



Bulldog Bulletin September 2009

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



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President's Message



Welcome back!

"Ten Years of Tradition- A Decade of Excellence" is Westfield's new school motto for the upcoming school year. At close to 2,900 students strong, we plan to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the school throughout the whole school year. As your student begins high school life, it can be stressful or even scary. The PTSA can be a source of help, providing information, connecting you with other parents and teachers and offering a range of activities and family support. Please mark your calendars to join us every 3rd Thursday of the month (though different for September and June). There are dozens of ways to get involved throughout the school year (contact volunteercoord@westfieldhs.org). There is something to fit every schedule and talent and lots of opportunities to get involved in the school—this is the best way to show your support for your child's education!

For the first time since the school's opening, in celebration of Westfield's 10th anniversary, the **PTSA is offering a member incentive to promote unity and teamwork** within the school. We like to see the various school parent groups working together to benefit each other, in order to benefit all students. So this year, any non-staff member joining the PTSA can **designate a WHS group to receive \$1 of their membership fee**. The money will be given to the designated group in the form of a group "scholarship", which can be used by the group in whatever way it is needed. Simply mark this where indicated on the [All in One Form](#) which enables you join the PTSA, volunteer, purchase a student directory and pay for it all at one time. Additional forms can be found in your Back to School packet. By joining the PTSA you are supporting every WHS student, keeping parents informed, supporting student safety and supporting our teachers to educate our students as a top priority.

Thank you to parents who have volunteered continuously behind the scenes throughout the summer to insure things happen on schedule as we open up the school year: Mary Coleman, Alana Heng, Suzanne Olijar and Kym Sunday. Thanks to Terry Schweinhart and Cindy Baker for the countless hours spent organizing and soliciting donations for our Silent Auction and to Amy Jackson (formerly Coulbourne) for organizing the Bulldog BBQ. Thanks also to the students and adults that volunteered to assemble the Back to School packets and those who will be helping at the Bulldog BBQ

Another huge thank you to the crew who helped clean up the grounds in front of school before RulyScapes provided the finishing touches on our landscaping and laid down mulch: student help from senior Jaclyn Chaddic plus juniors Kira Coleman, Ian Thompson and Brian Hildrup, along with parents Mary Coleman, Brett Hagen, David and Jill Thompson, Suzanne Olijar, Kym Sunday, Jen Thorpe and Greg Wittman. Thanks to all for their immeasurable hands on assistance with such a large thankless task. We really aren't in the land of Disney - it isn't

Calendar

- Tue, Sep 1
Sr & Jr Parking Meeting Bulldog BBQ
- Mon, Sep 7
Labor Day Holiday
- Tue, Sep 8
First Day of School
- Tue, Sep 15
MAC Meeting, 7PM
- Wed, Sep 16
Senior Parent Night
- Tue, Sep 22
Back to School Night(11 &12) Underclass Picture Days
- Wed, Sep 23
Underclass Picture Days Monthly PTSA Meeting, 7PM
- Thu, Sep 23
Underclass Picture Days
- Fri, Sep 24
Underclass Picture Days Deadline for PTSA Bulldog Bulletin Article Submissions
- Wed, Sep 30
Back to School Night(9 &10)

Board Officers

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

[View more board member](#)

Links of Interest

- [Fairfax County Public School](#)

magic! Everything gets done by volunteer power—you just might not see it getting done!

Please update your Keep in Touch information at <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/> yearly AND join the PTSA and [receive our monthly E-Bulletin](#) by [subscribing online](#). Memberships expire every September and are separate from school to school. By registering, you will be guaranteed to receive the most up-to-date information specifically about goings-on at Westfield.

Out next PTSA meeting is **September 23rd at 7pm** in the school library. Leslie Churn, MS, our counselor from Alcohol and Drug Services will present **Trends of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Substance Used by Our Youth**, also referred to by enthusiastic parent attendees as the "The Bong Show" because it educates parents about drugs and paraphernalia in use among out teens. Also, mark your calendars for a community wide parent forum on teen drug and alcohol prevention on Monday, October 19 at 7pm in the Westfield auditorium. Additional dates of interest will be posted on our web site link <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/eCalendar/month.php>.

On Monday October 19, 2009, from 7-8:30 pm in the WHS Auditorium, there will be **another alcohol and drug awareness program for teens and parents entitled, "Parents Reaching Out."** Come hear parents in our community whose children have been involved in substance abuse and professionals speak about accessing treatment. Look for the flyer in your Back to School packet.

On the same topic, the school is looking for students and some parent chaperones to participate in a unique drug and alcohol awareness program offered through the Fairfax County Police Department. The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Tour incorporates takes students and parents through a number of eye-opening venues in an effort to prevent drug and alcohol use among teens and emphasizes the importance of good decision-making related to teen driving. The next session will be held on Tuesday, September 22 and additional ones will be held throughout the year. Please email Principal Tim Thomas at tjthomas1@fcps.edu or Assistant. Principal Dave Jagels david.jagels@fcps.edu if you or your student are interested in taking advantage of this dynamic experience.

WHS is our connection to each other, the community and our children's future. We welcome your support and **look forward to a great school year ahead!**

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Campbell, WHS PTSA President*

- [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 Incent Weather Plans](#)
- [Sign up for FCPS Keep In Touch](#)

- [Athletic Boosters](#)
- [Band Boosters](#)
- [Choral Boosters](#)
- [Guitar Boosters](#)
- [Orchestra Boosters](#)
- [Theatre Boosters](#)

Tidbits

- **2009 Junior Achievement Essay Contest, [Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 Junior Achievement Essay Competition!](#)** The competition is open to any student in the 9th-12th grade from August 17 – October 1, 2009, and asks students to write a 1,000-1,500 word essay on the topic, "**How can Greater Washington companies responsibly and effectively deal with the economic challenges facing the United States?**"
- Let's recognize some **exceptional data and results related to student achievement and closing achievement gaps**. We need to celebrate some unbelievable gains that can also be viewed on the [school's report card online](#). Last year's theme of Bridging Gaps and Building Relationships must remain as a guiding principle as we continue to meet the needs of a diverse student population.
- Westfield High School has partnered with

FCPS Newswire

- **FAIRFAX COUNTY Board of Supervisors Unanimously Adopts Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.** Read the [latest news](#) about the budget situation.
- **The Fairfax County School Board has voted to approve a new grading scale** for all Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students that will go into effect beginning with the 2009-10 school year. [Read more](#).
- **How Do I Update My Keep in Touch Account?** Fairfax County Public Schools has a new vendor for the 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. To learn more about Parent View, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/fcps247.htm>. For assistance with Parent View, call 1-866-434-8880.
- **Fairfax County Public Schools Keep in Touch (KIT) has a new feature.** Now

Reminder

Items to be included in the October 2009 Bulldog Bulletin must be [submitted to newsletter@westfieldhs.org](#) on or before Sep 25, 2009

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

the Fairfax County Police to offer a **unique drug and alcohol awareness program to our students and parents.** The day-long tour incorporates a number of eye-opening, educational venues to students and parents in an effort to **prevent drug and alcohol use among our teens.** The program emphasizes the importance of good decision-making related to teen driving. Powerful presentations at the Annandale police station, Fairfax Hospital, the Fairfax County Adult Court and Detention Center and Fairfax Memorial Cemetery are among the places that students and parents visit. Please email Principal [Tim Thomas](#) or Asst. Principal [Dave Jagels](#) if you and your student are interested in taking advantage of this dynamic experience in future dates for the upcoming school year.

you can subscribe to receive specific topics you request, such as swine flu updates and other current news. You can also select to receive press releases, media tips and School Board updates. **You may also subscribe to receive community outreach messages** from the school division and up to five schools. This service is in addition to the KIT messages you may already be receiving because your child enrolled in a Fairfax County school. Visit <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>.

Bulldog BBQ & Silent Auction

The Bulldog BBQ will be held, rain or shine on **Tuesday, September 1, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.** at Westfield High School. Students, families, and the surrounding community are invited.

While the barbecue is the school's primary fund-raising event for the academic, theater, athletic, choral and music booster groups, and the PTSA, **students can also pick up their student schedules and back-to-school packets, PE uniforms, buy lunch cards, pay class dues, reserve their school yearbooks raffle for parking spaces, grab dinner, and enjoy performances by WHS students.** Students can stop by tables in the hallways to learn what the Classes of 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 are doing this year, or how to join the various school clubs.

Attending the event is a great way to get reacquainted with the school. Volunteers are still needed for various positions the day of the BBQ. Contact volunteercoord@westfieldhs.org.

Membership News

New for the 2009–2010 school year, and in honor of the school's 10th anniversary, the PTSA has **committed to support the various WHS groups who serve our students.** With that in mind, \$1 of your family membership may be designated to the WHS group of your choice. Complete the [online membership form](#) or just indicate your preference on the [All in One Membership Form](#) for when you turn it in.

Student Directory

Westfield High School PTSA is **currently accepting advertisers for its yearly Student Directory.** The directory includes resources for the school as well as student addresses and phone numbers. It is a resource only available to the school community and is something many students, teachers, parents, and staff members hang use as a resource to keep in touch. Advertising in the Student Directory offers a unique opportunity to reach thousands of people in the Westfield area! Directory ads are sold on a first paid/first served basis. They are printed in black and white. **Prices are as follows: Back Cover \$400 (1), Inside back cover \$350 (1), Full Page Ad Inside Back Cover (1) \$325, Full Page \$300, Half Page \$200, Quarter Page \$150, Business Card \$100.** If interested contact Jennifer Campbell at JCcampbellpta@aol.com

Minority Achievement News

Welcome from the Minority Achievement Committee (MAC)

Hello and welcome back!! We are Evelyn Spain and Milan Coleman.

We are the new chairpersons for the Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) here at

Westfield High School. On behalf of the Minority Achievement Committee we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new and returning Westfield parents and students. We hope you all have enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer. **Our theme for this year is "Progressing Towards Bridging the Gap for 2009-2010".**

For our new parents who may be unfamiliar with the MAC, let us take a few moments to provide a brief description. The Minority Achievement Committee was formed in 2001 as a subcommittee of the PTSA. The committee members are volunteers, including parents, teachers, administrators and students. The MAC was formed to address the county-wide disparate achievement levels between minority and majority students at Westfield High School to eliminate this achievement gap. [Read more online.](#)

Remember the next meeting is Sept 15, 2009 in the Library.

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

Reflections News



It's not too early to think about Reflections for the this year:

The theme for the 2009–2010 is "Beauty is . . ."

The theme for the 2010–2011 is "Together We Can"

Students can get to work now on artwork for next year. The categories are literature, musical composition, dance choreography, visual arts, film production, and photography. [Read more online.](#)

The PTSA is **seeking someone to head up this committee.** If one is not found, we cannot participate in Reflections for the upcoming year. Contact the [PTSA president](#) if you are interested.

Volunteer

Welcome to all of you new and returning Westfield High Parents! If you're reading this, then I applaud your effort to stay informed at a time when our kids feel they are old enough to not have us involved. Both my daughters are attending WHS this year. My senior is fine with my involvement but my freshman has instructed me to pretend I don't know her should we pass in the hall- sound familiar?

In my third year as volunteer coordinator I remain very enthusiastic about what's going on in this school. The administrators' attitude is that our students are this school's #1 asset; they do everything in their power to see that these young people have opportunities to reach their potential.

These same administrators recognize the value of parental involvement and support our efforts; this makes for a fun and rewarding experience for WHS volunteers. There are so many ways – big and small – to support and improve your students' school experience.

Please go to the volunteer link on the left side of the PTSA Home page and complete a volunteer form. You are not committed to doing an activity even if you check off an interest in it. I give a list of interested parents to the chair of an activity and they contact you to discuss ways that you may be able to contribute.

Keep in Touch is your best way to stay informed about all the activities at WHS, including those needing volunteer support; be sure to sign up for KIT by going to the Westfield High home page and clicking on Keep in Touch near the right top of the page. Thank you for all your support and enjoy this year with your student(s) – it will fly by! For volunteer questions, please feel free to contact me at volunteerCoord@westfieldhs.org. I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Olijar, Volunteer Coordinator

Booster News

Band Boosters

Return to school signals band camp for the award winning Marching Bulldogs. The band has spent the three weeks prior to opening of school on the field memorizing steps, practicing music and enjoying the August heat of Chantilly. Our freshmen are learning quickly and realizing the hard work necessary to be a member of an Honor Band for Virginia.

Mr. Panoff, our Director of Bands, has been busy preparing our band for the fall show entitled, "**West Side Story**". It looks as though it is going to be a busy fall for the band with football games, competitions, a parade, TAG day and even a performance at the Bulldog BBQ. We hope you enjoy our fall show.

The band looks forward to your support as we march on to the field and represent Westfield High School. For news about the band, please visit our website at www.Westfieldband.org

[Westfieldband.org](http://www.Westfieldband.org)

Theatre Boosters

Mark your calendars for the Westfield Theatre Department's Main Stage Performances for 2009-2010.

- Neil Simon's **Brighton Beach Memoirs** will be performed November 20-22
- The musical **West Side Story**, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and Book by Arthur Laurents will be performed February 12-14, and
- William Shakespeare's **The Merchant of Venice** will be performed May 28-30.

In addition to Main Stage Performances there is an entire year filled with cabaret's, including a special 10 Year Anniversary Cabaret, the One Act Showcase, the traditional Haunted House and Ho Ho Holiday shows. Please visit the Westfield Theatre Boosters Web site to view the complete calendar with dates and time.

Become a Westfield Theatre Booster! Boosters support the theatre department with their time and talents and raise funds to support senior scholarships, musicals, plays, children's theatre, cabarets, improvisation teams, Westfield Summer Stage, WHS Bulldog Barbeque and many other endeavors. Benefits of membership include generous complimentary tickets and program recognition commensurate with the level of giving and other benefits. To become a booster, look for the membership form in the back-to-school envelope or visit our web site. www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com

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

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

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.](#)

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/newsletter.php>