



Bulldog Bulletin January 2010

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



Contents

- [President's Message](#)
- [PTSA Tidbits](#)
- [FCPS Newswire](#)
- [State PTA News](#)
- [Booster News](#) (Theatre)
- [After Prom Celebration](#)
- [Volunteer News](#) (It's Academic!, Blood Drive)
- [Ways & Means](#)
- [Coalition and Tip Line](#)
- [Community Programs](#)
- [Links of Interest](#)

President's Message

Happy New Year! Hope you've had the opportunity to review your student's interim grades and had a restful winter break, especially after digging out from our first snow of the season! **The PTSA Minority Achievement held their annual potluck holiday celebration Dec 16th.** Attendees enjoyed catering by Anthony Holliday of Happy Hollidays as well as solo and duet performances by Mr. Stack, WHS Step Team and the Men's Leadership Team. **Thanks to Milan Coleman and Evelyn Spain for putting it all together.**



A belated thank you to Mary McLaughlin-English and Sue Bark for their leadership with the county-wide Reflections Art Contest. The 27 participants and accomplishments were listed in the December 2009 Bulletin and the 3 first place student entries went to the next level for judging.

The PTSA is sponsoring a practice SAT/ACT, sponsored by Princeton Review, on February 6th, 9am—12:45pm in the WHS Cafeteria. Registration is open and [forms are available on our web site](#) or in the school's main office. The 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 is \$15, which includes an evening follow-up session on February 23rd in the cafeteria to help understand how your student performed.** This event is a PTSA fundraiser. [Checks should be made payable to WHS PTSA](#) and sent to the main office at school. If you know you are available the morning of February 6th, we could use a few adults to help with registration and distribution of test materials. Please contact me if you can help at ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org. If your student recently received results from the PSAT taken this past October, you can view a tutorial for explanation of the results at http://www.fcps.edu/WestfieldHS/student_services/psat.htm.

Student directories are still available, while supplies last. They come in handy for carpooling, for kids working together on school projects, keeping track of your kids' whereabouts, spelling names correctly and contacting other parents or the school. Directories are available in the main office for \$10 cash or check made out to WHS PTSA or other arrangements can be made through Gary Flather at directory@westfieldhs.org.

By now you should have heard plenty about the \$176 million dollar shortfall with the **FCPS 2011 school budget.** Check out <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>. Our schools will see cuts due to the budget shortfall. The process of holding public hearings will continue throughout the budget process starting in January to give citizens an opportunity to weigh in on the possible cuts. Among the items under consideration for cuts are: an increase in class size by one student per teacher; elimination of full-day kindergarten to all but Title I schools; elimination of elementary band and string; elimination of elementary school foreign language programs; and elimination of the special needs staffing in high school. The School Board may also institute a number of fees FY 2011, including fees for athletic participation, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) tests and increased fees for community use of facilities. The public hearings on the FY 2011 budget will be held at the Government Center between April 6 and April 8, 2010. For a list of all County and School budget-related calendar dates, go to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/county_budget_calendar.htm.

Calendar

- January 1, 2010
New Years Day
Winter Holiday
- January 7, 2010,
After Prom Party
Kickoff Meeting
7PM Library
- January 9, 2010
BITS Class
(9:30am EDT)
- January 12, 2010
ANGP Planning Meeting (7:00pm EST)
- January 13-14, 2010
WHS Blood Drive 7:30am-1:30pm Both days
- January 14, 2010
Junior Parent Night
- January 16, 2010
BITS Class
(9:30am EDT)
It's Academic
(7:30am EST)
- January 18, 2010
School Holiday
- January 20, 2010
Minority Achievement Committee Meeting (7:00pm EST)
- January 21, 2010
PTSA Monthly Meeting 7PM Library
- January 22, 2010
Deadline to submit newsletter articles
- January 23, 2010
BITS Class
(9:30am EDT)
- January 28, 2010
End of 2nd Grading Period
- January 29, 2010
Teacher Work Day
- February 1, 2010
State PTA Essay Project Submission Deadline
- February 1, 2010
PTA Day at the General Assembly
- February 6, 2010
SAT/ACT Practice Testing
9am-12:45pm Cafeteria

The Westfield community will **need to think creatively about how to minimize the impact of budget cuts on our children's education.** Please consider matching funds from [employer donations or volunteer hours](#), our [silent fund raisers](#), and other in kind donations to Westfield groups.

Westfield's annual Blood Drive will be held on January 13 & 14 in the R Wing basement. We are looking for four (4) parent volunteers for each shift to help out with registration, refreshments and watch after students who are giving blood and help with refreshments. **The drive will run from 7:30am to 1:30pm on both days.** Contact Suzanne Olijar, Volunteer coordinator at volunteercoord@westfieldhs.org.

We'll be forming a nominating committee to fill PTSA board slots for the upcoming school year including the Treasurer, Newsletter and the Website. It is optimum to think early about volunteer opportunities so you can shadow your predecessor before they vacate the position and allow for an easier transition. If interested in being on the nominating committee or in any PTSA position, please contact me at ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org.

Our next PTSA meeting is Thursday, January 21st 7pm in the library. We are currently putting together a parent presentation on either Budget Planning or Identity Theft, sponsored by PNC Bank. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Jennifer Campbell, WHS PTSA President

Tidbits

SAT vs. ACT...What's the difference?

Come take our SAT/ ACT combination **practice test** and find out! The Princeton Review will be hosting an SAT/ ACT combination test at Westfield High School! **Saturday, February, 6, 2009 9:00 a.m. — 12:45 p.m. Westfield High School Cafeteria** Cost: \$15, check made payable to WHS PTSA (SAT Practice in memo)— **Reserve early as space is limited!** In a perfect world, you would take a full-length practice test for both the SAT and the ACT. However, this takes more than 8 hours of testing and doesn't sound like much fun. **The Princeton Review SAT/ ACT combination test provides you with a shorter, more efficient way** to see both the SAT and the ACT. It's a comparative tool that helps to familiarize you with the types of questions you will see on both exams. **A free follow-up session** will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd, 7pm in the Westfield High School cafeteria to discuss the results. Contact [Jennifer Campbell](#) with questions.

Attendance Policy at WHS...did you know?

Parents and students will:

1. Notify attendance office via phone or written note w/parent signature within 48 hours of student absence or tardy.
2. Provide a note for early dismissal of students.
3. Ensure that contact information is current

FCPS Newswire

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

[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

2010-11 Standard School Year Calendar has been posted and is [available online](#)

[Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Plans](#)

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. Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

[FCPS Emergency School Closings Telephone Hot Line to Be Discontinued](#)

December 31 Due to budget cuts, the FCPS emergency school closings telephone hot line will be discontinued on December 31. Employees, students, parents, and community members who have relied on the hot line

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](#)
- [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 February 2010 Bulldog Bulletin must be **submitted to newsletter@**

4. Students will provide note for early dismissal to the attendance office prior to the start of school and will be issued a pink check-out pass.
5. Students leaving early must always check out through the attendance office or the clinic (in the case of illness) before leaving school grounds. Students leaving school grounds without following protocol are subject to disciplinary action.

[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.**

exclusively in the past will now need to check the [FCPS web site](#), Channel 21 (a cable TV channel programmed by FCPS), or local TV and radio stations or sign up to receive emergency school closing information from the [Keep in Touch](#) e-mail notification system.

[Summer Academic Programs and Enrichment Camp Fair](#)

- Oakton High School—2900 Sutton Rd, Vienna, VA
- Tuesday, January 12, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
- Admission will be Free

- Meet representatives from summer enrichment programs
- Visit the exhibits, ask questions, and network with others
- See what your children (K–12) can explore next summer

westfieldhs.org on or before Jan 23, 2010,

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

State PTA News

PTSA ESSAY PROJECT Virginia PTA is proud to sponsor a Citizenship Essay Project. The 2010 theme is **"Strong Citizens - Strong Communities"**. This Essay Project allows students to express their views and opinions on **"Character or Citizenship"**. First Place is awarded a \$1000 savings bond. **Deadline for the application is Feb. 1, 2010.** For more details go the the State PTA web site at <http://www.vapta.org/statecommittees/pta-programs/209.html>

PTA Day at the General Assembly is February 1, 2010. [Find out why](#) it's important for you to attend. [Download](#) the registration form and join us in Richmond as we advocate for our children. Students are encouraged to participate.

Virginia PTA Scholarship Program The Virginia PTA offers scholarships to graduating high school students planning to enter teaching or other youth-serving professions in Virginia. A \$1,200 scholarship is awarded in memory of M. Frieda Koontz, who served as the Executive Secretary of the SCA from 1922–1950. Another \$1,200 scholarship honors S. John Davis, Virginia's Superintendent of Schools from 1979–1989. All remaining scholarships are \$1,000. [Read more about this program](#) and [download application package](#).

Virginia PTA announces funding of the 2009–10 Family Fitness Grant Program. [Learn more](#) and send your postmarked [cover sheet](#) and [application](#) no later than January 29, 2010 to be considered.

Minority Achievement News

Wishes you and your loved ones

Peace, Love and Happiness

Happy Holidays

Co-Chairpersons

Milan Coleman

Evelyn Spain

After Prom Celebration is Back

The After Prom Party is back after a brief hiatus. **The APP will take place on Saturday, June 5, 2010, right after the prom which is on Friday, June 4, 2010.** We need volunteers to help plan the event, purchase/solicit prizes, help at the check-in desk, and serve as chaperones. We will have a **kick off meeting on January 7, 2010 at 7 pm in the WHS library.** Subsequent monthly meetings are posted on the online calendar—same time and place. Please contact Mark Richardson or Damita Snow (APP co-chairs) at afterprom@westfieldhs.org if you have any questions/comments. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Mark Richardson & Damita Snow, Co-Chairs*

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!

Westfield's annual Blood Drive will be held on January 13 & 14 in the R Wing basement. We are looking for four (4) parent volunteers for each shift to help out with registration, refreshments and watch after students who are giving blood and help with refreshments. **The drive will run from 7:30am to 1:30pm on both days.** Contact Suzanne Olijar, Volunteer coordinator at volunteercoord@westfieldhs.org.

*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

Theatre Boosters

Tickets are on sale now for the **Westfield Theatre Ten-Year Cabaret – A Decade of Excellence on Saturday, January 16, at 8 p.m.** This **one-night-only event** features more than 100 former and current theatre students reprising memorable songs and scenes from Westfield Theatre. Tickets are \$10 and seating is reserved. [Order tickets online](#) or buy them at the door. The Ten-Year Cabaret is part of a year-long 10th anniversary celebration at Westfield High School. All funds raised from the cabaret will be used to purchase upgrades to the sound system in the auditorium that will benefit all students in Westfield High School and the community.



Director Susan McCormack Pike has announced the **cast for Westfield Theatre's production of the classic Stephen Sondheim-Arthur Laurents-Leonard Bernstein musical West Side Story.** The production will play **February 11-14 at Westfield High School in Chantilly.** Tickets are now on sale online at www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com. All seats are reserved so early purchase of tickets is encouraged to secure favorable seating. For more information, contact www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com or call 703-488-6439.

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

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)

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.](#)

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>