



Bulldog Bulletin December 2009

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



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President's Message

As the Academic Boosters for Westfield, we would like to **congratulate Westfield students earning Honor Roll recognition.** There were over 1400 Honor Roll recipients across the 4.0, 3.7 and 3.3 GPA categories for the first quarter! In addition, over 400 students were recognized at the Academic Letter Ceremony this past week for having maintained a 3.75 for the previous academic year, before the new FCPS grading system took place. This is wonderful news, in light of the fact that Westfield is once again the largest 9-12 high school in the Commonwealth of Virginia (followed by T.C. Williams and Battlefield). **Our deepest thanks to our ceremony guest speaker, Cluster Superintendent Fabio Zuluaga and to Cathy Pisarcik, Jeff Horner, Brenda Meikle and their committee volunteers** who helped behind the scenes with the Academic Booster recognition events.



The **Sully Station Chipotle treated PTSA meeting attendees to a delicious complementary dinner** at our last meeting. We heard from Bill Casey and Marge Bleiweis, representatives from Northern Virginia Mediation Services, about their business partnership with Westfield. We thank them for giving their time to explain the role they play in offering students restorative justice and mediation services in regard to school-based conflicts and how they empower kids to take responsibility for their actions. Referrals to this service are handled through Tim Thomas and David Jagels.

Our Minority Achievement chairpersons, Evelyn Spain and Milan Coleman, organized an **enjoyable and informative evening on 11/17 to hear Isacc Hoopii**, a Pentagon hero who saved 18 lives on 9/11, speak about motivating your child. He tells an incredible story. Anthony Holliday, a Westfield parent, catered the event.

The **Westfield staff was treated to a delicious lunch by the PTSA on November 17th.** Our thanks to Karen Fiala, Laura Willey and the many parents involved in putting this event together, not only those who helped serve, but also the parents who made some delicious home-baked goodies. The staff really appreciated the TLC, especially during budget crunch times when morale can often be tested.

The PTSA has distributed **over 3,500 laminated test cover sheets to teachers**, to aid in the implementation of the school's new Honor Code. Also, in recognition of the long winter and flu seasons ahead, the PTSA has distributed sanitizing wipes to PTSA members among the Westfield staff. We were also able to **give the main office and teachers some office supplies thanks to the quick thinking of Winson Heng, (a Westfield dad) whose office was relocating.** Given FCPS budget cut backs we continue to welcome donations of most types. Just let us know!

A big thanks to the adults who sorted Federal Impact Aid forms, assisted with health screenings, handed out student's school ID's (still available via sub schools) and helped with Ethics Day at the Westfields Marriott this past week. A special thanks to Aimee Lowry, Dave Jagels, Thomas Sakole, Phil Cox, Scott Pafumi, Cynthia Crisafuilli, Kylie Eldredge and the many parent, business and student volunteers who helped make Ethics Day a success. Thanks as well to the Westfields Marriott, our business partner and sponsor for hosting the event.

Calendar

- December 1
Healthy volunteer participation for a study at the NIH (All day event)
- December 2
FCPS community dialogue sessions to discuss FY 2011 budget (7:00pm EST)
- December 5
BITS Class (9:30am EDT)
- December 8
ANGP Planning Meeting (7:00pm EST)
- December 10
Band Concert (7:00pm EST)
- December 11
Band Concert (5:00pm EST)
- December 12
BITS Class (9:30am EDT)
- December 15
Choral Concert (7:00pm EST)
- December 16
Minority Achievement Committee Meeting (7:00pm EST)
- December 17
Orchestra Concert (7:00pm EST)
- December 18
Deadline for PTSA Bulldog Bulletin Article Submissions
- December 19
BITS Class (9:30am EDT)
- December 22
Guitar Concert (7PM)
- December 23
Early Release
- December 24-January 1,
Winter Holiday

Board

Save the date! The PTSA is sponsoring a practice SAT/ACT on the morning of February 6th, The ACT is growing in popularity and frequently students perform better on the ACT than the SAT. This practice test allows your student to gain confidence in taking the test, but at a fee substantially lower the actual test fee. The test will be given at Westfield and will be available to students in the surrounding community. The cost will be \$15, which includes an evening follow-up session the following week to help understand how your student performed. The actual date of the follow-up is yet to be determined. Once registration forms for this event are available, a KIT notice will be sent out and the form will also be available from the PTSA web site. More information will be forthcoming.

We are continuing to fill committee slots for our All Night Grad Party, but we are still looking for some co-chairs to head up the All Night Grad Party Mulch sale, which is scheduled for April 10th. We continue to tweak things and this year will be putting a ceiling on the number of mulch bags that are sold and delivered. All we need is for someone to slip into the spot- for that I'd be REALLY thankful! Contact angp@westfieldhs.org if interested.

While doing your holiday shopping, **please remember the various "silent fund raisers" the school and PTSA are sponsoring**. The Harris Teeter Together in Education for Westfield has officially started. The code is 8134. Also, the BJ's fundraiser has been extended to January 8, 2010! For other fund raisers, please [visit our web site](#).

The PTSA **Minority Achievement Committee is sponsoring their annual potluck holiday celebration on December 16th at 7:00pm**, in the cafeteria. Come share your family's holiday traditions with us! In recognition of the holiday bustle and time constraints, the regular December PTSA meeting is postponed until January 21st, at 7:00pm in the school library. We will have a parent program that evening on either Budget Planning or Identity Theft, sponsored by PNC Bank. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On behalf of the PTSA board, we wish you a joyous season and the time to spend doing meaningful things during the holiday season!

Sincerely, Jennifer Campbell, WHS PTSA President

Tidbits

BITS Update Enrollment in the [BITS program](#) has been fantastic! It's almost an equal split between elementary and Westfield students. The turnout for tutors has been impressive also and we are able to have a lot of one-on-one tutoring sessions. However, enrollment continues to increase so that may not be possible much longer. **Important:** each student and tutor must have Emergency Care Forms with the packets in order to start BITS.

2009-09 Pride Survey Data Shows students with parents who set and enforce clear rules are less likely to report illicit drug use. Youth whose parents set clear rules for them are less likely to report using illicit drugs, according to data from the 2009-09 PRIDE Survey. Middle and high school students, grades 6-12 whose parents set clear rules for them "a lot" or "often" were less likely to report using illicit drugs in the past year (12% and 21% respectively) than students whose parents never set clear rules (49%)

Similar results were found for having parents who punish them for breaking these rules Previous studies have found that youths living in households where parents kept track

FCPS Newswire

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

Due to public demand, [Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools will hold three additional community dialogue sessions](#) to discuss the FY 2011 budget on Wednesday, December 2. The sessions will run from 7 to 9 p.m. at three locations: Hayfield Secondary School, Herndon High School, and Lake Braddock Secondary School.

[Familygram](#) is a newsletter for Fairfax County Public Schools parents that is published by the Department of Communications and Community Outreach. Fall 2009 is now available.

[Parental Involvement in Preventing Youth Substance Use](#). Preventing youth substance use requires a comprehensive approach involving communities, schools, peers, and families. Research indicates that parents are an influential factor in whether youths use alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs.

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

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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 January 2010 Bulldog Bulletin must be **submitted to**

of their whereabouts and set curfews were less likely to report heavy drinking. For more information see [CESAR FAX, Volume 17,k Issue 31](#) **SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from PRIDE, Questionnaire Report for Grades 6-12, 2008-09

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, February 23, 2010, 7 pm
- Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 7 pm

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.**

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.

newsletter@westfieldhs.org on or before Dec 18,

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

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.

Thanks, Cathy Pisarcik, ACE Chair

Minority Achievement News

Wishes you and your loved ones

Peace, Love and Happiness

Happy Holidays

Co-Chairpersons

Milan Coleman

Evelyn Spain

Reflections Committee

PTA Reflections Program Award Winners Have Been Chosen!

This year there were 27 entries in the various art categories that make up the Reflections Program. The works submitted that won First Place will now go on to County level judging. The following students submitted work that was selected for recognition based on their individual interpretations of the theme "Beauty is....":

1st Place: Outstanding Interpretation of the Theme

- Nicolena DeWitt (Photo)
- Katie Reilly (Literature)

- Ashley Ziegler (Visual Arts)

2nd Place:

- Michael Allen (Visual Arts)
- Shivani Deopujari (Literature)
- Nicolena DeWitt (Photo)

3rd Place:

- Hannah Banks (Photo)
- Megan Peralta (Visual Arts)
- Elizabeth Reilly (Literature)
- Justin Sunday (Music)

Honorable Mention:

- Nicolena DeWitt (Photo)
- Marisa Grayson (Literature)
- Hannah Watson (Photo)

The theme for next school year will be **"Together We Can."** Students should consider working on an entry for next fall over summer vacation. The due date for entries is typically mid-October.

*Sincerely,
Sue Bark, Mary English, Reflections Chairpersons*

Volunteer Committee

Volunteer reader/timer for It's Academic needed! The Westfield It's Academic Team desperately **needs a volunteer reader/timer for the Jan. 16 county tournament at Edison High School.** The event begins around 7:30 a.m. and ends around noon. The volunteer will either read questions aloud or keep time during matches (it will be in a different division from Westfield). You have to be 18 or older; this could be a great opportunity for a senior looking for volunteer hours. **If you can help, please contact Mary Ellen Webb in C108,** by email at maryellen.webb@fcps.edu or by phone at (703) 203-2413. Thank you!

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

Ways & Means Committee

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

- **Harris Teeter Together In Education program.** Our school code is **8134**. This program is easy and part of normal daily living without additional investments.
- **Returning fundraiser is BJs 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–January 8, 2010.** [Download the application](#) that needs to be returned to main office PTA mailbox for submission on or before January 8, 2010.

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

*Sincerely,
Lea Holland, Ways & Means Chair*

Booster News

Athletic Boosters

The **Annual Holiday Shopping Hours** will be held at the Indoor Concession Booth on Tuesday, Dec. 1st from 6-9 p.m. You can outfit your Bulldog or Bulldog Fan with one stop shopping. Striped scarves, flannel shorts and pants, jackets, fleece vests, knit hats, baseball caps, hoodies, Anniversary t-shirts, travel mugs, umbrellas, and more! Mark your calendars and don't forget...**WABC members enjoy 10% off** all merchandise purchases! Bring cash or checks....**sorry no credit/debit cards are accepted!** See you there!

Band Boosters

The Marching Band season ended with the band receiving the top grade of Superior in the VBODA competition. This top rating is the first of two parts in maintaining the band's Virginia Honor Band status.



As the marching band season ends, the concert season starts to go in to full swing. This year, the two holiday concerts will include special events along with a special guest band. The first holiday concert on December 10th features the concert and symphonic bands. The bands wanted to do something special for the community and are asking that all attendees bring a new toy as the price of admission which will be given to the local charity group, Our Neighbor's Child.

The second holiday concert on December 11th will feature the Westfield Wind Symphony band along with special performances by the group, Prelude. You will not want to miss this famous Washington band that has been performing in the area since 1978. As a special bonus, several of the WHS wind symphony students will be chosen to perform with them. A holiday desert reception will follow the performances.

We wish to thank everyone that has supported us during the marching season and especially appreciate the many thanks the pep band received at the Centreville away football game. We look forward to your continued support during the rest of the school year!

For schedule times and performance locations as well as news about the band, please visit our web site at <http://www.westfieldband.org>.

Theatre Boosters

Auditions for The Westfield Theatre Department's Winter Main Stage: West Side Story.

Audition Workshops will be held Monday, November 23 (music, in Choir room) and Tuesday, November 24 (dance, location TBA) from 2:30 to 5:30 pm. Auditions will be held Mon-Wed, Nov 30-Dec 2. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com for audition preparation information.

Performances dates: Thu. Feb. 11 @ 7pm, Fri. & Sat. Feb. 12, 13 @ 8pm and Sun. Feb 14 @ 2pm.

Ho Ho Children's Holiday Shows Directed by Theatre 4 students and featuring Westfield HS theatre students performing vignettes from favorite holiday classics. December 23 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. \$5 per person, \$12 for families of 3 or more.

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, 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.](#)

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 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/subscribe.htm>