



Bulldog Bulletin August 2009

Remember to visit the [PTSA web site](#) for the latest news



Contents

- [President's Message](#)
- [PTSA Tidbits](#)
- [FCPS Newswire](#)
- [Bulldog BBQ & Silent Auction](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Minority Achievement News](#)
- [Reflections News](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Ways and Means](#)
- [Coalition and Tip Line](#)
- [Community Programs](#)
- [Links of Interest](#)

President's Message



Greetings from the Westfield PTSA

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer! Fall sports and marching band will be starting up next week and **we're putting the final touches on our Back to School information** before it gets copied and put into packets.

Please plan on joining or re-joining the PTSA. We pride ourselves on working with the whole school for the benefit of all students. **This year, in honor of the school's 10th anniversary**, we are offering a membership challenge for new members, which will also benefit other groups at school. More information will follow!

We are also [working to fill various PTSA position vacancies](#) for the upcoming year including Bulldog Cafe, Reflections, Legislative, FCCPTA Rep, After Prom Party, Parent Programs (Westfield Coalition), Ethics Day, Mulch Chair, Landscape and Silent Auction. If you can fulfill any of these positions, please contact me [by email](#) and I will put you in touch with the appropriate people.

There are plenty of other volunteer opportunities coming up as the start of school is our "busy season". Volunteering is a great way to not only help out the school, but also meet other parents, teachers and set a positive example for your child. The majority of our parent volunteers have "real jobs" so if you've only got a couple hours to give us, we'll take it!

Progress is being made in the process between the gas company and FCPS to **bring Stonecroft Boulevard into the state road system**. This will enable VDOT to complete a stoplight study and hopefully bring about traffic calming measures on the road directly in front of the high school. I attended a meeting with Supervisor Mike Frey and Delegate Chuck Caputo last fall intended to move things along after multiple accidents in front of school. We'll keep you posted.

SAVE the DATE — the Bulldog BBQ and Silent Auction on September 1st from 5-8:30pm! Students will have the opportunity to pick up their class schedules, raffle for parking spaces, grab dinner, join the PTSA and booster clubs, pick up uniforms, buy lunch cards and connect with other schoolmates. It is a great way to get reacquainted with the school. We will also kick off Westfield High School's 10th year anniversary celebration!

Our **first PTSA meeting** of the year will be on Thursday, August 20, 7:00pm in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend! Look at the [PTSA calendar](#) with pertinent events.

Sincerely,

Calendar

- Aug 7-9 [Sales Tax Holiday](#)
- Thursday, August 20
Monthly PTSA Meeting
- Friday, August 21
Deadline for PTSA Bulldog Bulletin Article Submissions
- Saturday, August 22
Seniors Only Parking Meeting
- Thursday, August 27, 2009
Set up for Back to School packet assembly
- Friday, August 28
Assembly of Back to School packets
- Tuesday, Sept 1
Bulldog BBQ
- Tuesday, Sept 8
First Day of School
- Tuesday, Sep 15
MAC Meeting

Board Officers

- **President**
[Jennifer Campbell](#)
- **1st VP:**
[Mary Coleman](#)
- **2nd VP:**
[Salma Ashmawi](#)
- **Recording Secretary:**
[Kim Gilbert](#)
- **Treasurer:**
[Kathy Sanders](#)

[View more board member](#)

Links of Interest

- [Fairfax County Public School](#)
- [Fairfax County Council of PTAs](#)
- [Northern Virginia District PTA](#)
- [Virginia PTA](#)
- [National PTA](#)

Tidbits

- Westfield High School has partnered with the Fairfax County Police to offer a **unique drug and alcohol awareness program to our students and parents**. The day-long tour incorporates a number of eye-opening, educational venues to students and parents in an effort to **prevent drug and alcohol use among our teens**. The program emphasizes the importance of good decision-making related to teen driving. Powerful presentations at the Annandale police station, Fairfax Hospital, the Fairfax County Adult Court and Detention Center and Fairfax Memorial Cemetery are among the places that students and parents visit. Please email Principal [Tim Thomas](#) or Asst. Principal [Dave Jagels](#) if you and your student are interested in taking advantage of this dynamic experience in future dates for the upcoming school year.
- Curfew Restrictions**
Virginia's curfew laws prohibit a driver under age 18 who holds a learner's permit or driver's license from driving midnight to 4 A.M. If you hold a driver's license you may drive during these hours:
 - in case of an emergency;
 - when traveling to and from work or a school-sponsored event;
 - when accompanied by a parent or other adult acting in place of a parent;
 - when responding to an emergency call as a volunteer firefighter or rescue squad personnel.
- Passenger Restrictions**
If you are under age 18, you may carry only one passenger under age 18 during the first year that you hold your driver's license.
 - After you have held your license for one year, you may carry only three passengers under age 18 until you reach age 18.
 - Learner's permit holders may not carry more than one passenger under age 18. Passenger restrictions do not apply to family members.
 - Violations of either the curfew or passenger restrictions can result in the suspension of your driver's license.

FCPS Newswire

- FAIRFAX COUNTY [Board of Supervisors Unanimously Adopts Fiscal Year 2010 Budget](#)**. Read the [latest news](#) about the budget situation.
- Donation to Fairfax County Public Schools, Computers & Peripherals, as well as art equipment & music instruments**
Fairfax County Public Schools accepts donated computers and peripherals provided they meet acceptable specifications whether donated centrally or to a particular school. These technical standards establish the acceptable specifications for donated computers capable of connecting to the FCPS network. **Please note** that FCPS no longer accepts donations of Macintosh computers. Acceptable minimum specifications for Windows-based computers:
 - Pentium III / 863 MHz, VGA or better display adapter, 512 MB RAM, Mouse or pointing device, 20GB Hard Drive, 15" LCD monitor, CD- or DVD-ROM, Keyboard, All of the above in working order
 - [Contact FCPS to complete donation form](#).
- How Do I Update My Keep in Touch Account?** Fairfax County Public Schools has a new vendor for the Blackboard Connect (formerly NTI, Connect-ED). Blackboard Connect is an award-winning company with years of experience with K-12 education systems, many as large as or larger than FCPS. To learn more about Parent View, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/fcps247.htm>. For assistance with Parent View, call 1-866-434-8880.
- Fairfax County Public Schools Keep in Touch (KIT) has a new feature**. Now you can subscribe to receive specific topics you request, such as swine flu updates and other current news. You can also select to receive press releases, media tips and School Board updates. **You may also subscribe to receive community outreach messages** from the school division and up to five schools. This service is in addition to the KIT messages you may already be receiving

- [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 September 2009 Bulldog Bulletin must be submitted to newsletter@westfieldhs.org on or before Aug 21, 2009

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

- o You will receive a notice that tells you when to appear in court for a licensing ceremony where you will receive your permanent driver's license. You must appear before the judge with a parent or legal guardian to receive your license.
 - o If you are 19 years of age and older and you have never held a license issued by any state, U.S. territory or foreign country, you must hold a learner's permit for 30 days or more or show completion of a state-approved [driver education program](#). You may take your driver education certificate to any DMV [customer service center](#) and take the road skills test.
 - o If you fail the road skills test three times at a CSC, you must successfully complete the behind the wheel portion of an approved Virginia [Driver Training School](#) program and present the Driver Education Training Certificate with a completion date that is after the date of the third test failure to be eligible for re-examination at a [customer service center](#). Re-examination requirements for home-schooled students can be found in Home-Schooled Re-Examination Requirements Information Sheet ([HS 4](#)).
- because your child enrolled in a Fairfax County school. Visit <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>.
 - **Teen Driving Restrictions** Find Out More [Learners Permit Information](#) [Teen Driver Safety](#) Virginia's driving restrictions are not meant to penalize teen drivers, but to help them stay safe while they gain valuable driving experience. Studies have found that these restrictions work to reduce the number of car crashes among young drivers.
 - **Cellular Telephone/Wireless Telecommunications Device Restrictions** Virginia's cellular telephone law restricts a driver under age 18 who holds a learner's permit or driver's license from using any cellular telephone or any other wireless telecommunications device, regardless of whether such device is or is not hand-held. If you are under age 18, you can only use a cell phone or any other telecommunications device:
 - o for a driver emergency;
 - o when the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped.

Bulldog BBQ & Silent Auction

The Bulldog BBQ will be held, rain or shine on **Tuesday, September 1, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.** at Westfield High School. Students, families, and the surrounding community are invited.

While the barbecue is the school's primary fund-raising event for the academic, theater, athletic, choral and music booster groups, and the PTSA, **students can also pick up their student schedules and back-to-school packets, PE uniforms, buy lunch cards, pay class dues, reserve their school yearbooks raffle for parking spaces, grab dinner, and enjoy performances by WHS students.** Students can stop by tables in the hallways to learn what the Classes of 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 are doing this year, or how to join the various school clubs.

Do you have something you may wish to donate to the Silent Auction? Do you know someone, whether it is your favorite restaurant, store, hairdresser, doctor, dentist, vet, lawn or auto service, etc., who might be willing to donate a gift certificate or tangible product to help advertise their business? **This is your chance to get the word out and peddle your wares to the Westfield community.** If interested in donating, please contact terrerschweinhart@aol.com Arrangements can be made for pick up at your business for drop off at the school.

Attending the event is a great way to get reacquainted with the school. Volunteers are still needed for various positions the day of the BBQ. Contact volunteercoord@westfieldhs.org.

Membership News

New for the 2009–10 school year, and in honor of the school's 10th anniversary, the PTSA has **committed to support the various WHS groups who serve our students**. With that in mind, \$1 of your family membership may be designated to the WHS group of your choice. Just indicate your preference on the All-In-One PTSA Membership for when you turn it in.

Minority Achievement News

Minority Achievement Committee Welcomes New and Returning Parents and Students

It seems like only it was only yesterday that we were still in school. It's now 2009 and we are sincerely happy to welcome all students, new and existing at Westfield High School.

To those who are new parents and students, please let us introduce ourselves. **The Westfield Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) will have co-chairpersons this year, Milan Coleman and Evelyn Spain.**

This is our ninth 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. We 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 [web site](#). The web site is full of information you can use. Once again, welcome back to school and have a great year.

*Sincerely
Evelyn Spain and Milan Coleman, MAC Co-Chairpersons*

Reflections News



It's not too early to think about Reflections for the this year:

The theme for the 2009–2010 is "Beauty is . . ."

The theme for the 2010–2011 is "Together We Can"

Students can get to work now on artwork for next year. The categories are literature, musical composition, dance choreography, visual arts, film production, and photography. [Read more online](#).

The PTSA is **seeking someone to head up this committee**. If one is not found, we cannot participate in Reflections for the upcoming year. Contact the [PTSA president](#) if you are interested.

Volunteer

We still have other [volunteer opportunities](#) available...

These are the positions we have available with a description. There are always

additional opportunities through out the year, but too many to mention here. Visit the web site to read the duties and responsibilities. Even if you have no clue on how to get started remember, there are resources available on the [Council](#), [District](#), [State](#) & [National](#) PTA web sites to help you every step of the way.

Your time will be invaluable to the school, students and community. Please contact [Suzanne Olijar](#) or [Jennifer Campbell](#) to become involved and make a difference.

Ways and Means

The Ways and Means Committee wishes to extend greetings to all of the 2009-2010 Westfield families and friends.

My name is Evelyn Spain and I am the retuning chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee here at Westfield. Our focus is to help raise funds that can be donated for various projects Westfield. **Last year we had fundraisers with businesses like, Ledo's Pizza and Subs, Tropical Smoothie and BJ's Wholesale.** We look forward to continuing our fundraisers with these businesses and others s in the coming year. If you have suggestions or referrals of companies that will donate to the school, please feel free to contact me at waysmean@westfieldhs.org. Meanwhile, check out the [WHS PTSA Fundraiser site](#). There are lots of ways you can donate to the Westfield.

*Sincerely
Evelyn Spain, Chair*

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 (more resources online)

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

Parents: the Anti-Drug <http://www.theantidrug.com/> TheAntiDrug.com was created by the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign to equip parents and other adult caregivers with the tools they need to raise drug-free kids. Working with the nation's leading experts in the fields of parenting and substance abuse prevention, TheAntiDrug.com serves as a drug prevention information center, and a supportive community for parents to interact and learn from each other.

Feeling Alone? Don't know what to do? Tired of Signaling for help? Is your Adolescent in trouble? Is your teenager running away, truant, abusing alcohol or drugs, out of control at home, school,

Under Your Influence This [web site](#) is meant to be your resource and link to the information you need in your role of teaching your child about underage drinking and discusses impaired driving to vital importance of seat belts and enforcement of graduated driver license laws as well as your role in both teaching your child and establishing rules that will protect them both as a driver and passenger.

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.

Powerful video on seatbelts. It was produced by Montana Dept of Transportation. It is a true story. No actors."

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.

Ethics Day at Westfield HS (Cluster 8; Westfield HS) Sophomores learn valuable lessons about decision-making and

or in the community? This is a free group sponsored by the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Parent's Support Group — Every Tuesday at 7:30pm at The Historical Courthouse Bldg, 4000 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax, VA Room 2221. This is a walk-in group with no registration necessary, for parents of a teenager seeking help finding information, gaining insight or regaining control of their child. Contact Fran DeLoatche or Paula King at 703-246-2495 for further information.

Unified Prevention Coalition

The Unified Prevention Coalition of

Fairfax County Public Schools is dedicated to promoting prevention and early intervention for violence and drug use in our community. [Visit web site for resource information.](#)

consequences. [View Video \(5:15 min\)](#)

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)

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.

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.

You received this newsletter because you signed up via online membership or hand submitted membership form. You may subscribe or unsubscribe anytime by visiting <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/subscribe2/newsletter.php>