

West Frederick Middle School

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

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November 7, 2008

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Issue 2008/9-3



November

- Sat. Nov. 8 FHS Homecoming Parade 11:15
 Mon. Nov. 10 PTSA meeting 7 pm Modular C
 Tues. Nov. 11 All County Chorus Auditions at MOM
 Thu. Nov. 20 Chat w/Superintendent 1 pm C. Burr
 Artz Library Community Room
 Nov. 20 Mystery Dessert Theatre 7 pm Café
 Fri. Nov. 21 Mystery Dessert Theatre 7 pm Café
 Nov. 21 PTSA Movie Night 7 pm Gym
 Nov. 26 - 28 Thanksgiving Break (no school)

December

- Fri. Dec. 5 2-Hour Early Dismissal (1 p.m.)
 Thu. Dec. 11 Poetry Contest deadline
 Wed. Dec. 17 WFMS Winter Concert 7 pm
 Dec. 24 - Jan 5 Winter Break (no school)

SUCCESSFUL FUN RUN FUNDRAISER

During Conference week, one of our Physical Education teachers held a Fun Run during PE classes to benefit our Community Liaison's fund for families in our school. The students successfully raised \$565.00, with Jessica Leishman being the top earner with \$100.00 brought in. This money will go for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for families in our school community. Thank you to all who gave generously, to the students who participated and to Mrs. Garner for organizing the event.

WFMS FOOD DRIVE -- Now thru November 24th: Students from West Frederick Middle are accepting donations to support the local food bank, which is in desperate need of canned and nonperishable foods. Please send donations with any WFMS student if you would like to help or call 240-236-4000.



Thank you very much. Tracey Wedge



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

NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Teen Read Week, International School Library Day, and Children's Book Week all happen around the end of October and beginning of November. Just a reminder of some sources for great reading recommendations:

Maryland Black Eyed Susan titles:

http://www.maslmd.org/awards_nominees.php

Newbery Medal Award:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal.cfm>

The Ultimate Reading List (from teenreads.com):

<http://www.teenreads.com/features/ultimate-reading-list.asp> Recommended reading for grades 7 to 8 (from

NEH): <http://www.neh.gov/projects/summertime-7to8.html> 101 Out-of-this-world Books for Kids ages 8-13 (from Arrowhead Public Library):

<http://tiny.cc/DBKz4>

See you in the library! Mrs. Hicks and Mr. Spurrier

NEWS from the PBIS TEAM

The students continue to carry their incentive cards which allow them to earn rewards for following the Cadet Code. As a reward for receiving five signatures or less, the students in Cadet Commitment (CC) classes can plan activities with their CC teacher for a fun 30 minute period. CC classes receive a special treat from the administration, as well. Students who receive six or more signatures report to separate rooms to complete a reflection activity under the leadership of the student support teachers. Teachers find that consistent use of the incentive cards serves as a valuable tool in classroom management, when used in conjunction with other strategies.

Writing Contests

All West Frederick Middle School students are encouraged to participate in the two writing contests discussed in their Language Arts classes. Letters About Literature and the Young Authors Contest are unique opportunities for students to showcase their writing skills. Final submission date for Letters About Literature entries is December 6, 2008, and the final submission date for the Young Authors Contest is December 23, 2008. Please contact your child's Language Arts teacher or Ginny Hines, West Frederick's Literacy Specialist, for further details.



Who's Dying to Be a MILLIONAIRE?

Join us at the show to find out the real deal!

Our MYSTERY DESSERT THEATRE is around the corner:

Nov.20, 2008 & Nov.21, 2008

Beginning at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria

Tickets are \$5.00 for adults & \$3.00 for students

All County Chorus and Band auditions are speeding toward us! Contact Ms. Stefanizzi or Mr. Smith for information telling where the auditions will be held and what time your student needs to arrive at the audition site!

The WFMS Winter Concert will be held on December 17, 2008. Our program begins at 7:00 pm and will be held in the gymnasium. The concert is FREE! We are asking that you bring a canned food item or a non perishable item to the concert to support our school efforts in helping our local food bank.



Concert Note: Concert attendance is mandatory and is a part of our county assessments in music as well as a graded requirement as part of the class. Please mark your calendars to ensure your student attends.

Chris Stefanizzi

NEWS from the Enrichment Teachers

Mrs. Stefanick & Mrs. Reilly 240.236.4085

Writing for Publication—Congratulations to eighth grader Andrew Bryan, who has had a poem published in "Teen Inc.!"

The next **PoeticPower poetry contest** has a deadline of December 11.

Think!, West Frederick's literary magazine, is accepting student submissions for poetry, short stories, essays, artwork and photography, with an anticipated premier holiday edition debuting before the December holiday break.

Stockmarket Game for the fall session is underway and runs for ten weeks. We have 56 teams competing this time. Students meet in teams as an enrichment activity during part of their math class or during lunch. All teams compete against middle schools in Maryland.



The **school newspapers** are being written by students as an enrichment opportunity in language arts classes this year. Three editions of the newspaper will be published—one for sixth grade, one for seventh, and one for eighth. The sixth grade edition will premier before the holiday break.

Thirty-three students learned about the power of the press first-hand with an October 22 trip to the newly-reopened **Newseum** in Washington, DC. Highlights of the trip included viewing sections of the Berlin Wall, playing interactive news games, and watching the 4-D orientation film about the power of the press to affect change.

YEARBOOK UPDATE

Parents, if your child purchased a yearbook already, they were given a pink receipt. Please make sure you put this in a safe place in case there are any discrepancies. We have two check systems for orders: our spreadsheet and the yearbook company's spreadsheet.

Yearbooks will again be available for presale starting November 17th and continuing through December 5th. The new prices will be \$27.00 for a basic yearbook, and \$31.00 for a yearbook with name imprint / personalization. Forms will be available at the time of sales. Yearbooks will be delivered in June at the end of the school year.

GUIDANCE CORNER

MOVING ? When a student's residence changes, we are required to ask for updated residency information. The State of Maryland Department of Education audits all schools in Frederick County and we need to ensure that our records are in order. If the student's residence changes within our school boundaries, please bring a copy of your current utility bill (gas, electric, water) to the Guidance Office. If the student's residence changes somewhere outside of our school boundaries, please contact the Guidance Office immediately, so that we can help ensure that the proper transfer procedures are followed.

JOHNS HOPKINS TALENT SEARCH: The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth was first to develop an integrated program expressly designed to identify, challenge and reward young people with academic talent. The talent search looks for exceptional math and/or verbal reasoning abilities among students. Applications may be picked up in the Guidance Office. Deadline date is November 20, 2008.



Box Tops for Education

SHOUT out for box tops! This is the second call for Box Tops, our first call did not produce many. I received more box tops from teachers than students. Please send in all box tops. I plan on sending in the first round before the end of the year. They do not have to be clipped and trimmed, I will take care of that. Remember that our goal is \$3000.00 = 30,000 box tops. Products that have box tops: Ziploc bags, Pillsbury biscuits, Cereal, Mashed Potatoes, Pasta and Goldfish. There are many more products so look forward to the next newsletter for more. Thanks for helping our school. Kelly Katzenbarger

Need for Tissue Boxes

Math teachers are in need of tissues. If you would like to donate, please bring to your math teacher.

The Stop Wasting and Start Giving Club will hold their first annual "Senior Prom" at the Crumland Farms Nursing Home! We are hopeful the residents

will enjoy a trip back to the 60's with lots of music and dancing. The Club will be volunteering soon at the ARC of Frederick during a respite day for parents. Club members will be playing with and doing crafts with disabled children. [Leslie A. Williamson](#)

Lowest Gas Prices ... website ... bookmark the following site so you can save some of that hard earned money.

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/local/gasPrices.htm>

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

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.

FindOutFirst: Do you Subscribe?

FCPS offers lots of school news via **FindOutFirst** 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.

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 320pm 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

WFMS PTSA CORNER

WFMS PTSA Meeting dates for 2008-09 School Year

*** All meetings are 7 pm in Modular C

November 10

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 20

May 11

Parent Programs

The PTSA hosted a parent program on October 13 entitled "Understanding Your Middle School Child." For those of you who missed it, you really missed it! What a fabulous job FCPS psychologist, Dr. Mitchell Ginsburg, and WFMS's own counselors, Dawn Irwin and Jean McNiff, did in helping parents understand what their middle school child does, says (or doesn't say), acts and thinks. If you would like a copy of the handouts from the meeting, contact Dawn or Jean in the counselor's office at 240-236-4066.

The PTSA plans to hold additional parent programs throughout the year. Plus, **we're always looking for your input** as to what you'd like to be presented. So if you have any suggestions, please contact Jana Sheffer at jsheffer@en-netservices.com.

PTSA Fundraising Update

Thanks to everyone that has donated to, joined, or bought spirit wear from the PTSA!

Family Giving:	\$3,396
Spirit Wear:	\$249
Total Money Collected:	\$3,645

We are about halfway to our goal of \$7,500. Remember, a 100% tax-deductible donation allows you to spend less, the PTSA to earn more, and all PTSA activities to move forward as planned. **PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN!** Mail your donation (checks payable to *WFMS PTSA*) to:

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

Grocery Store Bonus Plans

A great way to earn money for the WFMS PTSA is through your grocery store saver cards. The school receives a percentage of the money that you normally

spend. During these tough economic times, this is a great and FREE way that you can raise money for the PTSA. To sign up go to the following web site:

Safeway: www.escrip.com

Giant Eagle (Apples For Students): www.gianteagle.com

Target: www.target.com

Giant (A+ Bonus Bucks): www.giantfood.com

Bloom (Shopping is a Breeze): www.shopbloom.com

If you have any questions, contact Karen Fishburn at 301-698-8709

Upcoming Events

FHS Homecoming Parade - Don't miss this annual event to show CADET PRIDE. The **FHS Homecoming Parade is on Saturday, November 8**, when they march to TJHS for the football game which begins at 1 pm. **The parade will leave the FHS back parking lot at 11:15 a.m.** (so be there earlier for line-up) and march along Fairview Avenue to the TJHS stadium. WFMS students will join other feeder schools in marching with the high school band and students. We encourage all students and families to join this marvelous show of school spirit. (Note: Once the parade is over, WFMS is not responsible for any student. So please arrange to attend the parade, game or pick up your child at TJHS stadium before the game starts.)

Next PTSA meeting - Monday, **November 10**, at **7 pm** in Modular C. This is a regular business meeting, but lots of interested ideas and updates discussed. So come join us!

FCPS Superintendent's Chat - Thursday, **November 20**, from **1-2:30 pm** at the C. Burr Artz Library Community Room. Come and talk in an informal setting with Dr. Linda Burgee about your school and child's education, plus lots more.

PTSA Movie Night at WFMS - the PTSA will be hosting a movie night with the showing of "Kung Fu Panda" on **Friday, November 21**, at **7 pm** in the **WFMS gymnasium**. Bring your family (younger siblings too), blanket or comfortable seating for the gym floor, and join us for a night of popcorn and fun. Let's relive "the old days" when families watched movies together. Stay tuned for more info on this.

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.

A Big Thanks!

Thanks for all **volunteers who helped** with conference sign-ups, Book Fair, the teacher/staff conference dinner, FHS pep rally, and more. This school could not do without the wonderful support received from the community. Keep it up - your help is greatly appreciated!

Also, thanks to our new student representatives on the PTSA Executive Committee - **Laura Linder and Nijah Orleans-Lindsey**. It's about time we have the "S for student" represented in the PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association)! We look forward to their valuable input in our meetings.