

West Frederick Middle School

<http://schools.fcps.org/wfms>

Phone 240-236-4000

September 5, 2008

FAX 240-236-4050

Issue 2008/9-1



Calendar:

September

Mon.	Sept. 8	PTSA meeting 7 pm Media Center (Modular C)
Fri.	Sept. 19	Schools Closed – Fair Day
Mon.	Sept. 22	2 Hour Delay (school starts 10 a.m.)
Wed.	Sept. 24	Mid-Term
Tues.	Sept. 30	Schools Closed – Rosh Hashanah

October

Thurs.	Oct. 9	Schools Closed
Mon.	Oct. 13	2 Hour Delay (school starts 10 a.m.) PTSA meeting 7 pm Media Center
Tues.	Oct. 14	Parent Teacher Conferences School opens 4 hours late (12 noon)
Wed.	Oct. 15	Parent Teacher Conferences School opens 4 hours late (12 noon)
Thurs.	Oct. 16	Parent Teacher Conferences School closes 3.5 hours early (11:30 a.m.)
Fri.	Oct. 17	Schools Closed
Fri.	Oct. 31	End of Term

Need email addresses: If you prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please email your address to Robert.Dacey@fcps.org.

CHANGE IN TRAFFIC PATTERN FOR THE A.M.

We have had to make a change in the morning traffic pattern to insure student safety. Car riders will no longer be permitted to enter the premises from the West Patrick Street entrance between 7:30 and 8:00 in the mornings. Car riders must enter from Carroll Parkway, by the FHS greenhouse, and then circle around the high school parking lot to the middle school drop off point marked with bright yellow signs. Students cannot be dropped off by the faculty parking lot or the cafeteria canopy.

We must separate bus and car traffic in order to prevent students from walking among buses and among the staff who are driving and parking in the assigned lot. Students do not have far to walk from the drop off point to the gym or to their modular building, so we ask your cooperating in insuring our student's safety.

Denise Flora

Co-Principal

West Frederick Middle School

Parent members of the School Leadership Team needed!

The West Frederick Middle School Leadership Team needs a parent member from the Parkway and Lincoln communities to serve on our Leadership Team which meets the second Monday of each month, starting in October.

The Leadership Team is responsible for school wide issues related to academic progress for all students, community and school communication, and other school activities. Our goal is to have a parent member from each of our feeder elementary schools, and we have representation from Whittier and Hillcrest on board.

If you are interested in serving on the Leadership team and can commit to meeting once a month from 3:15-4:15, please contact Denise Flora either via email or by phone.

Phone: 240-236-4000

Email: Denise.Flora@fcps.org

From the Guidance Corner:

The WMFS Guidance Department welcomes everyone back for an exciting school year. Our staff for 2008 – 2009:

Mrs. Marinello, Grade 6 ext. 64052

Susan.Marinello@fcps.org

Mrs. Irwin, Grade 7 ext. 64066

Dawn.Irwin@fcps.org

Mrs. McNiff, Grade 8 ext. 64063

Jean.McNiff@fcps.org

Mrs. Gee, Secretary ext. 64055

Lotoya.Gee@fcps.org

Legal Court Documents: We are in the process of organizing and updating student records for the 2008 – 2009 school-year. Please make sure that we have copies of all Legal Court Documents that pertain to your child: custody agreements, name change, and Ex-Parte orders. Please call Mrs. Gee (ext. 64055) in our Guidance Office with any questions or concerns.

Message From The School Nurse

Hearing and Vision Screening will take place October 2,3,6,7, & 8th for all eighth graders and any new students from out of state. Maryland State Law mandates this screening. Any other student can be screened upon written request by the parent. Any parent that does not want their child tested must also put this in writing to the health room. All written requests need to be submitted to the health room by September 22, 2008. Please make sure if your child wears glasses that they have their glasses with them on screening days. If you have any questions please contact the health room at (240) 236-4059.

Please send updated medical information and immunizations to the health-room as soon as possible. This helps the staff to provide the best care for your child during the school year.

During the school year it may be necessary for your child to take prescription or nonprescription medications during the school day. These medications may need to be given daily or on an as needed basis. In order for this to happen you are required to follow the FCPS Medication Administration Policy. If medication is needed at school, you must have a Physician's Medication Authorization for Prescription and Nonprescription Medication form completed. This form would need to be completed by **both** parent and physician. The medication needs to be in the original container and/or properly labeled prescription bottle. The medication label must match the physician's order form and be current. **NO MEDICATION WILL BE GIVEN IN SCHOOL WITHOUT THE COMPLETED FROM AND PROPER LABELING.** An adult must transport any medications to and from school. Antibiotic administration is discouraged as physicians can accommodate proper dosing times around the school day. The first full day's dosage of ANY new medication must be given at home. If your child requires an **EPIPEN** at school there is a separate form that is required.

All of the appropriate forms can be obtained from the health room or by going to <http://www.fcps.org/dept/health/index.htm> and clicking on the form you need. For further questions, you may contact the health room at (240) 236-4059.

Sincerely, Carol Forbes, RN - School Nurse

Find out First: Do you Subscribe?

FCPS offers lots of school news via Find Out First email. In addition to emergency notices, you can receive:

- Calendar updates
- News releases
- Testing information
- Policy/procedure changes
- Proposed boundary/attendance areas

- Info about programs/services
- BOE agendas
- Channel 18 schedules
- And much more!

FCPS has improved FindOutFirst service for better school-home communication. The upgraded service requires subscribers to update your choices to get important notices.

To get school-specific emergency notices, subscribers MUST log in and select your areas of interest such as school, grade and news options.

You only need to do this once, and then you will get the important notices about your school(s).

HERE'S HOW for current subscribers: [These steps must be followed in the sequence listed below.]

Go to <http://www.fcps.org/fof>

1. **FIRST** before you enter your email address, scroll down and select **Get your password.**
2. **After** selecting Get your password, a box will open in which to enter the primary email address you registered in the old system.
3. Check your email for a message from FindOutFirst@EZCommunicator.com providing your pre-set password.
4. Using the FCPS - FindOutFirst link, **LOG IN with the new password** you just got.
5. NOW you can **EDIT your User Information!** Remember to click the update button to save your changes. (Here's where you may also choose a new password if you like.)
6. Edit your **School Relationships** section by selecting the district and all schools about which you wish to receive news AND your relationship(s) to them.
7. Finally, choose the **types of news** of interest to you.
8. Make sure you selected Emergency Notices if you want them.

You're finished!

Now you will get FCPS email notices targeted to your interests. A few selections will send you automated introductory information right away. FCPS welcomes family and community involvement in education. Thank you.

*If you are completely NEW to FindOutFirst, you may also go to <http://www.fcps.org/fof>, but instead of following the log-in process on the left side of the page, use the handy sign-up feature on the right.

You can change your options or unsubscribe at any time.

Dear CTY Families,

Space is available for two exciting Family Academic Programs designed for 7th - 10th graders and their families. Please join us!

Are you curious about how scientists are creating ways to harness ocean power and develop off-shore wind energy? Join us for a day of hands-on activities led by faculty at the University of Delaware, an institution at the forefront of research in alternative energy sources. Details about this program scheduled for Saturday, October 4 are available at www.cty.jhu.edu/family/science.html

Explore your creative side at an Odyssey Series program devoted to the Visual and Performing Arts at Rider University's Westminster College of the Arts in Lawrenceville, NJ on Saturday, October 11. Learn more about this enriching day at www.cty.jhu.edu/family/odyssey.html

We anticipate that both events will fill quickly so register now! Sincerely, Family Academic Programs

CTY is accredited for grades 5 through 12 by the Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information about CTY's programs, visit the CTY web site at <http://www.cty.jhu.edu/>.

If you prefer not to receive program announcements by email from Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth, please contact ctyfac@jhu.edu with the student's name, CTY Student ID (737912), and your preference.

Physical Education Uniforms

A change of clothes is required. Uniforms are available, but not required.

1. Loose fitting shorts and t-shirt(abdomen must be covered).
2. All students must wear tennis/athletic shoes during class. No slip-ons.

3. In cold weather, students may wear a warm-up suit or loose fitting pants and sweatshirt.
4. Clothing should be marked in permanent ink.

Uniform prices:

Shorts \$10

Shirts \$10

Sweatshirts (hooded) \$15

Sweatpants \$12

From the Enrichment Room

- Students should be on the lookout for Stockmarket game registration, school newspaper sign-up, National History Day information, writing for publication, and other enrichment activities that will be in full swing by the middle of September.
- The WFMS Staff has been oriented on the new role of *enrichment specialist* (formerly "Renzulli" teacher) in and out of the classroom. The role has expanded, with an emphasis on responding to teacher requests to help extend and enrich curriculum during the 90-minute classes, providing support for independent investigations initiated by students during the Cadet Commitment block, and continuing with the Type I, Type II and Type III activities (guest speakers, field trips, small group activities, and independent investigations that take place outside the classroom.)
- Mrs. Stefanick and Mrs. Reilly will be orienting sixth graders to these Type I, Type II and Type III activities on September 4, 5 and 8.

Life Skills

Students in 7th and 8th grade Life Skills are off to a great start! We are beginning the year with the Nutrition unit in which students will learn to make healthier food choices. Lab fees are \$10.00 and are due as soon as possible. I will be able to order sewing kits when those are in! I'm looking forward to lots of fun and learning in Life Skills this year! Jeri Holmes

PINNACLE GRADES ONLINE

FCPS provides Pinnacle Grades Online service to parents/guardians of children in grades 6-12.

All Pinnacle Grades Online passwords remain the same as last year and cannot be changed.

However, ALL email addresses registered last year in Pinnacle Grades Online were deleted to eliminate many addresses no longer valid (especially with the Adelphia to Comcast change).

To get EMAIL from Pinnacle Grades Online, you MUST register your email address for the new school year at <http://grades.fcps.org> <<http://grades.fcps.org>>

If you have questions, please contact our school. It can take a few weeks for your changes to be processed.

PTSA FAMILY GIVING UPDATE

As you may know, in lieu of a traditional fundraiser, the PTSA has decided to sponsor a **Family Giving Program**.

Raising funds this way:

- Helps keep costs down for families.
- Prevents the hassle of your child selling door-to-door.
- Allows the PTSA to keep 100% of the money raised.
- Is less work for the PTSA volunteers.
- Allows you, the donor, to claim the amount as a tax deduction.

So far **we've raised \$2000**. Thanks to everyone who has donated. We have much more to raise, so to the families that have yet to give, please consider making a TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to WFMS PTSA. Our **goal is to raise \$7500** by the end of December. This will allow us to bring enrichment opportunities for your child, such as cultural arts programs, awards incentives, end-of-year picnic/celebrations, seed money for student clubs, and dinner during teacher conference weeks.

Please mail in your donation (checks payable to *WFMS PTSA*) to:

**WFMS PTSA
515 W. Patrick St.
Frederick, MD 21701**

Do you want to help the WFMS PTSA reach its fundraising goal of \$7,500?

Spend **5 Minutes** enrolling in (or renewing) one or more of the following store loyalty card programs:

Safeway - Visit www.escrip.com. Click on Sign Up, select group ID, type in our ID #**500017738**, select our school, complete information about yourself and select card(s). To renew, simply select the Members/Supporters tab, put in **one** of the items requested, then click on the box checked renew its that simple! Use your card every time you shop and WFMS earns up to 3% of your purchase.

Target - Visit www.target.com. Register your Target Visa Card (or renew) by clicking on About Target, select Community, select Education, select **Take Charge of Education**, select Enroll Now. Designate WFMS with ID #**57935**. WFMS receives 1% of your purchase at Target stores and % of your purchase at other stores/restaurants (when you use your Target Visa).

Bloom Visit the nearest Bloom store and enroll your card in the **Shopping is a Breeze** program. If you already have a card, ask at the Customer Service desk to designate WFMS ID #**00942**. If you do not have a card, ask for an application at the Customer Service desk, complete the personal information and fill in our ID #**00942** at the top of the form. Use your card when you shop and WFMS earns 1% of every dollar you spend.

Giant - Visit www.giantfood.com. Select **A+ Bonus Bucks**, select Designate Schools, type in WFMS ID #**01717**. WFMS receives a percentage of your purchase.

WFMS PTSA Web Site:

<http://schools.fcps.org/wfms/ptsa1.html>



WFMS PTSA

Who We Are:

The Parent-Teacher-Student organization at WFMS. We hold meetings on the second Monday of every month at 7:00PM (Except Dec./ June) so that parents, students & staff can work together for the good of WFMS. Principals Denise Flora, Dan Lippy and a teacher liaison attend, therefore meetings are a way to find out everything your child forgets to tell you. You'll learn about curriculum changes, school issues, construction updates & student activities. Unlike grade school PTAs we keep a lower profile. We raise funds, support the staff, sponsor programs & provide volunteers. Many school activities are run by the students themselves.

How You Can Help:

- **Make a donation** (see the back of this flier)
- **Volunteer your time:** *Give us your email and we'll put you on our list. You give as much or as little time as your schedule allows.*
- Help the front office staff
- Chaperone dances, picnics & field trips
- Donate food to student activities or teacher conference dinners.
- **Sign up for eScrip:** Local grocery stores give a percentage of your purchase to a school of your choice. Since we all buy groceries, this is an easy (and FREE) way to accumulate funds for WFMS.
- **Buy A WFMS T-Shirt:** We have spirit wear that you can buy for your child's PE uniform.
- **Join the PTSA:** Your \$5 membership gives you voting rights at meetings, online resources & discounts at Barnes and Noble, Southwest Airlines, Liberty Mutual Insurance and other participating retailers.
- **Come to a meeting:** PTSA meetings keep you in the know and give you a voice. Don't worry, we won't force you to run a committee. We realize that you're busy. We won't take up too much of your time. Promise.

The Plan For This Year:

The beginning of the school year is a busy time for everyone. Rather than adding a fundraiser to the mix, we're running a **family giving rogram**. You'll spend less. The PTSA earns more. Our kids win. We want to raise as much money as possible before school even starts. That way we can focus on activities & enrichment programs and not on money once the academic year gets under way.

How It Works:

- Fill out the form on the back of this flier.
- Choose a donation amount.
- Join the PTSA for an additional \$5
- Give us your email address and our volunteer coordinator will contact you *occasionally* throughout the year if we need your help.
- Make your check out to *WFMS PTSA*.
- Turn in your form with your donation.
- Get more information about the PTSA, upcoming meetings, programs and events that we have planned for the school year.
- Grab a flier that explains how to have your grocery store saver cards and/or Target Visa benefit WFMS.
- Keep this page as a receipt for your taxes:
- Check # _____ Amount Donated: \$ _____

WEST FREDERICK MIDDLE SCHOOL
515 West Patrick St. * Frederick, MD 21701
240-236-4000

WFMS PTSA Web Site: <http://schools.fcps.org/wfms/ptsa1.html>

Let's face it, no one likes to fundraise.

No one wants to buy items they don't need so a *percentage* of the profit will go towards their school. Because fundraising is about FUNDS we're asking each family to make a **100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION** to WFMS. *Every penny* you donate goes toward cultural, educational, informational & celebratory activities for students, teachers & parents, solely supported through funds raised by the PTSA.

Help us reach our goal of \$7500, to provide:

- Approximately \$6 per student for enrichment activities, cultural art events and assemblies.
- Teacher appreciation dinners during parent-teacher conferences.
- Seed money for WFMS student clubs & organizations.
- End of year picnics/celebrations.
- Morale boosting activities throughout the year to reward staff & students for their patience & flexibility during the construction process.

Volunteer Opportunities

Technological Help: Are you web savvy? We can always use help from individuals skilled in web design to assist us as we grow our PTSA web site.

Translators: Are you bilingual? WFMS as well as the PTSA need help with translating verbal and written information into Spanish, Farsi, Vietnamese, Thai and Burmese.

Teacher Assistance: Teachers always need help with copies, collating, and stapling, not to mention volunteer opportunities in the classroom.

Administrative Assistance: You can assist the front office with their copying needs, answer phones, etc.

Book Fair: The library hosts a book fair each year and we need volunteers to staff this event.

Food: We always need food donations for various activities throughout the year.

Chaperones: We can always use an extra set of eyes and ears at picnics, dances, field trips and celebrations.

Count Me In!

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation in the amount of (check one):

\$10 \$20 \$30

\$50 Or \$ _____ (you choose)

Sign me up for the PTSA, I've enclosed my \$5.

Add me to your volunteer pool.

Parent/Guardian Email Address:

I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

Technological Help

Translators

Teacher Assistance

Administrative Assistance

Book Fair

Food Donations

Chaperoning Events

Parent / Guardian Name:

Student's Name:

Student's Grade:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WFMS PTSA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.