

# THE BULLDOG GAZETTE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3      19 SEPTEMBER 2008

## PROGRESS REPORTS— GREAT CONVERSATION STARTERS

Student progress reports were mailed out to all parents on Wednesday, 17 September, and then by email through Gradespeed on Friday, 19 September. It appears that the test of this Gradespeed feature was a success, as many parents forwarded the message to me as requested.

Now is a great time to sit down with your child and discuss her or his progress to date. In addition to the letter grades on the progress report, it is important to discuss other aspects of the new school year as well.

Some questions that might be helpful in the discussion include the following:

- How is the household homework routine going?



- Are support opportunities offered by the school needed or being used effectively?
- Are there any peer or

social situations going on at school that are making your child unhappy?

One of the plethora of life skills we all try to teach children is reflection. By taking the time to discuss the first five weeks of school, parents are able to model how looking at past behavior and situations can help to shape future behavior. While it can be a challenge getting MS students to open up, using something concrete like a progress report can get the conversation started.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

26 September— *Cross Country meet at Bear Mountain State Park*

30 September— *Picture Day*

6-9 October— *PTO Book Fair*

13 October— *Columbus Day (no school)*

17 October— *End Qtr 1, Teacher Work Day (no school for students)*

30-31 October— *Parent Conferences (no school for students)*

## 5TH AND 6TH GRADE INTRAMURALS PROGRAM

On 11 September, all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students met during seminar to learn what intramurals is. Intramurals is a program that provides students with opportunities to develop physical fitness, motor skills and personal growth. Intramurals will be comprised of mini-seasons which will include practices and competitions to be held at our

school. Teams will consist of a captain/coach, players and team reporters. After our seminar meeting, all students returned to their classrooms and completed a questionnaire indicating their activity interests. On 17 September, students learned the first season would be kickball and they voted on captains. On Monday, sign-ups will take place

during lunch. An only captains meeting will take place next week and teams will be formed. Practice will begin on Thursday, 2 October. Students must have updated physicals and appropriate attire to participate.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DARE	2
SUPPORT	2
CLUBS	2
GRADESPEED	3
SEMINAR	3
PTO NEWS	3
BOOSTER CLUB	4

## 7TH GRADE DARE UNDERWAY



WPMS 7th graders have started working with our School Resource Officer (SRO) to learn the D.A.R.E. curriculum. The classes are held during Seminar, with two Seminar classes receiving instruction at the same time. In addition to these teaching duties, the SRO interacts with students of all grade levels during lunch and recess.

D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

It is a drug abuse prevention education program designed to equip elementary, middle and high school children with knowledge about drug abuse, the consequences of abuse, and skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Based on the premise that prevention is the only long-term answer to drug abuse, the program includes all 50 states and 53 countries. The D.A.R.E. program is taught

in over 75% of the nation's school districts, creating a positive atmosphere for students to interact with uniformed law enforcement officers.

This unique program uses uniformed law enforcement officers to teach a formal curriculum to students in a classroom setting.

For more information, check out the D.A.R.E. web site, [www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com).

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS!

West Point Middle School provides multiple avenues of support to ensure that all students will learn in accordance with the Department of Defense Education Activity's curriculum standards.

**HOMEWORK CLUB**  
Homework Club meets every Monday and Thursday. Our school guidance counselor and others provide students

with help in completing their assignments. Computers are available for academic purposes.

**AFTER SCHOOL HELP**  
Most teachers or teams are available after school at least two days a week to provide one-on-one or small-group help with current learning tasks and lessons. Please con-

tact the teacher by email to set up a time.

### SEMINAR

Every student in the middle school is enrolled in Seminar during period 8. Teachers and/or students may initiate appointments to receive additional time and support during the school day.



## ACADEMIC CLUBS

Academic club sponsors have been selected for the school year and are getting underway. Participation in a club is limited to the target group of students listed.

**NEWSPAPER CLUB** is open to grades 5 & 6. Meets Tuesdays and Fridays either during Seminar or after school.

**SPANISH CLUB** is open to

students enrolled in Spanish I or II. Meeting days TBA.

**GETTYSBURG CLUB** is open to students enrolled in 8th grade US History. Meeting days announced in class.

**ART CLUB** meets on Tuesdays after school.

**YEARBOOK CLUB** meets Thursdays after school.

**STUDENT GOV'T** for elected students in all grades. Meeting days TBA.

The following extra-curricular activities will also be offered to students meeting the criteria to participate: Band, Chorus, and National Junior Honor Society.



## GRADESPEED PARENT CONNECTION NOW OPEN!

West Point Middle School is pleased to announce that parents now have on-line access to student grades, assignments, and attendance information using GradeSpeed, a new program purchased for all Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools.

Here are important points for parents:

- Teachers will enter grades within **five** school days of the completion of a learning task.
- Teachers will post the next assignment either in GradeSpeed or on the school's homework web site (Realidades web site for Spanish classes).
- The notes feature of the program allows parents to communicate with teachers about assignments, but email remains the fastest way to communicate with teachers.

Our school web site has directions for requesting Parent Connection logins. Parents should complete the form on the web site and also initiate the login through GradeSpeed. The login will be activated only after the parent brings the form by the school to verify that it is in fact the parent of the student that is requesting access to this sensitive information.



## SEMINAR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Seminar Enrichment Program, piloted last year, enjoyed great success and will be continued this year. Its goal is to acquaint students with topics of interest beyond the regular school curriculum. Twice monthly, guest speakers from the community give presentations which range from slide lectures in the auditorium to small group workshops.

Students sign up to attend these optional events which are held during the seminar block. Assemblies are almost always held from 1:35—2:05.

Past programs have included pantomime, Russian language, global warming, Sub-Saharan Africa, journalism, Gypsy Vanner horses, and rocket science. Our first

guest speaker joins us on September 29 to talk about his experiences at the Beijing Olympics. We invite parents and community members who would like to present a program to contact the office.



## PTO NEWS

The PTO appreciates all of your hard work on the Read-a-Thon! We are continuing to tally. We will reveal all of the winners and totals in next week's newsletter. Thank you WPS! You ROCKED the Read-A-Thon!!!

PTO Scholastic Book Fair  
Monday through Thursday  
October 6-9 from 8am-4pm

Wednesday, October 8  
Sunrise Shopping 7am - 8am  
Family Night 5:30pm-8pm

Please remember to put your child's name on the bags containing their box-tops. The student with the most box-tops at the end of each quarter will be awarded a \$10 gift certificate to the coffee/ice cream shop.

We are no longer accepting PTO student/parent directory forms. The directory will be going to print soon!

PTO membership forms available in both school offices.



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### BOOKMARK OUR WEB SITE

HTTP://  
WWW.AM.DODEA.EDU/  
NY\_VA/WESTPOINT/  
MIDDLE/INDEX.HTM

### MISSION STATEMENT

WPMS STRIVES TO PROVIDE ALL  
LEARNERS WITH EXEMPLARY  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT  
INSPIRE LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN  
A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.

## QUICK NOTES

- Student Supervision Times: Student supervision is from 7:30 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. Students are allowed on campus outside of these times only when they are working with a teacher.
- School Board: West Point Schools has a five-person, elected school board. The board advises school administration on school operations and issues. The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. in the MS conference room.
- PE Locker Rooms: Parents are reminded that physical education students are encouraged to bring a combination lock to secure their belongings in the daily use locker room lockers.
- Health Screenings: Members of the Keller Army Community Hospital (KACH) conducted health screenings for all students this week. Vision, hearing, and scoliosis checks were some of the preventive checks made. The school nurse or KACH personnel will contact parents for follow-up if necessary.
- Lost and Found: The middle school lost and found is located in the back of the auditorium. As fall weather arrives, parents are reminded to label cold-weather clothing, as much of it ends up in the lost and found. The lost and found is periodically emptied, with its contents stored in the school basement until the end of the year. Leftover items are then donated to charity.
- Parking Reminder: Parents are reminded that parking in the fire zone is prohibited at all times.
- Go Army— beat Akron!

## BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

**SMILE!!** Tuesday 30 September is picture day. Order forms will be sent home the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup> and must be turned into the photographer at the time the student is photographed. No late orders will be accepted. Make sure your child has their order form and money on Tuesday 30 September. Take advantage of the FAMILY PLAN. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> child in the same family and enrolled at West Point Ele-

mentary or West Point Middle School will receive the same package as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> child, **FREE OF CHARGE**. All students will be photographed regardless whether or not a package is purchased. This photograph will be used in the free class composite pictures each student will receive later in the school year. Please avoid dressing your child in green. Davis Studios uses a special green screen so they can then

replace it with your choice of scenic backgrounds.

Come out and support the WPS Cross Country Team at the Black and Gold Cross Country Invitational hosted by West Point Middle School. Over 15 schools will compete at Bear Mountain State Park. Go Bulldogs!!

