa\\_president@westfieldhs.org](mailto:ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org) or to Suzanne Olijar our Volunteer Coordinator [volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org](mailto:volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org)

To show our **PRIDE** and to also implement Westfield High School's new Character Education we are using the word PRIDE to highlight our core values. We will also have the Bulldog Buddies again this year where Seniors will buddy with Freshmen and give them a helping hand in getting around in school. The Bulldog Block was a great success and will be implemented early this year. Through this program, students will be able to seek help from their teachers and catch up on their work.

Our marquee is ready to be installed! There will be regular updates on it so keep an eye out for them. Thank you all for your donations. We will also have all the external cameras on and one in the cafeteria; 10 cameras in all.

I welcome any input from you. I know that the only way we can succeed is through you and your help. Join us by visiting the [membership page](#).

*Sincerely,*  
Salma Ashmawi, WHS PTSA President  
[ptsa\\_president@westfieldhs.org](mailto:ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org)

## ANGP News

According to the Virginia Operation Prom/Graduation Project, peer pressure is the highest for teens on prom night and graduation. Many students don't feel that they have truly celebrated unless they have consumed alcohol or have used some type of drugs. The All Night Graduation Party (ANGP) celebration "provides a safe environment without alcohol, drugs, and tobacco."

On June 18, over 775 seniors graduated from Westfield High School at the George Mason Patriot Center. Later that evening, approximately 687 of them once again filled WHS with laughter and excitement as they attended an All Night Graduation Party, held in their honor. Since Westfield first opened its doors in September of 2000, each graduating class has been provided the opportunity to attend a safe, fun and memorable drug- and alcohol-free celebration. That tradition carried on for the Westfield High School Class of 2008 because the citizens and businesses of Chantilly, Centreville and Herndon understand the importance of such an event.

Through the support and contributions of friends, neighbors, businesses and

## Sep 29

Golf Booster  
Tournament 11am

## Sep 30

[Enough is Enough  
Town Hall Meeting  
7PM](#)

## Oct 13

Columbus Day  
Holiday

## Oct 17

Reflections  
Submission  
Deadline

## Nov 3-4

Student Holiday

## Nov 27-28

Thanksgiving  
Holiday

## Dec 24-Jan 2

Winter Break

## Links of Interest

- [Fairfax County Public School](#)
- [Fairfax County Council of PTAs](#)
- [Northern Virginia District PTA](#)
- [Virginia PTA](#)
- [National PTA](#)
- [US Department of Education](#)
- [Safe VA Highways](#)
- [Alliance for Virginia Students](#)
- [FCPS Family Gram](#)
- [FCPS Parent Resources](#)
- [FCPS Inclement Weather Plans](#)
- [Sign up for FCPS Keep In Touch](#)
- [Athletic Boosters](#)
- [Band Boosters](#)
- [Choral Boosters](#)
- [Guitar Boosters](#)
- [Orchestra Boosters](#)
- [Theatre Boosters](#)

## Reminder

Items to be included in the

community organizations the Westfield High School Class of 2008 shared fun, good food and best wishes for life after high school at their All Night Graduation Party "Life is a Highway." [Read more](#)

*Tracy Porter & Jan Guthrie,  
Co-Chairs All Nigh Graduation Party 2008*

## Booster News Guitar Boosters

Did you know that Westfield High School has an award winning Guitar program? From beginning guitar to the award winning ensembles students learn guitar skills that will bring a lifetime of enjoyment (even if your child is not the next Jimi Hendrix or Jimmy Page - am I dating myself?) In March 2008, WHS Guitar Students travelled to New York, NY to participate in the Performing Arts Consultants National Freedom Festival. The students performed at the Staten Island Community College where the Bulldog Classical Guitar Ensemble earned a gold rating, the Steel String Ensemble earned a silver rating and the Bulldog Jazz guitars earned a gold rating. All brought home first place trophies, and the Bulldog Jazz Guitars received the festival Grand Champion trophy for Instrumentals.



[Read more.](#)

For more information, please visit our [web site](#) OR contact the director, Ken Hall at [Kenneth.hall@fcps.edu](mailto:Kenneth.hall@fcps.edu) OR myself at: [president@westfieldguitar.org](mailto:president@westfieldguitar.org)

*Kym Sunday, President, WHS Guitar Boosters  
<http://www.westfieldguitar.org>*

## Athletic & Golf Boosters

The Westfield Athletic Booster Club is hosting a Fall Golf Outing to raise money for Capital Improvements for Westfield Athletic programs. The tournament will be held Monday, September 29th at Chantilly National Golf and Country Club. The Shotgun start will be at 11 a.m. Tournament Entry fee is \$200 per individual which includes the round of golf, lunch and dinner, gifts, and awards, Co-chairing the event are Todd Hicks([todd.hicks@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:todd.hicks@thomsonreuters.com)) and John Debell ([jdeb主@aol.com](mailto:jdeb主@aol.com)). Sponsorship opportunities and registration forms will be available online at [http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/7400-BA\\_Golf\\_Tourney/](http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/7400-BA_Golf_Tourney/)

## Minority Achievement News

### Minority Achievement Committee Welcomes New and Returning Parents and Students

It with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to a new school year at Westfield High School. For our new parents and students, let me introduce myself. My name is Mark Richardson and I am the returning chair of the Minority Achievement Committee (MAC). This is our eighth year in existence at Westfield High School. The primary mission of the MAC is to work in partnership with parents, Westfield faculty and administrators, to close the achievement gap between African American and Hispanic American students and other ethnic groups at Westfield.

We meet once a month to discuss effective ways of getting more parents involved in the day to day education of their children, implement innovative programs to increase academic achievement, and develop strategic plans for closing the achievement gap. We also hold parent coffees throughout the school year to share these ideas and programs with parents. You are an integral part of closing the achievement gap. I invite you to consider joining the MAC and becoming an active committee member. For more information and to sign up to become a member, please visit our Website. The [web site](#) is full of information you can use. Once again, welcome back to school and have a great year.

*Sincerely,  
Mark Richardson, MAC Chairperson  
[Minority Achievement Homepage](#)*

## Landscaping Committee

Keep Westfield "Green"

\*\*\*Earn Community Service Hours\*\*\*

"Caring for our Environment"

Oct 2008 Bulldog Bulletin must be submitted to newsletter@westfieldhs.org on or before Sept 18, 2008

Your feedback is important to us. Send to newsletter@westfieldhs.org comments or suggestions to make your PTSA better

Mark your calendar for Saturdays, September 13 and 20 from 9:00 AM until 1 PM (weather permitting-cancelled in case of heavy rain.). We will be out working on the stadium those two dates.Plus, doing some trash pick up around the campus. Meet me at the front of the school across from the flagpole at the sign up table.

There will be a sign in table where you will find directions. Students (from all schools are welcome), families, service groups, kids (under 12 must be supervised by an adult), and any one needing community service hours. Bring wheelbarrows, rakes, brooms, work gloves, and garden tools. Thank you. Please contact Mona Miller at [landscapeCoord@westfieldhs.org](mailto:landscapeCoord@westfieldhs.org) if you need further information.

### RulyScapes Rules!

For the past three years Raul Berrios and his crew have been helping me get the front of the school cleaned up for the BBQ. Our school looks fantastic! If you need landscaping help, give them a call: 703-266-8179 (phone); 703-675-6024 (cell) or visit their web site: <http://www.rulyscapes.com/>

Mona Miller, Landscaping Coordinator  
[landscapeCoord@westfieldsh.org](mailto:landscapeCoord@westfieldsh.org)

## Membership Committee

**Greetings and WELCOME to the 2008-2009** school year at Westfield High School. I want to thank everyone who has supported the PTSA in the past and all of new members we hope to acquire this year. Our membership goal is 1 member for every student at Westfield. We are a Parent, Teacher, Student Association. It is important that we have all three areas well represented.

Did you know

- that as a member of the PTSA you are directly supporting your school, as well as supporting children's advocacy at the county, state and national levels?
- you support legislation that is beneficial to all children, WITHOUT endorsing or supporting specific political candidates?
- you have access to a variety of online parenting resources?
- you are entitled to exclusive National PTA member benefits and sponsor offers from companies such as Barnes & Noble, Sharp Electronics, and others?
- you can apply for PTA Scholarships for your Senior student?
- the majority of your PTSA dues stay at the school level? 100% of your Bulldog Bankroll donations are used specifically at Westfield?
- just because you "join" the PTSA, you are not "required" to attend meetings OR volunteer your time in any way (although you are encouraged and ALWAYS welcome to do both!!)?
- when you DO attend meetings you get to meet various school administrators and learn about what is happening in your child's school?
- you have access to and have the opportunity to become part of a very talented pool of individuals who are plugged in to what is going on within the school as well as the community - and their desire is to keep you informed?

We urge you - **PLEASE support the PTSA at Westfield**. Membership is only \$10 for parents/grandparents and \$5 for students. If you are able, please add a little bit for the Bulldog Bankroll. You will be supporting many beneficial programs for your children **DIRECTLY AT WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL!!!** If you still want to know more before joining, please check out [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) or [visit the PTSA Membership Main Page](#)

Questions? Feel free to email me at [membership@westfieldhs.org](mailto:membership@westfieldhs.org). Download the PTSA Survival Guide at: [http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/documents/Survival Guide.pdf](http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/documents/Survival%20Guide.pdf)

## Reflections Committee

Are you looking for a way to express yourself and show others your talent as a photographer, visual artist, writer, composer, choreographer, or film producer? Participate in PTA's Reflections Program. **The 2008-2009 theme is "Wow!"** Think about ways that you can make a difference and what that means to you. Then create an original piece of artwork in one of six categories: Musical Composition, Dance Choreography, Film/Video Production, Literature, Visual Arts, Photography

Express your thoughts and creativity, and earn recognition. You do not have to be a member of PTSA to participate. Get to work!! **This year's deadline is Friday, October 17, 2008** [Read more](#)

Contact: Michele Ford,  
Reflections Chair [reflections@westfieldhs.org](mailto:reflections@westfieldhs.org)

## Volunteer Committee

**An Enormous Thank You** to all the parents and students who worked tirelessly to assemble 3,000 Back to School Packets. You were a terrific team! Good luck in the coming school year to all the student volunteers!

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to alphabetize and process all the information from the Back to School Packets!! Many hands are needed to complete this job, so please note the times below and plan to help anytime during those hours.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, September 10, 11 and 12 from 8am-2pm in the Main Office. Please contact [volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org](mailto:volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org) if you can volunteer.

### Other Volunteer Opportunities

#### General Opportunities

- Office Help (receptionist, phones, mailings, copying, collating)
- Media Center (assist Librarian)
- Clinic (assist school nurse/clinic aide - 2 hour training required)
- Career Center (assist students with college/career information)
- Special Opportunities Health Screening (vision/hearing checks in October - training provided)
- Ethics Seminar (facilitate guided discussions in small groups - Fall)
- Science Fair (set-up, judge - Winter)
- Proctor exams/AP Exams (for AP Exams - training is required - Spring)
- Honor Roll Receptions (Quarterly)

#### PTSA Projects/Committees

- Student Directories (processing orders)
- Hospitality/Baking/Bulldog
- Cafe/Back to School Reception (supply, set up, serve)
- Kid to School Connection (volunteers contacting students needing long term absences)
- Reflections (Administration/Judging)
- 5K Run (registration)
- All Night Grad Party (under-grad parents strongly encouraged to participate)
- ANGP Mulch Delivery Day March 28
- After Prom Party BITS (tutoring, support - Saturday mornings)
- Landscaping (Clean up day, grounds improvement)
- Parent Program Planning
- Special Education
- Minority Achievement

If you are interested in helping out the PTSA and Westfield HS during the year, please contact one of the following: [Sign up to Volunteer now online](#) or contact the [Volunteer Coordinator](#), Suzanne Olijar

## Tidbits

- **Back to School Nights Back-to-School Night for 11th and 12th Graders** will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16th! and **Back-to-School Night for 9th and 10th Graders** will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23rd! Remember to stop by the cafeteria on Back-to-School Nights. The PTSA will be selling SUBWAY Meal Deals and DOMINO'S Pizza at the Dog Dish Cafe! The Cafe will open at 6 p.m. for staff members/students. Coming from work? Eat supper at the Cafe! The Cafe stays open until we run out of food!

See you there!

- **VA PTA and Enough Is Enough Internet Safety Town Hall Meeting**  
With today's easy access to the internet, keeping our children safe online has become a top priority for parents. In an attempt to address the need for protection of children using the internet, the Virginia PTA is partnering with Enough is Enough (EIE) to provide an educational video program, Internet Safety 101, Empowering Parents Program. This program will deliver educational information about internet threats and safety solutions to organizations throughout Virginia this fall. [Read more.](#)
- **Remember to Vote in November.** If you cannot vote in person, you can still vote an absentee ballot. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/homepage.htm> for more information
- **Transportation Task Force** in support of later school start times submitted their report to the FCPS School Board on March 10. The School Board will announce dates for meetings to provide wider community feedback and discussion later this year. View see the [TTF Report](#). [Read the FCCPTA related letter](#)



## FCPS Newswire

### 2008-09 School Year Calendars

The calendars for the 2008-09 school year have been posted and are available online at <http://www.fcps.edu/cal.htm>.

**All Fairfax County High Schools Make Newsweek's List of Top High Schools in U.S.** All of Fairfax County's 24 high schools\* have been designated among the most demanding public schools in the country and are featured in the 2008 Newsweek-Washington Post list of 1,358 top U.S. high schools, found at <http://www.newsweek.com/id/58432>. The 1,358 schools represent the top five percent of high schools nationwide. Four Fairfax County public schools made the list of top 100 schools published in Newsweek, based on a formula devised by Washington Post education reporter Jay Mathews. In the top 100 are Langley High School at 55; Woodson High School, ranked 73rd; Lake Braddock Secondary School, ranked 93rd; and McLean High School at 97. Rankings for other Fairfax County Public Schools are: Oakton High School, 103; Centreville High School, 104; Chantilly High School, 122; South County Secondary School, 139; Herndon High School, 141; Westfield High School, 144; Madison High School, 148; Robinson Secondary School, 214; West Potomac High School, 216; West Springfield High School, 244; Marshall High School, 248; Fairfax High School, 252; Stuart High School, 322; Falls Church High School, 383; South Lakes High School, 515; Edison High School, 746; Lee High School, 791; Hayfield Secondary School, 796, Mount Vernon High School, 855; and Annandale High School, 938.

### Parent Resources Available Online

A complete list of resources for parents can be found on the Fairfax County Public Schools web site. The Parent Resources page includes links to information on:

[More information available](#)

### Telephone Parent Information Line Available in Korean and Spanish

Parents who speak Korean or Spanish can call a telephone information line to help them learn general information about FCPS and to receive support if they are having difficulty communicating with their child's school due to a language barrier.

The Parent Information Line numbers are:

\* Spanish 703-764-7361

\* Korean 703-764-7363

A parent may call at any time, leave a message in his or her language, and receive a return phone call in that language from an FCPS staff member within 24 hours.

## Community Programs

### Look at what The FCPS Parent Resource Center has coming up!

View a complete list of all upcoming Workshops and Activities posted to the PRC [web site](#).

### Westfield Community Coalition

**Underage drinking parties can be reported anonymously** to the police at 703-691-2131 where they will disperse police assistance, or 703-246-2333 for the "Shut it Down" Hotline, to report date, time, and location of an underage drinking party. To report WHS security concerns, contact Ray Clements at 703-488-6307 or [Ray.Clements@fcps.edu](mailto:Ray.Clements@fcps.edu)

**Under Age Tip Line** 703-691-2131. Underage drinking parties can be reported anonymously to the police at this number. They will disperse police assistance.

**Powerful video on seatbelts.** It was produced by Montana Dept of Transportation. It is a true story. No actors." [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/room\\_to\\_live.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/room_to_live.shtml)

**Shut It Down Hotline** 703-246-2333, to report date, time and location of an underage drinking party if you hear about it ahead of time.

**Leslie Churn, MA, Substance Abuse Counselor for Westfield HS** - Contact 703-488-6308 or at [Leslie.Churn@fcps.edu](mailto:Leslie.Churn@fcps.edu) for a free and confidential assessment.

#### **Ethics Day at Westfield HS (Cluster 8; Westfield HS)**

Sophomores learn valuable lessons about decision-making and consequences. (5: 15 min) [http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/streaming/is8\\_ethicsday.aspx](http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/streaming/is8_ethicsday.aspx)

#### **Parents Who Host Lose the Most (Safe and Drug Free Youth; All Clusters)**

Interview with Diane Eckert, Safe and Drug Free Youth and Tim Thomas, Westfield HS. (4: 26) [http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/streaming/is8\\_int\\_hostlosemost.aspx](http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/streaming/is8_int_hostlosemost.aspx)

#### **Westfield Community Coalition Coordinator: Jennifer Cooper**

([jalcooper@aol.com](mailto:jalcooper@aol.com)) 703-966-8304. Contact Jennifer to be on the email list to receive free information about prevention programs and upcoming events.

### Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth

Because of the exceptional popularity of the KidSafe Virginia parent guides, the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) recently worked to revise, update, and combine the previous parent guides into one guide. The purpose of the new publication, Prevention Comes First: Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth, is to educate parents about some of the potential safety threats children may face and to assist parents in communicating with their children about personal safety.

The topics covered in the guide include: fire safety, internet safety, driving safety, bullying, gangs, inhalant abuse prevention, and underage drinking.

Beginning December 1, 2007, the parent guides will be available at fire and rescue stations and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices throughout the Commonwealth. To locate your nearest visit [DMV office](#) homepage.

Copies of the parent guide may also be downloaded from the [GOSAP Web site](#).

Questions may be addressed to Jacklyn Varela, special assistant to the Secretary of Public Safety at (804) 692-2568 or by e-mail: [jacklyn.varela@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:jacklyn.varela@governor.virginia.gov).

### DonorsChoose.org

What if there were a simple way to provide students with the books, technology, and supplies that they need to learn?

What if people from all walks of life could connect directly with public schools, learn about specific classroom needs, and choose how to help? [DonorsChoose.org](#) makes this possible.

### FCPS Instrument Donations

Donate arts equipment and music instruments through our FCPS donations web site. [Read more](#). You could make a big difference in the equipment available to schools. Donations are tax deductible.

### SIGN UP FOR GIANT BONUS Bucks

You can turn your grocery shopping into cash for Westfield through Giant's A+ BonusBucks program. Sign up for the program and designate Westfield High School. Go to [A+ Bonus Bucks Homepage](#), click on A+ Bonus Bucks ["designate your schools"], and provide the first three letters of your last name and your 12-digit card number (if you already have one) with no spaces. To designate Westfield High School enter the **School ID number 03798**. You can designate up to three schools and your Bonus Bucks will be divided equally among them. If you don't have a Bonus Bucks card, you can pick one up at any Giant grocery store. The program runs from October 5, 2007 through April 3, 2008. Even if you have signed up in the past, you must do this each year to allow Giant to designate funds to the school of your choice.

### Office Depot 5% Back to School Program

Every time parents, students, faculty, and other Westfield High School supporters make purchases at Office Depot, the school receives 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for free supplies. All you need to do is tell them at the cash register when checking out that you want Westfield High School to get credit for the purchase. They will look up the Back to Schools ID number for our school and enter it into the system at check out.

### GoodSearch.com

Search the Web? Westfield can earn a penny every time you searched the Internet. GoodSearch.com is a search engine (similar to Google) that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Westfield High School PTSA, Chantilly VA as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word to family and friends who want to support our high school.

### Watch D.O.G.S. (Dad's of Great Students)

[WATCH D.O.G.S.®](#) (Dads Of Great Students) is the safe school initiative of the National Center for Fathering that involves fathers and father figures to help create a more safe and secure learning environment in our nation's schools. A great starting point to explore ways to get more men involved in PTA.

You received this newsletter because you signed up via online membership or hand submitted membership form.  
You may subscribe or unsubscribe anytime by visiting <https://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/subscribe/subscribe.htm>