



November
2011 Edition

Westfield HS PTSA e-Bulldog Newsletter

Home of the Bulldogs

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Upcoming Events

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online](#))

Fri Nov 04
[1st Grading Period
Ends](#)
Sat Nov 05
[SAT testing](#)
Sat Nov 05 @
9:30AM - 11:00AM
[BITS Tutoring](#)
Mon Nov 07
[Student Holiday](#)
Tue Nov 08
[Student Holiday](#)
Thu Nov 10 @
7:00PM -
[Sophomore Night](#)
Tue Nov 15 @
7:00PM -
[Stand Up to
Bullying Parent
Program](#)
Tue Nov 15 @
7:00PM -
[Partners for Safe
Teen Driving](#)
Fri Nov 18
[Theater Fall
Mainstage
Performance](#)
Mon Nov 21
[Ethics Day](#)
Tue Nov 22
[Academic Letter
Ceremony](#)
Wed Nov 23
[PTSA Newsletter
Submissions due](#)
Wed Nov 23
[Students Released
2 hrs early](#)
Thu Nov 24
[Thanksgiving Day](#)
Fri Nov 25
[Thanksgiving Break](#)

Board Officers

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President's Message

News from our President, Mary Coleman February 2012

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It doesn't seem possible but we are already at the end of the first semester of the school year! **Report cards will be distributed via 3rd period classes during Bulldog Block on Monday, February 6th.** Please ask your student to review it with you. Remember if your student is having problems with a subject, it is not too late to improve their performance for the remainder of the year. **There is free tutoring** available through the PTSA BITS tutoring program. Go to http://www.fcps.edu/WestfieldHS/student_services/bits.htm for more details. BITS takes place on Saturday mornings and all of our students are welcome.

Please join us for our **next PTSA meeting at 7 PM in the library on Thursday, February 16th.** Kathy Smith, FCPS School Board member will speak to us about issues that matter to us regarding our children's education. We will hold a brief business meeting before we open the floor to Kathy. I encourage you to attend.

[Read More](#)

PTSA Tidbits and FCPS News

VA PTA Volunteer of the Year Award

Jennifer Campbell was awarded "VA PTA Secondary Volunteer of the Year Award" and will be recognized and awarded during the VA PTA Annual Conference in Richmond this weekend. Congratulations Jennifer!

What has the PTSA done lately?

Provided volunteers and snacks for student hearing and vision screening
Provided funding for purchase of books for students in the english department
Provided an appreciation luncheon for teachers
Provided snacks for counseling program entitled, " A to Z of High School"
Provided bracelets for each student to support counseling department Anti-Bullying week long program
Provided partial funding for Ethics Day program

FCPS Inclement weather information

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. FCPS will make every effort to decide, before 4:30 a.m., whether to close or delay schools and will begin communicating the decision once it is made. The 4:30 a.m. decision time is a goal. Weather conditions can deteriorate after 4:30 a.m., which means that it may not be possible for FCPS to meet that goal. While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one

Treasurer:
Kym Sunday

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Links of Interest

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[National PTA](#)

Reminder

Items to be included in the December 2011 Bulldog Bulletin must be [submitted to newsletter@westfieldhs.org](mailto:newsletter@westfieldhs.org) on or before Nov 22, 2011

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

Co-sponsor the Parent coffees for the year with coffee service

Provided volunteer parents to share helpful information navigating the high school years at the 9th grade and new parents back to school program.

Co-Sponsored the Bulldog BBQ

Sponsored the 5K Run for Scholarship

Sponsored the BITS Tutoring Program

Provided volunteers for student schedule pick-up

Provided volunteers to organize and lead the Kiss and Ride area

Provided financial support to the Science Olympiad

Virginia Tech Memorial License Plates

In January of 2012, the VTV Family Outreach Foundation, composed of the majority of families and survivors directly impacted by the April 16, 2007 tragedy, will request that the General Assembly approve their license plate: **"In Remembrance, April 16, 2007"**. In order for the license plate to be approved, the Foundation **MUST** collect 450 pre-paid applications.

Approximately 100 pre-paid applications have been collected already. In order to help us achieve our goal, please visit our website at <http://vtvfoundation.wsiefusion.net/license-plates.html>

Native American Family Event

George Mason will host the 9th Annual Veterans Pow wow on November 10th from noon to 10pm at GMU, Johnson Center. This fun family event is brought to you by the Native American and Indigenous Alliance.

There will be music, dancing, crafts and jewelry. Admission is free of charge.

Partners for Safe Teen Driving

Sophomores are required to attend one of the following information sessions:

November 15, 2011, February 14, 2012, April 17, 2012, May 8, 2012.

Building Scheduling Use- now Online

Do you organize meetings for your scout group, homeowners association, or cultural organization? FCPS is excited to introduce Community Use, a new online facility use scheduling system. Some features of the system include:

overriding consideration—the safety of all students—those who ride buses and those who walk to school each day.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children who are walking or riding school buses to schools. These schedules are:

(1) Keep schools closed. (2) Open two hours late. (3) Close two hours early.

In every case of a schedule change:

Tune in to local radio and television stations (including cable Channel 21, a channel programmed by FCPS), which are notified as soon as a decision is made.

Check www.fcps.edu.

Check Facebook www.facebook.com/fcpsva

Check Twitter www.twitter.com/fcpsnews

Do not phone the school or one of the stations for this information. To receive this information via e-mail, sign up for the FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT) e-mail notification system. www.fcps.edu/kit/

FCPS web site redesign is complete

FCPS has launched a completely redesigned school system web site. There are several changes in the new site that have improved navigation and make the site more user-friendly. Bookmarks that you have created for quick access to your favorite pages on the old site will no longer work. www.fcps.edu

Help your teen avoid Procrastination

Even when kids have a regular homework time, they sometimes procrastinate on large projects. To help solve the problem, first figure out why. Here are some reasons that kids drag their feet when it comes to big assignments:

Fear of failure. Some kids are so afraid of failing that they don't try at all. Make sure you are not putting too much pressure on your child. Treat his or her mistakes as learning experiences.

Frustration. If your teen doesn't understand an assignment, he or she won't be able to complete it. See that he or she gets extra help at school when needed.

Dependency. Sometimes parents do projects for them when kids procrastinate.

Ability to view public events on the calendar and to check availability of space before submitting a building use request.

Automatic routing of requests for approval to appropriate school personnel and notification to OEC of event status.

Simple access to view, print, and download frequently used facility-use related documents (usage policies, fee charts, etc.)

More details—including training manual, online tutorial and other pertinent information—are available on the Community Use section website —www.fcps.edu/fts/comuse

This actually encourages procrastination.

Let your teen face the consequences of his or her actions, even if he or she gets a bad grade.

Disorganization. At the beginning of a large project, many kids don't know how to start. Help your teen make a plan for finishing his or her assignment.

Forgetfulness. Teach your teen to use reminders, such as daily to-do lists.

Encourage him or her to post notes in visible places.

Stress. Severe procrastination can be a sign that your teenager is angry or depressed. Seeing a school counselor can help.

Lack of motivation.

Committee News

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Westfield PTSA hosted a Fall Luncheon on October 20th for the staff to thank them for all the hard work they do with and for our children everyday. Thank you to all that baked delicious desserts for the staff to enjoy! Thanks also to Scotto's Rigatoni Grill for providing the various pasta dishes and salad.

BITS

Bulldog Instructional Tutoring for Students. The BITS program is run and supported jointly by the Westfield PTSA and Westfield High School. The program provides academic support to students by providing volunteer tutors in Math, English, Science, Social Studies and World Language.

Tutoring sessions are held throughout the year on

Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00 am on
November 5, 12, 19

December 3, 10, 17

January 7, 14, 21

February 4, 11, 18

March 10, 17, 24

April 14, 21, 28

May 5, 12

All sessions start at 9:30 am in the Library

MAC

You may ask "**Why is closing the minority achievement gap important?**"

FCPS believes that closing the achievement gap is important because it impacts the future well being and success of individuals, of local communities, and of our country. Closing the achievement gap has been called the civil rights issue of the 21st century. Under educating certain groups of students leaves them economically poor, which leaves them less ready to compete and contribute in a new global economy where the talents and critical thinking skills of every citizen will be needed to maintain our country's influence internationally as other countries develop at an extremely fast pace. Success in education plays a major role in increasing employment rates, lowering poverty rates, preventing crime, and decreasing violence. FCPS believes it is a legal, political, economic, and moral imperative to close the achievement gap.

[Please view online](#) for more information on student scholarships, mentoring, etc. There is a wealth of information for students and parents.

Congratulations to students who earned the Academic Letter for the 2010-2011 school year! Everyone who earned the letter will receive an invitation to the Academic Letter Ceremony, which is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22nd. To earn the Academic Letter for the year, students earn a 4.0 GPA for that

school year.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Congratulations to all students who qualified for the Honor Roll the first quarter! Students will receive certificates recognizing the Honor Roll for which they qualified and a drawing will be held for Rita's gift cards! Every student who qualified for the honor roll will be eligible to win a gift card and there will be at least 20 winners!

Booster News

Band Boosters

Congratulations to the Marching Bulldogs!!! This year's fall show, "Serengeti" was a successful one with the Bulldogs winning several championships. Most recently you may have seen the band returning to the school at 1:30 AM on October 29th, after a long day and two successful competitions. One of those two competitions was the VBODA (Virginia Band Orchestra Directors Association) competition. The Marching Bulldogs were rated Superior at the VBODA competition. This is step one for the band to once again be named a Virginia Honor Band. Next the band begins preparations for their winter concerts in December. The band gives a huge THANK YOU to all our parents and supporters of the band. We could not do what we do what we do without your support day after day!!

Bandbooster Logo

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