

# THE BULLDOG GAZETTE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4      3 OCTOBER 2008

## LOOKING AHEAD: PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

While it seems like school just started, the end of the first grading period is around the corner. The last day for quarter one classes is 16 October. 17 October is a teacher work day—there will be no school for students. Report cards will be mailed home the following week.

Now is a great time to start thinking about parent-teacher conferences. While conferences do not take place until the end of the month, some advance preparation will make the meeting more productive

and meaningful for everyone in attendance.

Take some time in the next few weeks to help your child reflect on her or his progress to date. Asking



them to describe what they believe to be their strengths and challenges as a learner can reveal possible conference topics.

So that you can get a feel for

how your child is faring with homework, sit with her or him one evening and ask them to tell you what they are being asked to do and why. Homework is a critical part of the learning process, reinforcing in-class lessons, and discussing it will provide conference discussion points as well.

Parent conferences are usually attended by most of a student's teachers and may be initiated by teachers or parents. Please call the office if you would like to set up a conference.

*-David Rudy, Principal*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

6-9 October— PTO Book Fair

7 October— Hudson River Snapshot Day for grade 7

13 October— Columbus Day (no school)

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

27 October— Hispanic Heritage Assembly (1:05)

29 October— Fall Dance for grades 7 & 8

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

11 November— Veterans' Day (no school for students)

## 5TH AND 6TH GRADE INTRAMURALS NEWS

The results of our intramural questionnaire show that kickball is by far the activity that most WPMS students want to play. Fifty-seven 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students signed up for kickball and are ready to play! Captains met this past week to make teams that are equitable, review rules and to learn some mini-kickball games to teach to their teams. The

Captains learned their responsibilities include making line-ups, teaching skills, assigning players to serve as equipment managers, scorekeepers and on the field sport reporters. Kickball began on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Students are expected to take care of school business first, change into game wear (must wear sneakers), bring backpacks

etc, and meet in grade 5 classrooms. For more information regarding the intramurals program, please contact the office.

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## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Military OneSource

The 21 century brings to us a world of wonderful innovations, but it can also bring challenges and stress for a family. Running a family, meeting school demands and maintaining military life can become a difficult act to balance.

Military OneSource is a resource that offers help and support in many different ways. All active duty person-

nel and DoD employees are welcome to utilize these resources. The web site is easy to follow and the phone number toll free. Take a moment to check it out and see if you or family members could benefit.

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

1-800-342-9647

### Homework Club

Homework Club is up and running. If your child com-

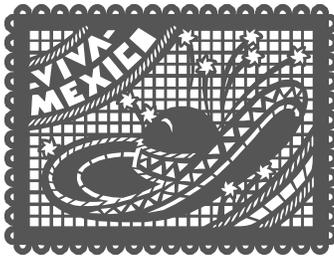
plains about carrying heavy books, or if your child seems to be confused about what homework needs to be completed, the Homework Club might be the answer.

Homework Club meets every Monday and Thursday. This is a drop in program, no prior arrangements need to be made and students can come and go as they finish their work. Homework has never been so much fun!



## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.



The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." More than 35 mil-

lion people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino on the 2000 Census.

West Point Middle School will celebrate Hispanic Heritage with an assembly celebrating the accomplishments of Hispanic-Americans. As always, parents are invited!

## SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

West Point Middle School recently received notification of continuing accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). This action was taken at the AdvancED Accreditation Commission meeting held on June 25, 2008. AdvancED is the parent organization of NCA CASI.

The accreditation is valid for the next five years.

The primary benefit of accreditation is that it helps schools to improve. While we are proud of the many accomplishments of our teachers and students, there is always room to grow. At WPMS, this is accomplished through our School Improvement Plan

(SIP) A thorough analysis of student performance data revealed that, despite our students very high test scores, growth could be encouraged in the areas of written expression and problem solving. The school has adopted the 6+1 Traits of Writing and the Big6 Problem Solving Skills to assist students in these areas.



## FROM THE CAFETERIA

The Meals Plus program has been implemented at West Point Middle School. Students now type their PIN at the cash register to purchase a lunch. The line is moving more quickly and account balances are more readily available than they were in the past.

A trial program of opening the salad-ordering option to students in grades 5 and 6 is underway. Previously, only students in grades 7 and 8

were allowed to order salads. Early participation numbers are high, a trend that we hope will continue as students opt for a salad at lunch time. In order to minimize waste, the daily lunch count includes a list of students ordering salad. Students ordering a salad in the morning are expected to take the salad when they go through the lunch line. Salad customers are still required to have three items on their tray.

West Point Middle School offers free and reduced lunches for students whose parents meet the financial requirements of the program. Forms are available in the main office and are handled with the utmost discretion. The regular lunch price is \$1.90 per day. The reduced rate is \$0.25.

Ala carte items, including milk, chips, ice cream, and cookies, are available for sale as well.



## YEAR-END FUNDING

As is the case with all federal government organizations, 30 September marks the end of the fiscal year for the Department of Defense Education Activity. Many West Point Middle School projects and purchases were recently funded, listed below:

- Roof replacement (will likely take place during this school year— more to

follow)

- Student/teacher furniture for five classrooms
- Student furniture for the Information Center
- Five interactive white boards and associated hardware
- Bridge to Algebra mathematics skill –building software
- Large digital scanner for art/yearbook classes
- Guitar storage cabinets
- Chemical Hygiene Program supplies
- Thirty graphing calculators
- Every teacher-generated request was also funded



## BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

The Black and Gold Cross Country Invitational hosted by West Point Middle School was Friday, 26 September. Congratulations to the West Point Girls Team who placed third.

Thank you to all the teachers, parents, and students who made this invitational such a success! Please check out the

Booster Club website at <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=westpointboosterclub>

Booster Club is happy to support the purchase of equipment for the 5th and 6th grade intramural program at WPMS.

Spirit T-Shirts are now for sale. Order your T-Shirt today. The order form is attached to the newsletter email.



## WEST POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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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

- Construction Near School Entrance: DPW will be performing a stream restoration project on the Sinclair Pond Brook, next to the Youth Activity Center starting on 15 October. The project is limited to the area between the Merritt Road Bridge and the Washington Road Bridge.
- Olympics Finals and Awards: Students competing in WPMS's first-ever PE class Olympics were recognized at a medal ceremony in the middle school auditorium today.
- Gradespeed Parent Connection: Parents are reminded to sign up for on-line access to student grades, assignments, and attendance through Gradespeed. Sign-up information can be found on the school web site.
- Cooler Weather Approaching: As fall temperatures start to become the norm, students are reminded to dress accordingly. Outside activities such as recess and morning arrival will only be moved inside if the temperature dips below freezing.
- Lost and Found: The lost and found is filling up with hoodies and other items. Students are reminded to check the lost and found periodically for missing items. Parents are encouraged to label all clothing.
- Go Army— beat Tulane!

## PTO NEWS

The 1st Annual Read-A-Thon was a HUGE success! The students read over **205,000 pages** in just two weeks! Way to go! They also raised over **\$24,000!** That is AWESOME! We are so proud of you all! Top readers and top reading classes received awards or parties.

There were numerous volunteers along the way who gave of their time and talents to help with the Read-A-Thon. We appreciate it! Bulldogs- You are Amazing!

Thank you for your generous support of our latest fundraising initiative, the Read-A-Thon! So...what did you

think?

PTO Scholastic Book Fair  
Monday through Thursday  
October 6-9. Wednesday,  
October 8 Sunrise Shopping  
7am - 8am and Family Night  
5:30pm-8pm.

The PTO would like to thank all of the volunteers that come in and make a difference! Most recently, thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the Vision and Hearing Screenings.

