



## Bulldog Bulletin Nov. 2009

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



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### President's Message

**We are already approaching the end of the first quarter!** Report cards should be in the mail during the upcoming week. Time has passed quickly, we've been busy and I am very grateful for the people I've met and for the volunteers that keep the PTSA a vital part of the school. Especially in these times of county budget constraints, the PTSA and our volunteer base are critical to help fill in the gaps. For example, **we've already fulfilled four funding requests totaling \$700: two ESOL field trips; Hispanos Al Progreso and materials for an English class program, Merchants of Venice.** Receiving such requests so early in the school year as compared to the past is an indication of the financial constraints we face.

I encourage you to update yourself about education funding issues in Fairfax County. Numerous items are on the block and risk being eliminated due to the massive FCPS budget deficit. Check out <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>; it is up to you to have your voice heard and contact our School Board members about your concerns. You also have one more chance to attend a community dialogue about the budget. [Visit web site for more information.](#)

#### Also REMEMBER to vote on Election Day!

The weather worked in our favor on October 24th for a clean up of the school grounds. Thank you to Molly and Kay Leon, Kira, Kendra, and Mary Colman, and Kaleb and Kent Williams for helping me with this project. The majority of time was actually spent picking up garbage left on school property!

**The Student Directories have come back from the printer!** Thank you to Alana Heng for applying her immeasurable help and computer skills in support of this project. Students should be receiving their preordered copy soon via their 7th period class. We will have a limited supply of directories for those who have not yet purchased one. They are in the main office and can be purchased for \$10 cash or check made payable to WHS PTSA. We will also have them available at PTSA meetings. Except for staff members, Student Directories are separate from PTSA membership.

In support of the WHS honor code, the PTSA, jointly with the school administration, recently made **laminated classroom sets of PRIDE test cover sheets.** They have been initially distributed to classrooms that are currently accommodating 25 or more students. The rollout of the cover sheets is in conjunction with the school's character education program in support of student integrity in test taking and our school's honor code. Ask your child about our new Honor Code to see if some of what we are trying to teach during our character education program is sinking in!

**Needed: Ethics Day volunteers,** from 8am-2pm on Monday, Nov. 23 at the Westfield Marriott. Adults are needed to help serve as group facilitators during the event. No experience necessary. A lot of parents block out the day ahead of time because it is a fun, yet valuable opportunity to work closely with students about tough decisions they have to make. To volunteer, contact Aimee Lowry at [alowry@aol.com](mailto:alowry@aol.com)

**More volunteer opportunities are available!** Please go to the volunteer section below in this newsletter. We still need help with Health Screening and alphabetizing forms in November.

**Flu season is here, unfortunately.** Recent media and county reports make it clear that proper prevention is critical – right now. It is important to remember to keep your child home

### Calendar

- Nov. 2-3  
[Teacher Workday](#)
- Nov. 7  
[BITS Class](#)  
(9:30am )
- Nov. 11  
[FCPS Parents Invited to Participate in Partners for Safe Teen Driving](#) 7PM
- Nov. 12  
[Sophomore Parent Night](#)
- Nov. 14  
[BITS Class](#)  
9:30am
- Nov. 17  
[Minority Achievement Parent Coffee](#) 7PM
- Nov. 19  
[Monthly PTSA Meeting](#) 7PM
- Nov. 20  
[Deadline for PTSA Bulldog Bulletin Article Submissions](#)
- Nov. 21  
[BITS Class](#) 9AM
- Nov. 23  
[Ethics Day](#)
- Nov. 24  
**Academic Letter Ceremony** 7PM
- Nov. 25-27  
**Thanksgiving Holiday**

### Board Officers

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

[View more board member](#)



with a fever of 100 degrees F until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing aids (Tylenol or Ibuprofen). For more information, visit the county's flu web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu/> or call the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-267-3511 or visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/swineflu.htm>.

**We had an excellent turnout at our October event, Reaching Out to Protect Your Child From the Realities of Substance Abuse** evening program, despite competing with postponed Concord division football games. Thank you to Leslie Churn, our ADS and Student Assistance Counselor and panel of parent and recovering teen speakers and helpers that made the event possible. If you came, please share what you learned with others! A couple parents told me of situations where they or their teen are taking action since attending the program. We hope to have additional programs in the surrounding area in the near future.

**A follow up program, hosted by PROTECT**, will be held on Nov. 9th from 7:00–8:30pm at the Alcohol and Drug Services Administration Office, 14170 Newbrook Drive, Chantilly. It is an opportunity for parents to meet in small groups to discuss issues of substance abuse. Any questions, please contact me or Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, Westfield Community Coalition at [JALCooper@aol.com](mailto:JALCooper@aol.com).

**We still have open PTSA positions**, including chairs for: ANGP Mulch, After Prom Party, FCPS Budget, Legislative, Landscaping, Parent Programs/Westfield Community Coalition and 2010 Silent Auction. [Descriptions for some of these roles can be viewed online.](#) Contrary to previous belief, none of these positions would interfere with full time day jobs. Most of us already on the PTSA Board have "real paying jobs" and volunteer our time because we know it is important to the school and is good for kids (although your teen won't tell you that).

**Interested in a practice SAT for your student?** Mark your calendar for Saturday February 6th. **Princeton Review will be coming to Westfield** for a practice SAT for students in the surrounding area. More details will be following once the date gets closer.

**Please join us for our next PTSA meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19, 7pm in the library.** We will have a special guest speaker, William Casey from Northern Virginia Mediation Service. Mr. Casey will discuss the partnership between his organization and Westfield High School in offering a Restorative Justice option for school-based infractions or offenses. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Sincerely, Jennifer Campbell, WHS PTSA President*

## Tidbits

**The last scheduled Neighborhood Watch training for this year is set for Nov. 30th at 7 p.m.** The training would take place here at the Sully District police station.

What I need is a show of interest. All those interested in attending the class, please let me know. If I do not get an overwhelming response, the training may be cancelled. This due to the cutting of the one Crime Prevention spot here at the station. Please contact [Officer Katinsky](#) (aka: Brett) or Brock, Wellford M. [Wellford.Brock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Wellford.Brock@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## Westfield parent "To Do List":

1. [Sign up for the PTSA Newsletter](#) (with a current email address. We do not share this info with others)
2. **Join the parent booster organizations** that your student is involved with and get to know some other parents
3. **Sign up for Keep In Touch** on the school web site or at <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/> and make sure you read your emails

## FCPS Newswire

[View latest information about H1N1](#) and what FCPS recommends.

### [FCPS Parents Invited to Participate in Partners for Safe Teen Driving](#)

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Partners for Safe Teen Driving program is offering a 90-minute evening presentation for parents as part of high school students' driver education program. **This program, which is offered at each Fairfax County high school and is designed for parents of students enrolled in driver education classes**, includes video clips, guest speakers, local and state teen crash statistics, and information on driver education—classroom and behind-the-wheel—instruction, the licensing process, insurance concerns, common teen traffic violations, parental roles and responsibilities, and coaching the teen driver.

Introducing our Fairfax County Adult & Community Education course, **Little-Known**

## 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 December 2009 Bulldog Bulletin must be **submitted to newsletter@westfieldhs.org on or before Nov 20,**

Your feedback is important to us. Send to [newsletter@westfieldhs.org](mailto:newsletter@westfieldhs.org) comments or suggestions to make your PTSA better

and update the server is you change addresses.

4. **Read The Watchdog** newspaper that gets mailed home once monthly. Buy a Student Directory to help you connect with the students/school and other parents. Get to know your students' friends
5. Check out the Westfield Web site, including your students' Blackboard account <http://fcps.blackboard.com> and sign up for [Parent View](#).
6. **Get Involved in whatever way your schedule allows.** Volunteering with the PTSA and the Boosters is the quickest and easiest way to get to know other parents and hear what is going on at school. This sets a positive tone for your student that you believe their education is important.

**Secrets of Paying for College.** In addition to Fairfax County, we have taught our course for many years through Arlington County, Loudoun County and Alexandria City Public Schools. Please review the [flyer](#) for specific dates in Nov. and locations for the Fall '09 course schedule. The strategies taught during the course have helped families save as much as \$40,000 per year of out-of-pocket college costs. We will also teach parents how to attend expensive private schools for the same "cost" as in-state public schools. Due to changes in the economy, there have been many changes in the last year for college funding. Please do not hesitate to contact [Andrew McFalls](#) for any reason.

### [Superintendent Advisory Council](#)

**Meetings:** I invite you to join me to discuss hot issues and share what's on your mind at the four Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council meetings this year held at Gatehouse Center Café:

- Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7 pm
- Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 7 pm
- Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 7 pm

## Academic Celebration of Excellence

PTSA ACE committee sponsors a **congratulatory recognition for each student who qualifies for the Honor Roll** each of the first three quarters. This year, a quarterly GPA of 3.3 or above will qualify a student for the Honor Roll. In celebration, each quarter the PTSA will hold drawings for gift certificates to various local food establishments. There will be multiple winners per quarter and the winning names will be drawn and announced during the morning announcements. Each Honor Roll member will also receive a personalized certificate of recognition and "WHS Honor Roll" bumper sticker. **The first quarter drawings will be held the week of November 16th.** Also on **November 24, 7 pm: Academic Letter Ceremony.**

*Thanks, Cathy Pisarcik, ACE Chair*

## Hospitality News

The PTSA Hospitality committee provided a luncheon and dinner on October 22 for the wonderful custodian staff at Westfield to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Custodian Appreciation week was in October.

The Hospitality committee will also be hosting a **luncheon for the Westfield staff on Tuesday Nov. 17th.** We are looking for donations of desserts. If you are able to supply a dessert please email Karen Fiala at [hospitality@westfieldhs.org](mailto:hospitality@westfieldhs.org). Please drop off your donation to the main office in a disposable container either Monday Nov. 16th anytime or Tuesday Nov. 17th by 10:00 am. Thanks in advance for your help!

*Thanks, Karen Fiala, Hospitality Chair*

## Music Department News

**A Huge Thank You from the Music Department!** On behalf of the students, parents, and directors from the Westfield High School Music Department, I would like to extend a very big **"Thank You!"** to the members of our community. Over 100 student teams visited homes in Centreville, Chantilly, and Herndon during our 10th Annual Tag Day event on Saturday,

October 17th. During this event teams solicited cash donations to support the entire music program at Westfield. The generosity of our friends and neighbors was amazing and we are truly blessed to have their support. Collected funds will go towards music, instruments, instructors, clinicians, and competition expenses so that our band, chorus, guitar, and orchestra students can receive the best possible music education.

**I would also like to thank the members of the WHS Music Booster Club**, as well as the parent and community volunteers who helped coordinate the event and worked hard that morning to get our teams organized and out into the community. The parent drivers and student team members deserve a special thank you for going out into the community on such a cold and rainy day.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Music Department at Westfield High School!

*Thank you for supporting our 600+ talented musicians!  
Kym Sunday, President WHS Music Booster*

## Membership News

### "PTSA members are advocates for all children – most importantly their own"

Artists, scientists, actors, musicians, authors, athletes, mathematicians – ALL children – from all backgrounds, benefit from programs supported by the PTSA. It's never too late to help by joining the PTSA or contributing to the Bulldog Bankroll! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to help you support your school. Membership Stats as of October 20: 2009-2010

- Membership – 42% (vs. 49% in 08-09)
- Families Joining the PTSA – 33% (vs. 35% in 08-09)
- Bankroll – 94% funded (vs. 83% in 08-09)

**Reminder:** As the "Academic Boosters" of the school, 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. Members may designate \$1 of their membership fee to benefit any organized Westfield Group.

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 online](#) at NO additional cost to you or if you prefer to write a check you may [download the Membership form](#) or [All in One 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](http://www.pta.org) or <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/> Questions? Feel free to email me at [membership@westfieldhs.org](mailto:membership@westfieldhs.org).

*Kym Sunday, Membership Chair*

## Minority Achievement News

### Welcome from the Minority Achievement Committee (MAC)

**Immediate Need:** MAC Newsletter Person The Minority Achievement Committee is looking for help in assembling information the monthly and quarterly MAC Newsletter. The person would have to attend MAC meetings or view meeting minutes and communicate with the MAC Co Chairs to submit to both the PTSA and MAC Newsletters If interested, please contact by email either Milan Coleman or Evelyn Spain at [MAC@westfieldhs.org](mailto:MAC@westfieldhs.org)

Announcing the Winners of tickets to 2nd Annual Young Women of Color Conference for Girls "I Am Powerful" [Find out who the winners were and more November MAC news online.](#)

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

## Volunteer

**Volunteers are still needed to assist with the 10th grade vision & hearing screening** on Nov. 5th and 6th. No experience needed: we'll show you what to do! We could use a couple more volunteers on all shifts, but are especially short handed at the following



times:

- **Thursday, Nov 5** 9:10am–10:45am & 1pm – 2pm.
- **Friday, Nov 6**, 9:10am–10:45am & 10:55am–12:15pm

Please check your schedule and come work just one shift if possible – the kids are fun to work with!

Volunteers are also needed **Tuesday, Nov. 17th and Wednesday, Nov. 18th to alphabetize the 3,000 Government Impact Aid forms** (soon to come home with our kids).

- Up to 10 volunteers are needed from 8:30am–2pm on 11/17.
- 5 volunteers are needed from 8:30am–1pm on 11/18.

If you can volunteer for even an hour or two, this would expedite the job! For questions or to volunteer, please contact Suzanne Olijar and Rosemary Bunda at [volunteerCoord@westfield.org](mailto:volunteerCoord@westfield.org).

*Sincerely,  
Suzanne Olijar & Rosemary Bunda, Volunteer Coordinator*

## Ways & Means Committee

**Our Tropical Smoothie PTSA fundraiser was hit** with cold weather and lots of rain but we still had a \$50 fundraiser check earned from Tropical Smoothie Centreville. Thanks to Woo and his crew! Go BULLDOGS!!!

**Two new PTSA fundraiser programs** to announce ([Read more details online](#)):

- **Harris Teeter Together In Education program.** Our school code to designate will be announced within the next 5–7 days and we will send out a KIT so all parents and teachers are aware of school code. This program is easy and part of normal daily living without additional investments.
- **Returning fundraiser is BJ's membership or renewal program.** Those of you new to Westfield here is how the program works. The normal cost for a 12 month membership to BJ's is \$45. Through the Fundraiser Program a 15 month Membership to BJ's costs \$35. **This program will run from November 1, 2009–December 18, 2009.** [Download the application](#) that needs to be returned to main office PTA mailbox for submission on or before December 18, 2009.

Parents and teachers please **remember to sign up your Giant Bonus Cards** and designate **Westfield #03798** for your A+ Bonus Bucks contributions. Customers can support up to three schools to benefit from the A+ Bonus Bucks that accrue. We currently have 310 Bonus cards designated. If you have friends and family without children encourage them to designate their cards to Westfield High as well. This can be done in the store, [online](#) or by phone 1-877-275-2758 **Our school code is #03798.** There are [extra credit items which change every two weeks found here](#) but check back every two weeks. With each Extra Credit purchased using the Giant Card, you can earn an extra 50 A+ Bonus Bucks. The A+ Bonus Bucks **program started October 9, and runs through March 25, 2010.**

[Renew your eScrip for Safeway](#) for Westfield High School. **Our group ID is 6634243.**

Safeway contributions for those supporters who have not renewed will stop on Nov 1st Please RENEW today. eScrip requires a minimum of one group and a maximum of three groups to receive contributions from your purchases.

Any questions feel free to contact me [waysmeans@westfieldhs.org](mailto:waysmeans@westfieldhs.org)

*Sincerely,  
Lea Holland, Ways & Means Chair*

## Booster News

### Band Boosters

This year's concert season started off early with a performance from the award winning Westfield Jazz Band in conjunction with performances from the Jazz Chorale group. They played to a packed house and promised to be back in the spring for another great performance.

We hope that you have been able to catch one of the Marching Band's half



time performances this year. You still have a chance with the remaining home games. Rain has not been very kind to the competition schedule this year with two of competitions being canceled due to the bad weather. Not to be dissuaded by the bad weather, the WHS Marching bulldogs came away from the Stafford Marching Band competition with the second highest score of the day. By the time you read this, the Marching Band will have performed at its final competition for the Virginia Honor band title and will have hopefully received its on-going superior marks.

As the Marching Band season winds down, the regular concert season is starting to ramp up. The holiday concerts for this year will bring great music and even a guest artist with the Wind Symphony performance. As always, we appreciate your continued support! For schedule times and performance locations as well as news about the band, please visit our web site at <http://www.westfieldband.org>.

## WHS Crew

**Support Crew, purchase Holiday Greenery now through Friday, November 13.** Crew is 100% self-funding and supports approximately 100 student athletes. For product details and to order online, [visit their web site](#) or [download the order form](#) and return with a check(s) (payable to WHS Crew Boosters) to the Crew mailbox in the Activities Office. **Poinsettias & Wreaths will be delivered to Westfield High School on Tuesday December 1, 2009** and will be available for for you to pick up in the cafeteria between the hours of 5:00PM and 7:00PM. Please plan to pick up your wreaths and plants at the designated time. Thanks for your support!



## 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](mailto: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, or in the community?** This is a free group

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

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.](#)

**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](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.

**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/subscribe.htm>