



# West Point Elementary School

12 October 2012

## Bulldog Blast

Parent Newsletter #8

Telephone: 938-2313/3827/2997 Nurse: 938-2069  
[http://www.am.dodea.edu/NY\\_VA/westpoint/elementary/Index.htm](http://www.am.dodea.edu/NY_VA/westpoint/elementary/Index.htm)

Morning Bell: 8:30  
Tardy Bell: 8:35  
Dismissal Bell: 2:50  
Early Dismissal Bell: 11:30

### WEST POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

West Point Elementary School and the Department of Defense Education Activity provide, in military communities worldwide, exemplary educational programs that inspire and prepare all students for success in a global environment.

### WEST POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

West Point Elementary School provides opportunities for all students to achieve their personal best and to become caring, respectful, and responsible citizens. Our school strives to create a differentiated learning environment to ensure that every child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. We work with the community to motivate and enable all students to be life-long 21<sup>st</sup> century learners.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

19 October—Teacher work day—no school  
29 Oct—2 Nov—No Pre-K Classes

1 & 2 November—Parent/Teacher conference days



#### GRADES K,1,2,& 3—5 Day Rotation

MON 10/15	TUE 10/16	WED 10/17	THU 10/18	FRI 10/19
Day 5	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	No School
MON 10/22	TUE 10/23	WED 10/24	THU 10/25	FRI 10/26
Day 4	Day 5	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3

#### GRADE 4 ONLY—3 Day Rotation

MON 10/15	TUE 10/16	WED 10/17	THU 10/18	FRI 10/19
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 1	No School
MON 10/22	TUE 10/23	WED 10/24	THU 10/25	FRI 10/26
Day 2	Day 3	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3

#### SPECIALS SCHEDULE

8:45-9:35 Third Grade  
9:40-10:30 Second Grade  
10:35-11:25 First Grade  
12:20-1:10 Fourth Grade  
1:15-2:05 Kindergarten

School Board Meeting  
The date has been changed  
from 7 November to **Thursday,  
1 November.**

#### Immunization Updates:

If your Pre-K or Kindergarten child recently received their school-age vaccinations, please send a copy into school. If you need a copy of the DoDEA requirements or would like to review your child's record, please stop by my office or give me a call. Thank you!!

School Nurse 938-2069



FOR SAFETY REASONS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL, PARENTS ARE REMINDED TO USE THE **KISS & DROP LANE TO DROP-OFF CHILDREN.**

**PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN BUS LOOP AT ANY-TIME, ESPECIALLY DURING ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIMES**  
With the exception of handicap marked vehicles

**Any vehicles that are witnessed passing a school bus with flashing lights on will be ticketed by an MP per NY state law.**  
Please see Kiss & Drop Rules & Procedures that are listed in the back of your Calendar/Handbooks.

**REMINDER:** Please call the school @ **938-2313** by 8:30 am when your child will be absent or tardy.  
**STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE TARDY AFTER 8:30 AM MUST COME IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, BE SIGNED IN BY A PARENT AT THE FRONT WINDOW AND OBTAIN A TARDY SLIP BEFORE PROCEEDING TO CLASS.**

#### WEST POINT SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY FRIDAYS

Show your school Spirit by wearing **BLACK & GOLD** every Friday.



#### REMINDERS

**19 October**  
No school—teacher work day  
**29 Oct-2Nov**  
No Pre-K classes  
**15 November**  
Picture make up day

Nadine Sapiente, Principal



**50**  
Years



West Point Elementary School will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the school building on 31 October. A fourth grade student brought this important date to our attention after he attended open house. This month, students are researching information about John F. Kennedy and life in 1962. Their findings are being shared on the morning news throughout the month and during our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on 31 October. Students are invited to dress as a person or character from 1962 on that day. There will be cake prepared by the cafeteria and classrooms will have varied activities. At 2:10, classes will gather to listen to the presentation by the researchers and to see a special appearance by students portraying President and Mrs. Kennedy. The world has really changed in the last 50 years, but the focus on student learning to ensure success in the future has remained constant.

**We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Scholastic Book Fair October 22-26 and Family Expo on October 25! If you are willing and available to assist, please sign up at**

**<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E45A5A92FA57-scholastic>**



Parents - This is the last week to send in your boxtops to count toward the class quarterly contest. A pizza party will be awarded to the class with the most boxtops as of Oct 18. Just send your **unexpired** boxtops - in a baggie- to your child's class. If you wish to glue boxtops to a sheet (optional), there are two collection sheets are attached this week's Bulldog Blast. Thank you!



As you are aware, the sidewalk used by our students during arrival and dismissal has been relocated to the elementary school side of Barry Road. This change has required us to look at safety issues for all of our students. One of the areas that have been looked at is the parking lot directly below the pre-K playground that contains the 15-minute parking spaces. In order to ensure our students safety, individuals parking in this area for school dismissal must be in the parking space prior to school dismissal and may not move out of the parking space until the buses depart the school. This will provide for a safer environment for our students who walk.

Another area that was seen as a safety concern is the handicap parking area located in front of the middle school. If you park in one of these spaces, you must back out and follow the arrows around the bus loop. Please do not back out and depart the area against the direction of the arrows. Keep in mind that you cannot pass the buses parked in the loop when the red lights on the bus are flashing and/or the bus driver has engaged the stop sign on the side of the bus. We know that this might mean you will have to wait until the buses depart prior to leaving the parking spot, but the safety of our students is a priority.

### “On the Road to Healthy Living!”

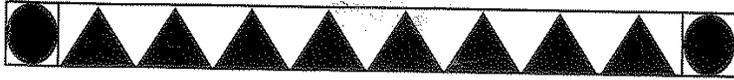


Schools play a critical role in helping children lead active, healthy lives. Physical education (PE) classes, recess, before-school programs, and walking or biking to school, all have the potential to get kids moving. Research shows that kids who move more aren't just healthier, they also tend to do better academically, behave better in class and miss fewer days of school. Please encourage your child and family to take part in our school-wide President's Challenge. The challenge last for eight weeks and encourages children to develop habits of being physically active and making healthy food choices. If your child was physically active for at least 60 minutes a day, at least 5 days this past week and tried to substitute drinking water for sugary drinks, please sign their P.C. log. Participants who turn in their log and have completed the challenge for 6 out of 8 weeks will receive a token of recognition and an opportunity to win a W.P.E.S. pedometer.

**A very special invitation to Fourth Grade Students:**



On days that you are not scheduled for Physical Education class, you are cordially invited to join us in the Gymnasium from 8:00am-8:30am and participate in “Move to Learn.” “Move to Learn” is designed with fun activities in mind, which help prepare our children to go into the classroom ready to learn. Activities for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter will include: Long Jump Rope Skills, Basketball and Fitness Activities. First “Move to Learn” begins Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Dear Parents:

It is a memorable moment when a child can bring to a parent a report card that shows success. Studying the arts can support achievement and contribute positively to that success. According to statistics collected over four years by Educational Testing Services, Princeton, N.J., high school students who studied the arts for four years averaged 53 points higher on verbal skills and 37 points higher in math skills in their scholastic achievement test scores than those without arts experiences. Art study builds creative thinking skills that can be used in other academic subjects. *You can help your child associate the arts with other subject areas by participating in the following:*

### Family Discussion:

Talk with your child about a favorite book. Ask why she or he likes the book, leading into the discussion with questions like, "Can you tell me what the story was about?" Ask if the setting of the story reminds him or her of a place they enjoy visiting. Ask your child to explain what is in the story that makes him or her feel good or bad, sad or silly, tired or exhausted, curious or afraid. Then, experiment with movement, sound and gesture to enrich the story your child enjoys so much.

### What To Do:

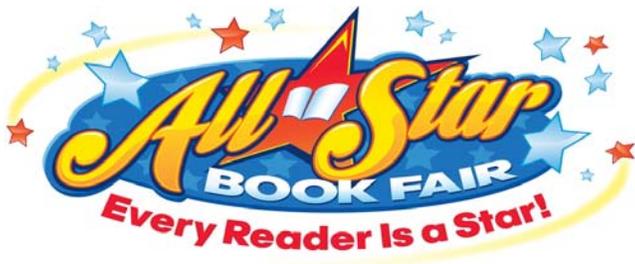
- ▲ Select one night as a "Family Reading Night" and make it a regular weekly event to read a favorite book together.
- ▲ Pantomime or act out parts of the story for one another. Imitate movements made by objects (such as cars, ocean waves and planes) and other people (such as drivers, dancers and carpenters). Create simple sounds that reflect the actions described in the book.
- ▲ Create costumes and props appropriate to the story in the book such as wigs or hats. Crumple an appropriate sized paper bag into a bowl shape that just fits on the top of a child's head. Cut 9" X 12" colored construction paper into 1/2" thick strips. Wrap strips around a pencil to curl. Glue curled strips to crumpled bag to simulate hair. Glue materials like feathers, buttons, strings and yarn to embellish paper wig. Decorate with markers or glitter glue.
- ▲ Use your costumes and props to add to the acting of your story.

### The Benefit Of This Experience:

Storytelling, acting out, creating sounds and props all contribute to the pleasure of reading. They help children by broadening their understanding of and ability to imagine the world around them. These activities positively affect children's ability to think, make associations and learn creatively. Sharing in role play with children brings excitement to stories. Monitor the quality of your children's arts education as you would for other disciplines. Joy depicted on a child's face while learning can say it all.

Sincerely,

The Art Teacher



**Dear West Point School Parents and Families:**

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission:

*encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.*

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme – **All-Star Book Fair: Every Reader Is a Star!** – is part of an exciting reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get.

The Book Fair provides a great opportunity to do some early holiday shopping or to plan ahead for birthdays and other special days. Hope to see you there!

- Book Fair Dates:** October 22-26
- Shopping Hours:** Monday – Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. \*\*  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Special Events:** Family Expo – All Star Carnival:  
\*\*Thursday: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Fun, Food and Shopping!

**Sincerely,**

**WPS PTO**



*Nadine Sapiente, Principal*

  
**Read Every Day. Lead a Better Life.**

# October 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 EARLY RELEASE 11:30  FALL FIELD DAY	6
7	8 NO SCHOOL COLUMBUS DAY	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORK DAY	20
21	22  BOOK FAIR 	23	24	25	26  BOOK FAIR FAMILY EXPO 4-6	27
28	29  No Pre-K Classes	30	31	1 NOVEMBER  CONFERENCE DAY NO SCHOOL	2  CONFERENCE DAY NO SCHOOL	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10