

West Frederick Middle School

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

Phone 240-236-4000

FAX 240-236-4050

February 6, 2009

Issue 2008/9-6

February

- Feb. 6 Fri. Student Club Sponsored Dance 3 - 5 pm
GYM (Cost \$5 & Student IDs required)
- Feb. 9 Mon. PTSA meeting 6:30 pm Café'
- Feb. 14 Sat. TJHS 7 pm All County Concert
- Feb. 18 Wed. 8th grade students & parents
mandatory registration mtg. FHS 6 pm**
- Feb. 23 Mon. SIGN Ups for P/T conferences
08:30 - 10 am & 4 - 7 pm Café'
- Feb. 24. Tues. SIGN Ups for P/T conferences
08:30 - 10 am & 4 - 7 pm Café'
- Feb. 24. Tues. PTSA Restaurant Night at Greene Turtle
downtown
- Feb. 25 Wed. Choral Adjudication

March

- Mar. 2 Mon. Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
- Mar. 3 Tues. Parent/Teacher Conferences (Afternoon)
- Mar. 9 Mon. PTSA meeting 7 pm Café'

Guidance Corner

Important 8th Grade Information: All 8th grade parents and students are required to attend a registration meeting in order to enroll for grade 9 in high school. Each 8th grade student has received an invitation by mail to attend the Parent/Student Information Night scheduled on **Wed., February 18th at 6 pm at Frederick High School**. Again, all students and parents are required to attend this very critical meeting. (Snow date is February 19th.)

Katy Boyd (School Support) and Jean McNiff (counselor) will present classroom lessons this month. The purpose of the "Four Year Plans for High School" activity is to help 8th graders plan for high school and prepare for 9th grade registration. Maryland graduation requirements (25 credits), Career Tech programs, and the fast forward program of earning college credit while still in

1

high school will be discussed. A student's "Four Year Plan" is always subject to change and should be reviewed each year before February registration for the next grade level.

Spring Parent/Teacher Conference SIGN-UPS:

Monday, Feb. 23: 08:30-10 am & 4-7 pm Cafe

Tuesday, Feb. 24: 08:30-10 am & 4-7 pm Café

INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Please call Lisa Gadra at 240-236-4037 to place your request. Please leave the name of your child, the language that you speak, the teachers with whom you would like to conference and the date (March 2nd or 3rd). Requests for interpreters must be made no later than Friday, February 13th.

Actual Parent/Teacher Conference Nights:

Monday March 2nd and Tuesday, March 3rd

National Assessment of Educational Progress

(NAEP) West Frederick Middle School was selected to represent schools across our state and nation by participating in the National Assessment for Educational Progress. This assessment (NAEP) is given by the U.S. Department of Education and the results tell what American students know and can do in reading, math and science. NAEP has been given in schools for nearly 40 years, and it is the only ongoing nationally representative assessment that provides this valuable information. Participating eighth graders received a letter on January 30, 2009 notifying them of their selection. The NAEP will be given on February 13, 2009. If you would like additional information about the NAEP, please visit the web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.
Mrs. Wood / Assistant Principal

News from the Enrichment Room

All students who want to participate in the National History Day competition held March 21 at Linganore High School need to complete an entry form no later than **February 25**. Please pick up the entry forms from Mrs. Reilly in EB 229. Watch for forthcoming online publications. *Think!* West Frederick's literary magazine, the Cadet Gazette, the sixth grade newspaper, and The Hallstreet Journal, the eighth grade newspaper are making their online appearances. You'll find the publications on the school's website.

Think! is also soliciting poems, short stories, essays, original artwork and photography for the next edition.

We have 31 teams competing in the spring session of the Stockmarket Game. The game lasts for nine weeks and students compete with other schools in the state of Maryland.

Many thanks to Ms. Jana Sheffer who was a guest speaker in Mr. Grimm's social studies class. Students learned about politics and the transfer of power from one president to another.

KUDOs and Congratulations to the following students who have had their poems accepted for publication in *A Celebration of Poets*, a publication that recognizes excellence in writing for students across the country. The students from WFMS are:

- Kevin Le
- Shamika Bowie
- Paola Dumadag
- Amy Liu
- Nick Dietrich

More KUDOsCongratulations to 7th grader, Madelyne Xiao, whose short story entry won first place in Frederick County's Young Authors Contest. As a first place winner, Madelyne's entry will represent Frederick County at the Maryland State Young Authors Contest.

Congratulations also to 8th grader, Jiaqi Jiang, whose short story entry won third place in Frederick County's Young Authors Contest. WOW!



REMINDER! All students need 2 locks - one on their school locker & one on their PE locker.



Box Tops for Education

Here is your monthly call for all Box Tops. We are still well short of our goal and we need your help. Please send in any box tops to Ms. Katzenbarger and thanks again for supporting your school.

The YMCA Edge Program is a great opportunity for middle school youth after school and is also free of charge to all who join.

Why should my child join?: We provide a safe and enriching environment for students, along with including character building activities, team building, mentoring, recreational games, arts and much more!!! Grant Funding allows us to provide this opportunity at no cost to participants and their families for daily activities.

How it works: WFMS participants will be picked up from West Frederick Middle School everyday and bused to the main YMCA on Market Street. Students should meet the YMCA bus at the steps by the gym before the bus departs at 3:10 p.m. and will not make return trips for students who miss the bus. The program will operate out of the YMCA activity room and will remain open until 6:30 pm. Parents are to pick up at the YMCA and sign their child out everyday.

Sign me up: To sign your child up, obtain a registration packet from the YMCA and complete it. Then turn it in to the front desk staff at the YMCA.

Raya Mills - Co-Director 240-674-5448
Marqus Dawson - Co-Director 925-917-1102

Volunteers Needed

The WFMS **ELL Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Gadra**, is looking for volunteers who might assist in the ELL program. Specifically, she needs help in a **small group/tutoring setting in the content areas of math, reading and social studies**. She could also use **volunteers fluent in Spanish, French or Vietnamese**. If you are interested, please contact her at 240-236-4037 or lisa.gadra@fcps.org.

Creative Arts

The postcards that students created in class should be arriving soon. We are currently working on designing a work of public art. Please be sure and ask them about what they have chosen to do. Students should be prepared to bring their metallic pencils/markers to class.
Suki Kuss

PTSA Corner

PTSA Meeting Calendar **February 9, 6:30 pm, cafeteria** (Our business portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm to be followed by a presentation by Rebecca Koontz, Instructional Director for High Schools for FCPS, on the various academy curriculums offered at the different high schools, i.e. International Baccalaureate program at Urbana High, the Arts and Communications program at TJ High, etc...)

March 9, 7 pm *** April 20, 7 pm *** May 11, 7 pm

Parent Programs

For those of you who missed the last PTSA's parent program presentation by the College Savings Plans of Maryland representative on January 12 and would still like some information, please contact their offices at 1-888-463-4723, option 5 or www.collegesavingsmd.org. The program focused on ways in which parents can more effectively save money for their child's college education.

Our **next Parent Program** will be held in conjunction with our regularly scheduled **PTSA meeting on Monday, February 9. Rebecca Koontz, Instructional Director for High Schools for FCPS**, will discuss the various academy curriculums offered at the different high schools, i.e. International Baccalaureate program at Urbana High, the Arts and Communications program at TJ High, etc.... This presentation will be of interest to all grades (not just graduating 8th graders). It's never too early to prepare thinking about high school options. The PTSA will **hold a business meeting at 6:30 pm** prior to the parent program which will start around 7 pm. The PTSA meeting and high school presentation will be **held in the cafeteria, NOT Modular C.**

The PTSA held a parent meeting for the Hispanic Community of WFMS on January 26 at Trinity United Methodist Church to discuss ways to increase student success through parent and family involvement. This was the first of a few programs which will be held in the community to reach families who are encouraged to be more involved in their child's education.

PTSA Fundraising Update

\$3,566 - Family giving ** \$249 - Spirit wear
\$176.49 - January's Restaurant Night @ California Tortilla
Total: **3991.49 (Our fundraising goal for 2008-2009 is \$7,500. We're still accepting family donations to help us reach our goal!)**

Attention 'Direct TV' Customers

If you (or a friend or relative) are a Direct TV Customer, call them at 1-888-388-4724 and give them the WFMS account # A1283. They will donate \$50 to our school. That's all you

have to do – just **make one phone call and our school receives money – no strings attached!** If you are a NEW or returning customer, they'll donate \$100 - It's that simple!

PTSA Membership Update

We currently have 115 members. Thank you to everyone who has joined. Our membership is open to all parents, teachers, students and even extended family members, so consider joining the PTSA for \$5. WFMS keeps \$1 and the rest supports the PTSA at the county and state level.

Upcoming Events

* **February 9, 6:30 pm, cafeteria** (Our business portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm to be followed by a presentation by Rebecca Koontz, Instructional Director for High Schools for FCPS, on the various academy curriculums offered at the different high schools, i.e. International Baccalaureate program at Urbana High, the Arts and Communications program at TJ High, etc...)

* The next **PTSA restaurant night** is at the **Greene Turtle** (downtown on Carroll Creek between Court and S. Market Sts.) on **Wednesday, February 24**. The Greene Turtle will donate **10% of everything sold** (food and bar) on that night between 4 and 9 pm. Spread the word -- tell your friends and neighbors. Treat your family to a nice dinner out. Gather the guys together for the big game or plan a girls' night with your friends. Either way you do it - it is a fun and tasty way to raise funds for West Frederick Middle School. And show your school spirit by wearing **black and gold!**

Volunteers Needed

- The WFMS **teacher's conference dinner** will be hosted by the PTSA and is scheduled for Monday, **March 2nd** at 4:30pm. If you're interested in volunteering for this event, contact Lindsey Biber at lindseybiber@comcast.net.
- It's time for conference sign-ups. If you're interested in volunteering to help people sign up for their conferences, contact Cindy D'Aquino at cindaq@verizon.net. The conferences with teachers are on March 2 and 3 (see other section of the newsletter) – but this announcement is to recruit volunteers to help with the sign-up efforts. The **dates for "sign-up" are February 23 and 24**. On the 24th, come sign up and then head downtown to the Green Turtle for WFMS's restaurant night!

Thanks!

A big thanks to the PE Department for hosting the Holiday Dance! It was a great success. Not only did the PE Department do all the organization leg work for this dance, but Mr. Slagle and Mr. Bono's spouses worked the dance, too. Thanks also to Luke Nealley, Pat O'Connell and Chris D'Aquino for working the concessions all night.