

What's Happening in October 2008

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Calendar

Oct 2

ANGP Parent Trip to ESPN

Oct 3

Homecoming Parade 5-6pm

Oct 6

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

Oct 13

Columbus Day Holiday

President's Message

By now, I hope your students have settled into their new school routine.

We are almost done with the Back-to-School rush. We have depended heavily over the past few weeks on a wonderful pool of volunteers who put together over 3,200 take home packets. It was a monstrous job! They also pulled the completed ones apart again, sorted, alphabetized and copied them. Thanks to our generous helpers and to Suzanne Olijar. It is finished, and for that, the school is very appreciative.

Finally we have an All Night Grad Party Chair. Thank you, Pam Murdoch, for stepping up to the plate. Please make sure to read her report following in the newsletter.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you find out more about the PTSA and to [JOIN the PTSA](#). If you wish to join online, there is no charge to you for using PayPal. By getting involved with the PTSA, you learn more about what goes on with your children at school, you get to know other parents who help you learn what your children's peers are up to, and you receive support about how deal with issues that might affect their lives. You have a say in your child's life.

On October 6th, at 7pm, there is a **town hall meeting at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax VA** about Internet safety ([Read more](#)). It is free and open to the public. In this day and age our kids know more about the cyber world than we do. Isn't it time we took control back?

Freshman Parent night is Wednesday, October 1st. I hope to see all freshmen parents there. Look at the [school calendar and mark important days](#). Students will be home early on Wednesday, October 15th.

Giant and Safeway programs begin on October 3rd. Please note that you will need to reregister your Giant's [A+ Bonus Bucks Homepage](#) and [Safeway cards](#), either on line or in the store, for your school to get credit. It is not automatically updated every year. Talk to your neighbors that do not have kids and ask them to designate Westfield on their shopping card. It costs nothing to register.

To make this a successful year for our PTSA, we are looking for some one to chair the **Ways and Means Committee**. There is little work involved in this position. There are so many fundraising opportunities and donations available for our school that only require us to register; however we need someone to oversee these opportunities.

If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Salma Ashmawi, WHS PTSA President
ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org

ANGP News

The ANGP is an event for senior class and will be held at the ESPN Zone 6/19/2009 from 12:00 am—4:00 am.

- Students will be transported by bus from Westfield High School to the ESPN Zone beginning at 11:00 p.m. until 11:45 p.m. This is a LOCK IN and students will not be allowed to drive.
- Food will be provided by ESPN Zone.
- Students will be given a game card to play arcade/virtual games
- We will have a DJ to provide music and additional amusements
- Slide shows will be played on the TV screens.
- ESPN Zone is only allowing a max of 40 volunteers/chaperones will be needed at Westfield High School for shifts during the night .
- This will include essential Committee Chairs, WHS Security Personnel and any

Oct 15

>Early Release
 >PSAT for 9th, 10th & 11th
 >Senior Breakfast & Class Photo

Oct 16

PTSA Monthly Meeting

Oct 17

Reflections Submission Deadline

Oct 22

>ANGP Meeting 6:30pm Cafeteria
 >Minority Achievement Parent Coffee 7-9PM

Nov 3-4

Teacher Workday

Nov 11

Touching Bases 7:30am

Nov 20

PTSA Monthly Meeting 7PM

Nov 24

>Ethics Day at Westfield Marriott
 >Academic Letter Ceremony 7PM

Nov 26

2 Hour Early Closing

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](#)

Games Personnel needed. More volunteers (30—50, depending on shift times) will be needed at Westfield High School for shifts during the night to manage buses, prizes and security in parking lot before, after, and during the event.

- T-shirts will be given to students along with a purchased ticket; A T-shirt design contest will take place and a design chosen.
- Listen for announcements at school for more details about how students can enter their design.

If you're interested in the Mulch Committee, please contact Denise Stalnaker at DCDS61@aol.com

- Volunteer Coordinator—coordinate many volunteers for mulch
- Mulch Food—Coordinate food for the mulch delivery date for volunteers
- Mulch Advertising Publicity—get word out—thru Bulldog newspaper, flyers,

A field trip is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 11am at the ESPN Zone to view the layout, meet with management and to further determine activities for the event. A carpool will meet at Westfield High School, at the main entrance at 10am.

Contact Pam Murdoch at angp@westfieldhs.org if you're interested in attending or joining a committee. The next ANGP meeting will be held Wednesday, October 22nd at 6:30 in the cafeteria. [Sign up to volunteer](#)

*Pam Murdoch
Co-Chairs All Night Graduation Party 2009*

BITS Tutoring

What is BITS? A Free Tutoring Program for Students in Grades 3—12 that meets three Saturdays a month from October through May.

Beginning Date: October 18, 2008

Time: 9:30—11:30 AM

Place: Westfield High School—Library

To Register: [Download forms](#), or pick up the forms in the sub schools; return to your counselor or bring with you on your first day.

For more information please contact one of the following:

- Your Guidance Counselor
- Pat Williams, WHS Sub-School Principal 703 488-6371
- Carol Jasper, BITS Coordinator 703 488-6363 ext 7167
- Nancy Tortorella, BITS Coordinator -703-488-6363 ext 7167

Booster News Guitar Boosters

**Help Keep the Guitars Strumming!!
 Before you head out to the Powderpuff Football Game or
 Freshman Parent Night
 Eat at Applebee's and Support
 Westfield High School's
 Guitar Program!!!
 Wednesday, Oct 1**

[Download this flier](#) print and present to your server at Applebee's Westone Plaza and 20% of your bill will be donated to Westfield High School Guitar. Proceeds will be used to support the guitar program by helping to pay for clinicians, specialized equipment, performance expenses, among other things. ****[\(Read more\)](#)**



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MUSIC AT WESTFIELD!

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

- [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 **Nov 2008 Bulldog Bulletin** must be submitted to newsletter@westfieldhs.org on or before **Oct 24, 2008**

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

Orchestra Boosters

The Westfield High School Orchestra Boosters are hosting the **2008 Westfield High School Holiday Craft Fair** on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the school cafeteria. Spaces are available to vendors at the "Early Bird" rate of \$50 until October 1st. After October 1st, the vendor rate will increase to \$60. WHS students will receive a 50% discount on space rental. For more information, [please visit us online and register](#) or call 703-266-1182.

*Melissa Dyniec
Orchestra Fundraiser Chair*

Theatre Boosters

High School Musical Special featuring the making of our theatre department musical on Friday, October 24 channel 7 on Prime Time. More information coming soon.

Minority Achievement News

Minority Achievement Committee held its first regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 17, 2008. The committee is aligning its goal this year with that of Westfield: "Bridging Gaps and Building Relationships." We hope that through reaching out to the school administration and faculty along with increasing parental involvement, we can build stronger relationships that will ultimately result in closing the achievement gap.

Please join the MAC this year as we make new strides in ensuring that all students at Westfield reach their highest potential. **Our Fall Parent Coffee** is scheduled for Wednesday October 22nd from 7-9 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. We will expand on our goals for this year and hold a panel discussion on how to achieve these goals. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Membership Committee

I would like to thank all of the Westfield families and staff who have joined the PTSA and donated to the Bulldog Bankroll. We are off to a great start! Our goal is always 1 member per student. I wanted to share some PTSA Stats as of September 23, 2008:

2007-2008 - Membership - 50%
Families Joining the PTSA - 32%
Bankroll - 111% funded

2008-2009 Membership - 47%
Families Joining the PTSA - 32%
Bankroll - 78% funded

As you can see, we are very close to last year's membership percentages, however we are still 22% short on funding the Bulldog Bankroll. I am hopeful that once you have seen these numbers you will consider donating to the Bankroll—any amount helps! You will be supporting many beneficial programs for your children DIRECTLY AT WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL!!!

If you have not already done so, PLEASE support the PTSA at Westfield. Membership is only \$10 for parents/grandparents and \$5 for students. You may choose to use [PayPal at NO additional cost](#) to you or if you prefer to write a check you may [download the Membership form](#). It would be great if we could EXCEED last year's Membership stats!

If you still want to know more before joining, please check out www.pta.org or <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/> Questions? Feel free to email me at membership@westfieldhs.org

*Thanks for your support!
Kym Sunday,
Membership Chair*

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

Calling Volunteers

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us everyday" ~ Sally Koch

To the countless volunteers who have given even small amounts of time to the many tasks required to start the school year - THANK YOU! You have: sorted, alphabetized, copied, served food, dug up weeds, entered tedious info onto laptops and who knows what else. Your efforts have made a difference at Westfield High School. You are appreciated! Thank you! Suzanne Olijar, PTSA Volunteer Coordinator

- **SGA is in need of several parent chaperones** on Saturday October 4th from 8:00 pm - 12 Midnight for the Homecoming Dance. The Homecoming Parade is Friday, Oct 3rd 5—6pm and finishing at Cub Run Elementary. Volunteers can email Amy Sutphin at Amy.Sutphin@fcps.edu or Diane Underwood at Diane.Underwood@fcps.edu .
- **And for those who want to be appreciated more!** . . . Volunteers needed for the **vision and hearing testing on Wed Nov 5 and Thurs Nov 6**. We need people from 7:25 am—2:00 pm to assist in the vision and hearing screening of all 740 tenth graders. No experience is necessary!! This is a nice opportunity to interact with lots of students. Volunteers can contact PTSA volunteer coordinator, Suzanne Olijar, volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org, to sign up. Time frames for both Nov. 5 and Nov. 6 are: 7:25am—9am, 9am—11am, 11am—12:30pm, 1pm—2pm. ~Thanks, Nancy Bennett, Clinic
- **Ethics Day will be November 24, 2008** at Westfield Marriott. Volunteers are needed and may contact Kimberly Gilbert or Karen Harvey at ethicsDay@westfieldhs.org.

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

Tidbits

- . . . **from the Westfield Community Coalition. . . WELCOME BACK**
The Westfield Community Coalition welcomes you to a new school year. We invite you to attend our first meeting of this year on: Monday, October 6, at 3:30pm-4:30pm. at Sully Government Center. The purpose of our first meeting will be to prioritize our projects for this coming year. As a Coalition, we support prevention projects, both within our school pyramid as well as county wide. [Read more](#)
- **VA PTA and Enough Is Enough Internet Safety Town Hall Meeting, Oct 6, 2008, Robinson Secondary School.**
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
- After a smashing success with [Step Up for Kids Day, Every Child Matters](#) is now targeting the upcoming 3 official presidential debates and 1 vice-presidential debate as the next opportunities to spotlight the needs of children and families--and to press for new investments in a wide array of social programs. With thousands of organizations and individuals participating in Step Up for Kids Day, we want to direct the emergence of a new national children's movement at all those seeking office, especially the two presidential candidates. Here's what you can do to help make children a political priority right now ([read more](#))
- **FCCPTA Survey Finds Overwhelming Parent Support for Later Start Time Plan:** Far more representative of parent views than the letter in today's Post is the recently completed, extensive survey done by the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. The survey of more than 6,000 Fairfax County parents found that an overwhelming number support later high school start times as well as a specific proposal recommended by the FCPS Transportation Task Force (TTF) in March. A significant majority (61%) supported the TTF recommendation as proposed and another 24% liked the plan better than the current schedule but wanted some improvements. Only 15% preferred the current schedule to the TTF proposal. ([Read more](#))
- **Parents interested in learning more about FAIRGRADE** can check out what all the Buzz is about. . . Go to: <http://www.fairgrade.org/>.
- **Fairfax County Wants Your Input on Closing the Budget Gap for FY 2010** Fairfax County government is projecting a budget deficit of more than \$400 million for FY 2010 (beginning July 1, 2009), which must be addressed through a combination of spending reductions and other strategies. The challenge is to develop a budget with an appropriate level of services that is both sustainable and acceptable to the community. ([Read More](#))
- **New Keep in Touch System in Place; E-Mail, Phone, and Text Messages to Be Used** Over the past school year, many parents were frustrated by the inability of the Keep in Touch (KIT) notification system to deliver school system emergency e-mail messages (such as school closings due to inclement weather) promptly. The previous vendor for KIT was unable to handle the volume of messages that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) sends. FCPS is pleased to announce that the new vendor is Blackboard Connect, Inc., an award-winning company with years of experience with K-12 education systems, many as large as or larger than FCPS. ([Read more](#))



FCPS Newswire

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](#).

Three for Me Wants You!

For Three Hours This Year When all families contribute to helping a school succeed, the school environment improves—to the benefit of not only the students, but parents, school staff, and community members.

Make the PTA Three for Me promise—a promise to dedicate three hours to serving the needs of your child's school—and support your child's education.

With Three for Me, busy schedules and other barriers to involvement are overcome. You can get involved from home, at the school, or in the community—at times that are convenient to you.

Here are a few ways you can fulfill the Three for Me promise:

- Sign up to read to your child's class.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Ask your employer to donate supplies to the school.
- Talk to your coworkers about how they could dedicate three hours to the school. Help write or publish the school newsletter.
- Work with the school office or teachers to translate information for parents. Mentor a new family at the school.

If you don't have PTA Three for Me at your school, there's no time like the present to get it going. Visit three4me.com to learn more.

[Read more PTA Parent News](#)

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

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

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 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

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

Westfield Community Coalition Coordinator: Jennifer Cooper

(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.

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. **You must register/designate every year to make sure Westfield HS gets credit for your purchases.** 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, 2008 through April 3, 2009. 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 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>