

West Frederick Middle School

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

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October 3, 2008

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Issue 2008/9-2



Calendar:

October

Mon.	Oct. 6	4:30 - 6:30 pm Family Life Parent Preview Night (8 th grade in Port 3, 7 th grade in Port 2)
Tues.	Oct. 7	Auditions for "Who is Dying to be a Millionaire"
Wed.	Oct. 8	Auditions for "Who is Dying to be a Millionaire" BOOK Fair 10/8 – 10/10
Thurs.	Oct. 9	Schools Closed
Fri.	Oct. 10	FHS Pep-Rally 6:15 pm
Mon.	Oct. 13	2 Hour Delay (school starts 10 a.m.) PTSA meeting 7 pm Cafeteria With a Presentation from Dr. Ginsberg & our guidance counselors BOOK Fair 10/13 – 10/16
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

November

Sat.	Nov. 8	FHS Homecoming Parade 11:15
Mon.	Nov. 10	PTSA meeting 7 pm Media Center
Tues.	Nov. 11	All County Chorus Auditions at MOM

CONFERENCE Sign Up Schedule:

October 7th & 8th (in the cafeteria)
8:30 – 10:30 a.m. & 4 – 7 p.m.
Call-In Sign Ups will be: October 10th

(After the 10th they will need to notify the teachers directly in order to sign up for a conference.)

CONFERENCE Dates / Times:

October 14th – 3:20 pm – 7 pm
October 15th – 3:20 pm – 7 pm
October 16th – 12:20 pm – 2:50 pm

Student Corner

Friendships

Friendships are never written or said--

You can say you're friends,

But how can you know?

Is friendship something you feel in your heart?

Or is it a phantom in the night?

You can't feel it on the skin

But it never leaves your heart.

--Wesley McMillon, Grade 8

This poem was accepted for publication in an upcoming edition of *A Celebration of Poets*, sponsored by Creative Communication Inc. WAY TO GO Wesley !!

YEARBOOK Updates!

Yearbook pre-orders have begun. The current pre-sale price is \$25.00 per book, or \$29.00 for your name imprint on the book. This pre-sale will run through October 16th. The next and final pre-sale will run Nov. 17 – Dec. 5, however, the prices will increase to \$27.00 and \$31.00, respectively. The yearbook will have 56 pages, with 16 of those in color, and an additional 8 blank pages for autographs by friends.

Pre-sales are strongly advised, WFMS will not guarantee the availability of a yearbook to any student except through pre-sales. Fliers have been distributed to all students through their first period classes. Reserve your copy today!!!! Pat Zigler-Wachter

Clubs! Clubs! Clubs!

This year, West Frederick Middle School is offering clubs to our students, as a way to pursue an area of interest that they may or may not be able to investigate in the regular classroom. Teachers are in charge of clubs, and areas range from cooking, to sports, to crafts, to science, to cartooning, to media, and more. At the beginning of the school year, each student had the opportunity to sign up for their top 3 choices. Every student was placed in a club for the first 10 weeks of school. Due to availability and the size limits of some clubs, not all students were enrolled in their top choice. However, students will reselect club choices every 10 weeks for the remainder of the school year. Clubs meet on Fridays. Every other Friday, they meet for 90 minutes, first thing in the morning. The Fridays between, they meet for 30 minutes, during the regular afternoon Cadet Commitment time. No grade is earned for clubs, but we encourage our students to participate and do their very best! Class expectations and school rules still apply. So far we have met twice, and both the students and teachers seem to be enjoying themselves!

Ski Club 2008/2009



Students interested in joining the 2008/2009 WFMS ski and snowboard club should see Mr. Graber in B portable room 108 as soon as possible. Information and necessary forms are available for enrollment.

Box Tops for Education

Parents the time has come to send in all those Box Tops you have been collecting over the summer. Please send in your box tops and the teachers will get them to me, Ms. Katzenbarger. Our school goal is \$3,000 which = 30,000 box tops. I will keep you updated via newsletters about our progress. Thanks for helping our school and students.

Stop Wasting and Start Giving Club

Will hold its first annual "Senior Prom" at a local nursing home soon. The SWSG is in need of the following donations for the prom - Decorations (crepe paper, balloons, etc.) Paper goods (plates, napkins, cups) Non-perishable finger foods (cookies, chips, etc.) Toy crown for the "senior" king and "senior" queen, Monetary donations to help defray the cost of photography supplies/services.

Additionally, if anyone would like to volunteer on the day of the prom, you are welcome to attend. For additional information or to make donations, please contact Leslie Williamson 240-236-4090 or leslie.williamson@fcps.org. Thank you in advance!

PERFORMANCE NOTES!

Welcome Back! The arts programs are already in full swing here at West Frederick Middle. Here are some dates for you to mark on your calendars:

- October 7 and 8: Auditions for the fall Mystery Theatre Production of: "Who is Dying to be a Millionaire". Audition information available Oct. 1st**
- October 10: All County Chorus permission slips due.**
- November 11: All County Chorus Auditions at Monocacy Middle School**
- November 20 and 21: Production of "Who is Dying to be a Millionaire" 7pm Cafeteria**
- December 17: Winter Concert Band & Chorus 7pm Gym
- February 14: All County Concert Band & Chorus 7pm TJHS
- April 2 and 3: Spring Musical 7pm TBA
- June 3: Spring Concert Band & Chorus 7pm Gym

*Reminder: **WFMS STARS** will be meeting on Thursdays beginning October 23 as we prepare for our Holiday activities.*

WFMS would like to welcome Mr. Marc Smith, our new band director. Mr. Smith comes to us from Baltimore City Schools and we appreciate him sharing a wealth of professional experience with us.

6th Grade Team Request

We are in dire need of tissues. Any donations of tissues can be given to the students' first period teacher. Thanks.

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

FAMILY LIFE PARENT PREVIEW NIGHT

On Monday, October 6th from 4:30 - 6:30 Ms. Katzenbarger will be holding the Family Life Parent Preview Night. Please come and view the videos and additional instructional material that will be taught during the Family Life Unit. 8th grade will be held in Portable 3 and 7th grade will be held in Portable 2. This will be the **ONLY** preview night held for the year. Therefore, if your child does not take Health until the 2nd, 3rd or 4th term you will need to participate on Monday night. If you have any questions please call Ms. Katzenbarger at 240-236-4000 ex. 64139 or 64086.

Guidance Corner:

An evening for parents of eighth grade students on Monday, October 27th at FCC Jack B Kussmaul Theater from 7 – 9 pm. **Learn about:** *High school requirements *High school assessments *Career & Technology options *Linking high school and college courses *Post high school opportunities Please RSVP: 301-624-2716

Talk with reps from high schools, colleges and other post-secondary institutions about career and college options.

Now Accepting Peer Ambassador Applications

Peer Ambassadors help new students and families feel welcome in the WFMS community.

They provide tours to new students, give support and welcome families to special functions throughout the year, explain schedules to new students and are available to greet students and walk new students to class. If your child is interested in becoming a Peer Ambassador at WFMS, they may stop by the Guidance Office and pick up an application. We need students from all grade levels. Students must possess leadership qualities, enjoy helping others, have grades of C or better, and demonstrate the 6 pillars of Character Counts. They must also ask a teacher to fill out a recommendation form and get parent permission.

Any questions, call:

Mrs. Marinello, 6th Grade Counselor, 240-236-4052,
Mrs. Irwin, 7th Grade Counselor, 240-236-4066 or
Jean McNiff, 8th Grade Counselor, 240-236-4063

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

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 an exciting Science and Technology Series program near you designed for 7th - 10th graders and their families. Please join us!

Are you curious about how scientists are developing sustainable "green buildings" and alternative energy sources? Join us for a day of hands-on activities and interactive discussions led by faculty at Drexel University in Philadelphia, an institution dedicated to combating the effects of environmental degradation. Details about this program scheduled for Saturday, October 25 are available at www.cty.jhu.edu/family/science.html

We anticipate that this event will fill quickly so register now!

Sincerely, Family Academic Programs

NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING!!

The Media Center will be sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair from October 8th to the 16th. The fair will be held on the stage this year due to space constraints in the library. During the week of the 8th to the 10th the book fair will be open during normal school hours. During the week of the 13th to the 16th (conference week) we will be open the

same hours as conferences and after school on Monday until 6pm.

We are looking for parent volunteers who would be comfortable selling and working the cash register during lunch periods both weeks. Please contact Mrs. Hicks in the Media Center (240-236-4067) to volunteer.

News from the Enrichment Teachers

Mrs. Stefanick & Mrs. Reilly 240.236.4085

National History Day orientations are going on in social studies and science classes. The Frederick competition is scheduled for March 14. Be on the lookout for a parent letter if your child has shown an interest. This is a fabulous opportunity for your child to dig deeply into historical research. "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies" is this year's theme.

Writing for Publication—Mrs. Reilly is visiting language arts classes in search of students who want to write for local, regional and national publications that feature work by middle school students. All publications are endorsed by the National Council of Teachers of English. Parent letters will be sent home with students who have expressed an interest in taking advantage of this opportunity.

West Frederick Middle School has just been awarded a **grant** for the creative writers program! As a result of many student poems accepted for publication last spring in *A Celebration of Poets*, the sponsoring organization, **Creative Communications, Inc.**, invited us to apply for a grant. The \$250 award will be used to take selected students on a writers' retreat next spring.

All sixth graders have been oriented about the "pull out" portion of the enrichment program where students are invited to work on an independent project of their choice, hear a guest speaker, or go on a field trip that enhances the curriculum. The program is open to all students at West Frederick.

Think! magazine, WF's literary magazine, will be up and running shortly. We encourage student submissions of essays, poetry, songs, artwork, and photography.

Stockmarket Game starts the week of October 6, 2008 and runs for ten weeks. Students meet in teams at lunchtime and compete against middle schools in the state of Maryland.

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

Attention Parents and Guardians! PBIS is here!

Do you ever wonder how your children are behaving in school? Now, there is a tool at your fingertips to answer this question. WFMS has implemented a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) system to encourage each student to demonstrate respect and responsibility for self, others and property. All students are issued a Cadet Commitment Card which lists the desired behaviors and tracks daily progress in these areas. Students are required to attach the card to the front of their agenda book which remains with them throughout the day. Teacher signatures appear when a school rule has been broken in a specific category. Consequences for repeated violations are listed on the card. The cards are tallied twice a term and appropriate reinforcements are offered to students who meet school-wide goals. The PBIS card can keep you in the loop with regard to your child's behavior. Ask to see it today!

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

If you have any more questions please call one of our co-directors, they will be more than happy to help you.

Raya Mills – Co-Director 240-674-5448

Marqus Dawson – Co-Director 925-917-1102



WFMS PTSA CORNER

PTSA Family Giving Update

In August we were off to a great start with our Family Giving Program, raising over \$2000. However, ever since school has started we haven't received as many donations as we had hoped for.

Please give what you can. We do not want to force a traditional fundraiser onto the West Frederick community, as buying items that you don't want or need, helps no one during these tough economic times. However giving 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

Another great way to earn money for the WFMS PTSA is through your grocery store saver cards. We will have a computer on hand during conference sign ups so you can go online and direct your store bonus programs toward West Frederick. Or you can sign up via your home computer;

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

WFMS PTSA Web Site:

<http://schools.fcps.org/wfms/pts1.html>

October 13 Parent Program – Understanding Your Middle School Child

School psychologist Mitchell Ginsburg, along with school counselors, Dawn Irwin, Jean McNiff and Sue Marinello, will discuss key topics, such as: What's normal and abnormal behavior for these middle school years? How do I communicate with my child? What types of discipline will work for my child?

Join us at our next PTSA meeting in the cafeteria on Monday, October 13, at 7 pm. Don't miss this great opportunity to understand how to best navigate these tumultuous years and relate better to your middle school aged child.

Upcoming School Spirit Activities

- **FHS Pep-Rally on October 10:** All FHS feeder schools will be honored at a pre-game pep rally with **FREE admission** to the football game on October 10. WFMS should gather at 6:15 in the lawn across from the stadium gates for a rousing pep rally. Then at 6:30 we'll move into the stadium to meet the football players on the field. The announcers will recognize each school, and their honorary captains, before the game begins at 7 pm. Wear your black and gold and support our FHS Cadets!
- **FHS Homecoming Sign Decorating Contest:** All FHS feeder schools are encouraged to **make a sign** to decorate the FHS stadium before we head out to the TJ game on November 8th. Each feeder school decorates a bed sheet to show their CADET PRIDE and encourage FHS to "Beat TJ!" Any WFMS student can participate. If you're interested in helping with the sign, see below.
- **FHS Homecoming Sign Decorating Contest on Saturday Nov 8th:** WFMS will submit a sign to decorate the FHS stadium. **Parent and student volunteers are needed to make the sign.** Please email Cindy D'Aquino at cindaq@verizon.net.
- **Do you like to surf the web and do Internet research?** The PTSA needs a volunteer to work with FCPS personnel and the PTSA to secure grant funding for enrichment opportunities for our school. Those interested should email Cindy D'Aquino at cindaq@verizon.net

PTSA Volunteers Needed

- **Conference Sign-ups:** October 7 & 8 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and from 4-7 pm in the cafeteria. **Volunteers are needed for conference sign-up tables.** We have help for the morning hours, but if you can assist us for the 4-7 pm time frame, please email Cindy D'Aquino at cindaq@verizon.net.
- **Teacher Appreciation Dinner: October 14,** beginning at 4:30 pm. **Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up,** as well as provide donated desserts and beverages for the event. Please contact Lindsey Biber at lindseybiber@comcast.net to see how you can help.
- **FHS Pep-Rally on October 10 at 6:15** – FHS feeder schools will be honored at a pre-game pep rally and **FREE admission** to the football game on October 10. Parent Volunteers are needed from 6:15 until the start of the game at 7:00. (After that time, WFMS will not be responsible for any child who is without a parent/guardian chaperone.). Please contact Cindy D'Aquino at cindaq@verizon.net
- **FHS Homecoming Parade on Saturday Nov 8th at 11:15:** Parents needed to chaperone the march from the FHS parking lot to the TJHS stadium for the 1PM game. **(Note: Once the parade is over, WFMS is not responsible for any student.** So please arrange to attend the game or pick up your child at TJ right after the parade.)