

# THE BULLDOG GAZETTE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1      22 AUGUST 2008

## WELCOME TO THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR!

It is an honor and a privilege to welcome our West Point families to the 2008-2009 school year! Teachers returned from summer recess refreshed and ready to once again do whatever it takes to provide our students with rigorous, relevant learning tasks that will prepare them to succeed in a global environment.

Roughly sixty of our 275 students are new to the West Point community this year, and we have been working hard to provide them with a smooth transition to our school. Please contact our guidance counselor if there is a need for us to provide individualized transition assistance for any of our new students.

We are also here to support the families of deployed service members. Parents are urged to let us know when the sponsor is deployed, so that we can help the affected student(s) navigate through the challenges



that deployment presents for every family member. Parent notification is the only way that the school is informed of deployments, so please contact our guidance counselor should this need arise. The information

will only be shared with the affected teachers.

Educating today's student, like most worthwhile endeavors in life, is a group effort. It does indeed take a village these days! Teachers benefit from information about your child that only parents can provide, information that does not always come through on transferred records.

Please feel free to contact me at any time during the school year should you have any questions or concerns about our school. Working together, I know that our students will have another successful year at WPMS!

- David Rudy, Principal

## OPEN HOUSE DATE CHANGED TO 27 AUGUST

August is a very busy time of year at the US Military Academy, as students of all ages return to classrooms. The middle school Open House, originally scheduled for 28 August, has been moved up a day to 27 August due to a scheduling conflict with another im-

portant event taking place on post. Making this change will ensure that most of our parents will be able to attend the open house.

The Open House will start at 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium, where Principal Rudy will provide a school over-

view, introduce the elective/exploratory teachers, and discuss extracurricular offerings.

At 5:00 and 5:30 p.m., two sessions of grade-level meetings will take place. The event will conclude at 6:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

27 August, 4:30– 6:00 p.m. -  
*Open House*

1 September– *Labor Day (no school)*

3 September, 4:30– *School Board Meeting*

17 September– *Progress reports mailed home*

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)*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LEASES NEEDED      2

IMMUNIZATIONS      2

EMAIL ADDRESS      2

BLDG. ACCESS      3

NEWSLETTERS      3

SIP      3

PTO NEWS      4

## HOUSING LEASES REQUIRED FOR ENROLLMENT



Enrollment to West Point Schools is limited to the dependents of active duty service members and Department of Defense employees residing on post. Department of Defense Education Activity requires local schools to verify this eligibility with a copy of pages one and three of a current lease signed with the RCI contractor.

At present, many student enrollment files are incomplete because the sponsor has

not provided the school with a copy of the lease. Parents are urged to provide the school with this document right away. It can be submitted by fax, (845) 938-2568, email to the Principal, david.rudy@am.dodea.edu, or by sending it in to school with a child.

West Point Schools will undergo a 100% enrollment file audit next week by a representative of our District Superintendent's Office, from

which a list of delinquent files will be generated.

Failure to submit required enrollment documents will ultimately result in a notice of impending disenrollment, so please follow these requirements by sending in your lease today!

## FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE— IMMUNIZATIONS



In order to keep our schools safe and healthy for all students, the Department of Defense Education Activity has established stringent immunization requirements.

DoDEA Manual 2942.0 states that prior to enrollment in DoDEA schools, students shall meet specific immunization requirements.

The requirements are:

**Hepatitis A** series for children 1 year of age and older.

**Tdap and Meningococcal** to all children 11 years of age and older.

**Varicella** or reliable history of child having chickenpox.

Please bring a copy of the shot record to the school nurse once these shots have been completed.

Your child's registration for school will not be complete until we receive documentation of the required immunizations

Please contact the school nurse at 938-7515 for more information. A voicemail feature has been added to her phone so that she can access her messages directly this school year.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED



West Point Middle School strives to be environmentally conscious, fiscally responsible, and technologically proficient by handling most communication between home and school via email and the internet. It is therefore critical that we have accurate email addresses for every parent with children enrolled in the school.

The school newsletter is only distributed electronically, by email every-other Friday and also posted on the school web site.

Teachers primarily initiate parent contact and conference requests by email.

Coming soon, parents will be able to access student grades, assignments, and attendance

records on the internet using the Parent Connection portion of our new grading program, Grade Speed.

Please help us to establish and maintain the critical communication link between home and school by providing your email address today!

## VISITOR ACCESS CONTROL UPGRADES

West Point Middle School is pleased to announce that there have been significant upgrades to the school's access control system over the summer. The first and most noticeable improvement is the camera-enabled remote entry system on the front door. Visitors wishing to access the building are asked to stand on the "X" and press the button. A member of the office staff will buzz the visitor in once the purpose of

their visit has been ascertained. The first stop for visitors remains the front office, where a new type of visitor's badge will be issued. The badges are reusable, so they must be returned to the office prior to leaving the building.

These badges are part of the new badge system in place for all school employees. Every school employee is required to display her or his badge when on campus. Parents should look for these badges

when visiting the school and alert the office of any concerns.

While our school may be located on a military installation, it is important that everyone plays a part in keeping our students and schools safe. Visitor cooperation with these new procedures is appreciated. Any concerns with the program should be shared with the principal, David Rudy.



## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

This year's newsletter has a new look, one that will hopefully be more user-friendly than the last one. The aim is to provide more information in the newsletter and reduce the number of attachments to the email.

Regarding the attachments, the principal may, at his discretion, include attached documents from other or-

ganizations that work with West Point families. This can include FMWR's Child and Youth Services, private organizations such as PTO or Booster Club registered with the appropriate West Point Garrison office on post, and Garrison or USMA organizations such as the chapel.

This inclusion is conducted as a public service to families. It

does not in any way imply endorsement or affiliation with any of these organizations.

The newsletter email will include a list of the attachments and to whom they belong. So that parents are free to open or ignore as the wish. Only the newsletter will be posted to the school web site.



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)

Every Department of Defense Education Activity school is required to have a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that is developed based upon standardized test scores and local assessment data. The SIP is an integral part of the school accreditation process, which is conducted in all DoDEA schools by an organization named AdvancEd.

WPMS's School Improvement Plan has two goals, each of which has a primary intervention strategy:

**GOAL 1:** All students will improve their writing skills across the curriculum.

**GOAL 1 INTERVENTION:** 6 + 1 Traits of Writing

**GOAL 2:** All students will

improve their problem-solving skills across the curriculum.

**GOAL 2 INTERVENTION:** Big6 Problem-Solving Skills

All teachers have been trained in these interventions and are being asked to use them as instructional tools toward meeting these goals.



## WEST POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Teacher email addresses:

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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

- Lockers: All students have been assigned a locker. Every student is required to provide a combination lock. Students currently enrolled in Physical Education are encouraged to bring a second combination lock for the daily use locker room lockers.
- 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 when they are working with a teacher.
- Lost and Found: The lost and found bin is located in the back of the auditorium. Found items will be left in the bin for a few weeks before they are bagged up and stored in the basement. Unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of the school year.
- Label Everything!: Parents are encouraged to label jackets, backpacks, and anything else that might be easily misplaced during the school day.
- Electronic Devices: Cellular telephones, portable music players, and other electronic devices may not be displayed or use during the school day, including lunch and recess. Teachers are asked to collect these items and turn them in to the principal, who will only return them to the parent or guardian. Please help us preserve the integrity of the learning environment by supporting this rule. Parents needing to contact their child should call the office rather than calling her or him on the cell phone.

## PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION NEWS

Your West Point Schools Parent Teacher Organization welcomes you to the 2008-09 school year! WPS PTO provides valuable support to the WP school community and we invite and encourage you to become a member. Your membership dues enable the PTO to provide wonderful services for WPS such as field trip funding, new library books, school assemblies, book fairs, school club support, staff appreciation week, etc. Also, as a PTO member you'll receive a free school calendar magnet and a free school directory (as soon as they're printed)!

WPS PTO needs a Hospitality Chairperson! This is a sweet job! Hospitality chair coordinates refreshments, goodies & volunteers for various PTO & school activities. We need this position filled as soon as possible so please give us a call @ 446-2707. Thank You!

Boxtops 4 Education program — Please keep collecting your boxtops . If you would like to help please call at 859-4943.

With your support we can all make this school year as awesome as possible! Watch your child's backpack for a PTO membership form.

Forms are also available in the main office at both schools. Thank you! GO BULLDOGS!

