

What's Happening in February 2009

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Calendar

Feb 4

Curriculum Night

Feb 5 7PM

SGA Mr. Westfield in Auditorium

Feb 12

ACE Honor Roll

Feb 16

NO School - President's Day

Feb 13 7PM

International Night, Auditorium

Feb 24 6:30pm

President's Message

We are looking forward to bringing you an important program this February; **Kathy Smith, FCPS School Board member** will speak to us about issues that matter to us regarding our children's education. She will answer questions concerning the budget shortfall, late start, and Fairgrade. The meeting is scheduled in place of our usually **PTSA meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 7pm at school**. We will have a brief PTSA business meeting beforehand at 6:30pm. I urge everyone to attend and be informed.

Thank you to the volunteers that helped make the school's Blood Drive a success. Junior Parent Night where information was given about the college search was well attended.

Jennifer Campbell and I are in the process of meeting with Alcohol and Drug Services in Chantilly along with Chantilly and Centreville High Schools, local community coalitions, and counselors to come up with ideas to address adolescent substance abuse. We hope that through combining our efforts community wide, we can bring better programs to help us help our students. It is time we took back our children.

Mark your calendars for the our **annual Saturday Night in the Suburbs (SNITS)** on Thursday, March 26, 7pm in the Lecture Hall. This program is free and open to adults in the surrounding community. [Read more.](#)

We are also in the process of forming a nominating committee for PTSA positions for the upcoming 2009-10 school year. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out.

Remember to READ the Westfield Weekly sent by Tim Thomas every Friday to keep you up to date with what's happening in your child's school. We appreciate his time in keeping us informed.

*Sincerely,
Salma Ashmawi, WHS PTSA President*

Tidbits

- Virginia PTA is now accepting Citizenship Essays for the upcoming [2009 Essay Project Award](#) (deadline Feb 2, 2009)
- Feb 18, 2009 7PM Patriot Center [Virginia Lottery "Super Teacher Night" at GMU](#) Men's basketball Game vs. Drexel: Through this buy one, get one free ticket promotion, the Virginia Lottery, the Northern Virginia District PTA and George Mason University want to pay tribute to our educators who put smiles on their students' faces and who help shape their futures. This is just one more way to say "thank you" to Virginia's dedicated teachers.
- Safe Community Coalition [3rd Annual Cyber Summit](#) – February 19, 2009
- [Apply for the Virginia PTA Scholarship Award](#) (deadline Mar 2, 2009)
- **A special fund raising project underway with Habitat for Humanity, Loudoun County Virginia Chapter in honor and recognition of Erin Peterson.** This campaign launched on January 15th, 2009, and will run through April 30th. [Read more information.](#)

The Virginia State Park Youth Conservation Corps is a summer education and community service program for youth aged 14–17. Under the guidance of adult leaders serving as mentors, role models, technical trainers and supervisors crews from 10–12 members carry out a wide variety of conservation activities at Virginia State Parks. Projects include restoration and preservation of wetlands, stream

PTSA Meeting, Kathy Smith, School Board Member will be present.

Feb 27

Theater Winter Main State

Mar 7

SGA Spring Filng Dance

Mar 11

MAC Spring Parent Coffee 7-9PM Cafeteria

Mar 26 7PM

[SNITS](#) Parent Program Lecture Rm

Apr 3-10

Spring Break - No School

April 16 7PM

PTSA Meeting, Library

Apr 22 6:30pm

ANGP Meeting, Rm A101

Apr 23

ACE Honor Roll Reception

Apr 25

ANGP Mulch Pickup Day

Apr 30

Jazz Night

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](#)

banks, and other wildlife habitat, including that of threatened and endangered species; water quality testing, removal of non-native invasive plants and weeds, landscaping, mapping, surveying, recycling and other community improvements. Participants learn about the environment through fieldwork and service projects. Crew members will receive a \$ 500 payment upon completion of the program. Applicants may select the session of their choice, but not the available parks. The program will be held in two 8 week park sessions; Session One: June 21–July 11 or Session Two: July 19–Aug. 8 Applications are available in the Career Center. Application Deadline is Noon, April 11, 2009 (selection notified by May 1) If you have any additional questions contact Mr. Gaston Rouse at 703-583-5497 or by email vspycc@dcr.virginia.gov; Web: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/ycc.htm>.

The Balfour Company has been chosen by your school to supply graduation products and services to this years senior class. Now is the time to order items for graduation (Announcements, Invitations, thank you notes etc.). Orders can be placed online at www.balfour.com . Please contact Balfour representative, Dan Pasquarelli, at 703-941-1436 with any questions.

Sexting Leading to Criminal Charges for Teens

Survey: Sending Nude Photos Via Cell Phones Becoming Prevalent Teens Facing Child Porn Charges For Sending Pics Of Themselves, Others. [Read the full article and attached survey.](#) (565kb)

Guiding Your Family's Media and Technology Use You worry how your kids are being influenced by TV shows and movies. You wonder what messages your kids' music might be giving them. You keep an eye on how long your kids spend playing video games, and whether those games are violent. You try to keep up with how your kids are using their cell phones and the Internet to talk to friends. [Read more.](#)

Internet Safety DVD Available A copy of the DVD and workbook "Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents " is available for Westfield parents to borrow and view in your home. The Virginia PTA and Enough is Enough, a non-profit organization, is offering this guide for parents in an effort to make the Internet safer for children and families. If interested in viewing, please contact Salma Ashmawi ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org or Jennifer Campbell ptsa1stVP@westfieldhs.org to sign out the packet and return it for others to view. There is no charge.

5K News

Westfield 5K Race Committee Calls for Participants and Sponsors

The Westfield HS 5K Race is calling for race participants and sponsors for its 8th annual run, which will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009, at 8a.m. **All proceeds from the WHS 5K race run will be used to fund scholarships for Westfield seniors.** [Register Online](#) or [Download Application](#). Read [more online](#).

Any questions, please contact us at 5kPTSA@westfieldhs.org.

ANGP News

The ANGP, a senior "lock in " at ESPN Zone in Washington, DC, scheduled for June 18th, takes place immediately following the graduation. For more information, visit <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org>. **Tickets are now \$75.** The price goes up to \$90 on April 1st. On June 1st, tickets will be \$105. **PLEASE NOTE: NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER JUNE 10th.** There will be no refunds!! For financial hardships, contact your guidance counselor, and decisions are based on students' special and confidential circumstances. Tickets can be purchased via the [PTSA web site via PayPal](#), at the ANGP monthly ticket table at all lunches, or by downloading a form and sending it to school with a check made out to WHS ANGP for the ticket amount. Any questions, or to help contact Pam Murdoch at angp@westfieldhs.org.

The following are dates that students can purchase their ANGP tickets in the cafeteria or pick up their T-Shirts for tickets previously purchased. Students can turn in their ticket money anytime to the office. Schedule of T-Shirts

- [Guitar Boosters](#)
- [Orchestra Boosters](#)
- [Theatre Boosters](#)

Reminder

Items to be included in the Mar 2009 Bulldog Bulletin must be **submitted to newsletter@westfieldhs.org on or before Feb 20, 2009**

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

Pick-Up In The Cafeteria All Dates are on Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday

February	18, 19, 20
March	18, 19, 20
April	15, 16, 17
May	13, 14, 15
Also May	27, 28, 29
June	10, 11, 12

Attention Students, Parents, And Especially the Class of 2009!!!!

The **Mulch Day fundraiser event** has been scheduled. The date is Saturday, April 25, 2009 in the WHS parking lot. This will be the **only opportunity for students to earn Bulldog Bucks**, the coveted way for seniors to "purchase" fabulous big ticket items/prizes for their dorm room or apartment. Volunteers are needed to do a variety of tasks—not all include lifting bags of mulch or driving a truck! Contact Denise Stalnacker at bulldogmulch@westfieldhs.org with your questions, to be on her circulation list, and to volunteer. This is the only ANGP fundraiser, so we need this to be a success!! [Read more on how 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

Minority Achievement News

Minority Achievement Committee is planning for its **upcoming Spring Parent Coffee which will be held on Wednesday March 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** Please mark this date on your calendar as we will present the state of minority achievement (minority achievement gap update) at Westfield. We will also host a student panel for open discussion on how to continue to build new relationships and bridge gaps.

Thanks to the many Westfield students who participated in the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee sponsored Dr. Martin Luther King JR celebration, hosted by CPMSAC and Centreville High School.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 17, 2009 at 7:00p.m. We will finalize the plans for the Spring coffee.

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

Volunteers Committee News

- This year's **International Night will be on Feb 13th from 7—9PM** in the Auditorium. Looking some parent volunteers to help us sell tickets during all 4 lunches? Please let us know who you would have available from 3—6 in February to sell tickets in the cafeteria. Contact volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org.
- **WHS Needs Parent Volunteers for School Accreditation** The PTSA is currently looking for a group of parents who are willing to volunteer approximately one hour of time during the window 3/16-3/18 at school.

Westfield High School will be undergoing accreditation through the State of Virginia Department of Education and needs representation from a variety of disciplines. The accreditation occurs every 5 years. The parents would be meeting with state representatives to evaluate various factions at WHS. More information to follow. If interested, please contact Jennifer Campbell, ptsa1stvp@westfieldhs.org to be on the parent list.

Depending when in the year the activity occurs, you may not have heard from the activity chair yet. If you want more information now – perhaps to mark your calendar – please go to the PTSA web site and click on the contact email for the activity you are interested in. The chair of the activity will receive your inquiry and get back to you. Please feel free to contact me at volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org if you have any questions.

*Suzanne Olijar
Volunteer Coordinator*

Booster News

Westfield Crew's 2nd Annual Basket Bingo "FUN"draiser is scheduled for February 28, 2009, from 2 – 5 PM in the WHS Cafeteria

Bring the entire family and your friends to play 20 games of bingo for a chance to win from a variety of prize baskets valued at \$200, to win fabulous door prizes, and more. With over 7,000 local business owners contacted to donate goods or services and a professional caller, this year's event promises loads of fun. Don't miss it! Go now to <http://www.westfieldcrew.org/basketbingo2009.html> and purchase tickets online for \$15/person. Where else can you compete for prizes and have fun this close to home for a \$1/game or less? See you on the 28th. Doors will open at 1:15 pm and the first game will start promptly at 2PM. (Event day ticket prices will be \$20/person at the door.)

For additional information or to donate to this event contact: crewfundraising@yahoo.com or call Elena Howard at 703-830-7251. For additional information about Westfield Crew go to www.westfieldcrew.org.



FCPS Newswire

Funding for education is on the chopping block. Due to revenue shortfalls, the Governor has proposed approximately \$600 million in cuts to our schools, most of which will be permanent. ([Read more and what you can do.](#))

FAIRFAX COUNTY WANTS YOUR INPUT ON CLOSING THE BUDGET GAP FOR FY 2010 Superintendent Jack D. Dale has presented a [three-tiered plan of budget cuts](#) (PDF format) to enable the school system to address a budget shortfall for FY 2010. Citizens can still [provide feedback](#) to the Fairfax County School Board and the Board of Supervisors [online](#). Learn more about the budget situation in a [video](#) by Superintendent Jack Dale. [Contact your current Board of Supervisors](#) to voice your concerns. Another resource to visit is <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1060>

Fairfax County Health Department Clinic Room Aide Program (CRA) and School Resource Offices affected by budget cuts as well. The Fairfax County Health Department, in collaboration with the Fairfax County School System (FCPS), provides health services to FCPS students to ensure that each school-aged child (2–22 years old) has an optimal learning environment. [View CRA Fact Sheet](#). Additional informational links: [FCPS FY 2010 Budget Information](#) & [Gifted & Talented Program](#).

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.](#)

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:

- **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.

How Do I Update My Keep in Touch Account? Fairfax County Public Schools has a new vendor for the Keep in Touch (KIT) notification system, 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. The system will still be called Keep in Touch or KIT. To learn more about Parent View, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/fcps247.htm>. For assistance with Parent View, call 1-866-434-8880.

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

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.

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.](#)

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.

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 (ID #70115228) 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 <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/subscribe2/newsletter.php>