

What's Happening in November 2008

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Calendar

Nov 1

SAT Exams

Nov 3-4

Teacher Workday

Nov 5 7PM

> [The Bong Show](#)

Nov 5-6

Vision & Hearing Tests

Nov 11

Touching Bases
7:30am

Nov 13

Sophomore
Parent Night

President's Message

October has quickly passed by. I hope you had a safe Halloween and did not over indulge in candy. The Homecoming parade was lots of fun and I was proud to have the opportunity to be a part of it and see so many familiar faces.

A belated THANK YOU to the Westfield Korean community for their generosity in donating the food and proceeds from the delicious Korean Barbeque offered at the Bulldog BBQ.

I invite you to participate in two very important November events:

1. **Trends of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Substance Used by Our Youth (Bong Show)**, Wednesday, November 5th, 7pm, at Centreville Presbyterian Church, (Route 29) Chantilly, VA. This information awareness program is for adults only. It is put together by WHS and the Westfield Community Coalition. The program will discuss the trends of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use by youth in our community, tips on how to recognize them and how to prevent them. We will hear from several substance abuse experts and have the opportunity to ask questions. [Read more.](#)
2. **WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS DAY** is Monday, November 24. Working with local businesses, WHS sponsors a day-long event for their sophomore class at the Westfield Marriott. Ethics Day participants wrestle with challenging scenarios, hear from police officers and lawyers, and learn valuable lessons from the high school seniors. Many adult (over 90) volunteers are needed to serve as small group facilitators during the the event from approximately 8am-2pm. Guidelines are provided and no prior experience is necessary. It is a fun opportunity to work closely with students about tough decisions teens have to make. The Marriott will be serving a great Thanksgiving Lunch! To volunteer or for more information contact Kim Gilbert at ethicsDay@westfieldhs.org.

A special thank you goes out to [Evelyn Spain](#) for responding to our call to head up our Ways and Means Committee. I hope she is an inspiration to many others to step up to the plate when called upon to volunteer.

We're looking for a **few more volunteers to fill some of the vacant positions:** After Prom, Legislative, Parent Programs, and Special Education Representative. If you are interested in finding out more please contact me at ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org.

We still need volunteers for the **Health Screening for 10th graders** on November 5 & 6 at school. No experience necessary. Clinic staff will train volunteers to do these simple screenings, and any student who tests poorly with a volunteer will be retested by the clinic staff. 10 volunteers are needed each day for each of the following shifts: 7:15am-9am; 9am-11am; 11am-12:30pm; 1pm-2pm. To help and for more information, please contact Suzanne Olijar at volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org.

Sincerely,

Salma Ashmawi, WHS PTSA President
ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org

ANGP News

Plans are underway for the senior lockâ€™in event to be held at the ESPN Zone after the June 18th graduation.

Please note: Tickets are currently \$60.00. The price increases to \$75.00 January 1, 2009 and increases again on June 1 to \$85. Tickets will be for sale during all lunches in mid-November. Checks can be made out to WHS PTSA ANGP. Sales stop one week prior to the event and there will be **no tickets sold at the door - NO EXCEPTIONS!** Contact Pam Murdoch at angp@westfieldhs.org with any related

Nov 20

>PTSA Monthly Meeting 7PM
>Honor Roll Reception

Nov 24

>[Ethics Day](#) at Westfield Marriott
>Academic Letter Ceremony 7PM

Nov 26

2 Hour Early Closing

Nov 27-28

Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 3

Financial Aid Night

Dec 6

SAT Exams

Dec 24-Jan 4

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](#)
- [Sign up for FCPS Keep In Touch](#)
- [Athletic Boosters](#)
- [Band Boosters](#)
- [Choral Boosters](#)
- [Guitar Boosters](#)
- [Orchestra Boosters](#)
- [Theatre Boosters](#)

Reminder

Items to be

questions.

We need MANY more volunteers for the mulch sale day to be announced. The mulch sale is currently the only fundraiser for the ANGP, so we need to make it a success! The current need is to simply form committees for the planning process. Please contact Denise Stalnaker at bulldogmulch@westfieldhs.org if you can help.

Contact Pam Murdoch at angp@westfieldhs.org if you're interested in attending or joining a committee. [Sign up to volunteer](#)

Pam Murdoch

All Night Graduation Party 2009 Chair

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.

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

Music Booster News

The Music Boosters began their annual Fruit/Cheese/Sausage fundraiser on October 30th. This fundraiser comes at a perfect time for Holiday gifts. The sale ends November 14th with delivery of all items on December 11th. Please see a music student or parent to support the music program at Westfield.

Band Boosters

The award-winning Marching Bulldogs have had a busy fall season. Our year began with band camp in August and has included football games and competitions.

At our first two competitions of the year, the Bulldogs were awarded the Grand Championship among dozens of bands at both competitions! Westfield competes at the highest level due to our large size of just under 200 members, including color guard. We have completed the first hurdle to being named a Virginia Honor Band for 2008-2009 season during our recent competition in Winchester with Superior marks. We have one more competition in Richmond this year and hope to continue our winning tradition. View photos and video by visiting our homepage, www.westfieldband.org.



Guitar Boosters

Guitar students were invited to perform for a group of women educators at the Alpha Delta Gamma Founders Day Lunch in October. Araya Eshraghi, Max McGough and Andre Mallqui did an outstanding job representing Westfield Guitar at this event.

The Guitar boosters will kick off a raffle for an electric guitar in the shape of a FOOTBALL HELMET at the 2008 WHS Holiday Craft Fair sponsored by WHS Orchestra on Saturday, November 8. [Read more.](#)

Westfield Crew Boosters

Plan now to decorate your home or office with beautiful holiday greenery by ordering NOW from the Westfield High School Crew Team

[Download and Print the order form](#) flier to select from two sizes and colors of beautiful florist quality Poinsettias and two sizes of Mixed Wreaths with Noble Fir and Fragrant Juniper with berries and cones. With **pick**



included in the
**Dec 2008 Bulldog
Bulletin must be
submitted to
newsletter@
westfieldhs.org
on or before
Nov 21, 2008**

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

up on December 2nd in the WHS cafeteria or local, home delivery, this Crew Fundraiser makes holiday decorating and gifting inexpensive and easy. [Read more fundraising information.](#)

Orders are due November 14th to the "Crew Box" in the WHS Student Activities Office. Funds raised will contribute directly to coaching, facilities, equipment, and more for almost 100 student athletes in this growing sports program. For more information, please contact Candis Anhalt (703-815-8883) or Elena Howard (703-830-7251). **THANK YOU FOR KEEPING CREW AFLOAT AT WESTFIELD!**

To learn more about the WHS Crew Program visit a
`href="http://www.westfieldcrew.org/"`
`target="_blank">`<http://www.westfieldcrew.org/> or email WestfiledCrew@aol.com.

Minority Achievement News

Welcome back to school. I hope each of you has had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It's time to get back to work. Our regular meeting dates will once again be on the third Tuesday of each month. Please put these dates on your calendar. Our normal start time will be 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Please mark these other important dates on your calendar.

- Dec 18 7-9 Cafeteria: Annual Holiday Celebration
- March 11 7-9 Cafeteria: Spring Parent Coffee
- June 3 5-9 Cafeteria: End of Year MAC Barbeque

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

Membership Committee

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 numbers!

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

As of the end of October we have 48% membership participation (vs. 50% last year), 35% family participation (up from last year's 33%), and the Bulldog Bankroll is 82% funded (vs. last year's 117%!)

Thanks for your support!
Kym Sunday, Membership Chair

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

- **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 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

- **FAIRGRADE today released a refined platform** of its position on the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) grading policies issue. FAIRGRADE said that as the public and media become more knowledgeable about FCPS' existing grading policies, the discussion is now progressing towards which options may be considered in the final report scheduled to be released in late fall, 2008. [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 
- **FCPS Schedules Town Meetings to Help Determine Boundaries for Two New Elementary Schools** Fairfax County Public Schools will hold four town meetings to solicit citizen input in order to determine boundaries for two new elementary schools scheduled to open in September 2009. The new elementary school under construction at the Coppermine site is located on River Birch Drive in Herndon and will be a 32-classroom school serving students in grades K-6. Schools involved in the boundary study include Floris, Herndon, Hutchison, McNair, and Oak Hill Elementary Schools. **Town meetings for this study will be held: Thursday, November 13, 7 p.m., at Carson Middle School. Wednesday, December 10, 7 p.m., at Franklin Middle School.**
- **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. [\(Read more\)](#)

FCPS Newswire

Do You Have a Nominee?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) sponsors several award programs to recognize excellence among employees. Now is the time to start thinking about potential nominees for the following award programs:

Principal of the Year and the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award (cosponsored by the Washington Post): The nominee must have at least five years' successful experience as a principal, including at least three years with FCPS. The deadline for nominations is December 12, 2008.

Teacher of the Year and the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award (cosponsored by the Washington Post): The nominee must have at least three years of successful full-time teaching experience in FCPS. The deadline for nominations is December 12, 2008.

Support Employee of the Year: The nominee must be a support employee with at least three years of successful full-time or part-time experience with FCPS. The deadline for nominations is February 27, 2009.

Outstanding First-Year Principal Award: The nominee must have begun his or her first assignment as a principal on or after January 1, 2007. The deadline for nominations is March 13, 2009.

Any FCPS teacher or staff member, student or former student, parent, administrator, or Fairfax County employee or citizen may nominate a candidate for an

award. Nomination forms and instructions are available on the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/awards/. For more information, call 571-423-3278.

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 search the Internet. GoodSearch.com is a search engine (similar to Google) that donates half of 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>