

Wildcat Roar



Volume 10, Number 3, September, 2007
For the Parents, Students & Community of Western High School



Dear Wildcat Family,

As you read this first newsletter of the 2007-2008 school year, know that I am extremely excited to welcome all of our incoming ninth graders to their new home for the next four years and am proud to welcome back all of our upper classmen. This year promises to be exceptional and I am fortunate to have such an incredible faculty and staff to work with!

The most impressive addition to Western High over the summer was without a doubt the 22 new staff members added to our faculty. We added teachers in each core academic area as well as teachers in business, foreign language and vocational/technical education. We are also thrilled to welcome a new Assistant Principal, Gina Montagnino, to our school. All of our additions are all outstanding from the newest of the new to veterans just new to Western.

This summer served to facilitate the completion of our new 24 classroom addition, adjacent to our main building. We have long awaited the opening of this facility and our teachers and students are reaping the benefits of the state of the art technology and equipment in each of the building's classrooms.

I am sure you can tell I am very excited about this coming year at Western. My faculty, staff, and I are committed to the success of your children. We are continuing the programs that worked last year and implementing more that we expect will enhance our curriculum this year. As always, I encourage you to become involved in the education of your child by keeping abreast of their academic progress and school involvement, volunteering at school, and/or participating in one of our formal committees like SAC and SAF.

Sincerely,
Scott Fiske, Principal

Western High School
1200 Southwest 136th Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33325

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Important Dates to Remember

Thursday, September 21-Interim Reports
Thursday, September 27-Early Release
Wednesday, October 17-PSAT Administration
Wednesday, October 24-Midterm Exams
Thursday, October 25-Midterm Exams
Friday, October 26-Employee Planning
Monday, October 29-Start 2nd quarter
Monday, November 12-Holiday
Monday, November 14-Report Cards Issued
Thursday, November 22-Holiday
Friday, November 23-Day Off

Reminder to Parents

Students will no longer be permitted to sign out of school with a faxed letter from a parent. Please make adjustments accordingly.

Faculty Communication Link

The following email list has been provided for parent and student use:

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Identification Statement

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Volume 10, Number 3
Published bimonthly
Editor - Michelle L. Kefford
Western High School
1200 Southwest 136 Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33325



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Westernhigh.org

Western High School's official website is www.westernhigh.org. This site is updated regularly and contains valuable information related to staff, students, and a multitude of events and activities that take place on our campus. Please use this site as a resource to obtain information pertinent to your child's educational experience.

New Assistant Principal Proves to be Outstanding Addition

This summer, Western hired a new Assistant Principal, Gina Montagnino, as part of its administrative team. Gina comes to us from Flanagan, where she was also an Assistant Principal. Gina has integrated herself very successfully here and has already initiated several innovative programs aimed at ensuring student success. She hosted the Keys to Success dinner this month and is actively working one-on-one with many of our students and families. She is an incredible addition to the Wildcat family; we are so lucky to have her on staff!

Teacher Information

We have two teachers currently teaching out of field. Andra Liwag is certified in Journalism and is teaching a course in English and Robert Decker, certified in Business Education, is teaching a course in Marketing. We applaud these teachers for expanding their horizons and learning how to adapt their instruction to different fields.

French Teacher Receives Outstanding Honor

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Martel was selected as this year's Adjunct Professor of the Year at Broward Community College. Chosen by a committee of students and her peers, the selection process involved evaluations of her teaching, the arrangement of a portfolio and presentations to the committee. This honor of distinction exemplifies Mrs. Martel's dedication to teaching excellence.



WHS Student Goes National

Because of his previous and present volunteer service and commitment to the organization, Nathaniel Fritz has been selected for the Boys and Girls Club 2007 Southeast Regional Steering Committee in Charlotte, NC. From 10 states in the region, only 12 students were chosen to plan and coordinate all activities for the conference to be held in November. He was also honored to be chosen for the 2008 National Steering Committee to be held in Anaheim, CA. Only 14 students were chosen from members who applied from all over the world. Nathaniel is excited to be included in this challenging opportunity for such a worthwhile organization.

A Note from our Social Worker

My name is Phyllis Babrove and I am the Social Worker at Western High School. The main focus of my job is to deal with students who have attendance issues. I have conferences with these students and their parents to determine why they are having an attendance problem. The parents, student and I work closely together to help the student be successful and graduate. I also refer children and their families for counseling programs either at school or outside of school.



I am at the school five days a week and am located in the Guidance Office. My direct number is 754/323-2448. If I can ever be of help after school hours, feel free to contact me on my cell phone. The number is 954/347-6297. I look forward to working with you this year!

Notice for Parental Input

Please be advised that parents have the right to provide input into Instructional/Administrative assessments when appropriate in accordance with F.S. 1012.34.

Annual School Status Report

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal legislation and Florida statute requires that schools provide parents with an annual school status report at the beginning of each school year. The Florida Department of Education has produced a No Child Left Behind/School Public Accountability Report (NCLB/SPAR) for each school containing the required NCLB indicators, including the indicator on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). This report is available at Western High School; please call the office for more information or to view the report (754) 323 2400.

BRACE News

The application process to 4-year colleges is underway! This year, like never before, students **MUST** get their applications submitted early. Competition for admission to selective colleges is greater than previous years, so procrastinating in getting this process completed will only lessen students' chances of getting admitted. Online applications are the colleges' preference.

Students who do not have SAT or ACT scores should register, immediately, to take the October tests. It is imperative that all scores be sent directly to the colleges of choice from the testing companies (SAT or ACT). Students should **NOT** withhold scores. High school Registrars are no longer permitted to input test scores, so withholding them will only slow the student's admission process. The October SAT test date is October 6, and the ACT date is October 27. Students should register well in advance of the test date. Online registration is preferred. The SAT website is collegeboard.com and ACT is ACTstudent.org

Scholarship bulletins will be available for student pick-up, in the BRACE Office, twice each month. It is the responsibility of the student to be actively searching for scholarships throughout the school year. It takes a commitment on the part of the student to search for free money. Only Bright Futures Scholarships are "a given" if the student is qualified and applies. Most others are competitive. The BRACE Scholarship Bulletin can be accessed online at browardschools.com. Go to "departments", then click on the "BRACE Link", then the "scholarships" link.

Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program will be in full swing AFTER December 1st, 2007. This is an online application at floridastudentfinancialaid.org. Throughout the school year, students may track their Bright Futures eligibility on FACTS.org.

Mrs. Williams, BRACE Advisor, is available to assist students as they make their college and vocational/technical plans. They should set up an appointment to meet with her as soon as possible. Parents are also welcome to meet with Mrs. Williams.

WHS Night School Program Underway

Western High School offers a night school program for students who would like to make up credits and/or receive extra help in a particular subject. Students will be able to earn up to 2 credits as well as raise their grade point average upon completion of a course. Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:45– 7:00. Any interested students may see their Guidance Counselor or Ms. Montagnino in Student Affairs for more details. Please see below for night school course offerings:

Night School Courses offered

Monday/Wednesday

Math: Algebra 1A, 1B
Informal Geometry, Geometry
English: English I, II, III, IV
Social Studies: Geography, World History,
American History, Government,
Economics
Reading: Intensive Only

The Spanish National Honor Society

The Spanish National Honor Society is back at Western, sponsored by Mrs. Maldonado.

The "Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica" or Spanish National Honor Society (SNHS) is an honor society for high school students enrolled in Spanish and Portuguese and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. At present, there are over 1,700 national and international chapters.

The purpose of the society is to recognize high achievement of high school students in the Spanish and Portuguese languages and to promote a continuing interest in Hispanic and Portuguese studies.

Any secondary school student who has maintained an average GPA of 3.5 in the study of Spanish or Portuguese for a minimum of three semesters, an overall weighted GPA of 3.0 and is in the 10th grade or

higher is eligible. If the school is on Block Scheduling, the student must have a full year of Spanish or Portuguese during the year of induction.

If you want to know more about this great club, the contests, the awards, activities and scholarships, go to Mrs. Maldonado's room (609) after school. The club meets every other Wednesday in room 609 at 2:45 pm.

Saturday FCAT Program in Full Swing

In an effort to cater to all of our students' individual needs, we have developed an FCAT Saturday enrichment program, designed to prepare each student for the FCAT in the areas in which they have demonstrated they need the most assistance. An analysis of your child's FCAT scores and BAT scores are available on Virtual Counselor. You can determine where your child needs the most support and sign him/her up for Saturday FCAT sessions in the Student Affairs Office. Each Saturday consists of a Reading and Math session, with each session lasting one hour. The sessions run from 8:30 to 9:30 and then from 9:45 to 10:45. Please check your child's scores and register early for the desired session(s). We are committed to the success of your children!! Please call with any questions (754) 323 2400.

Words & Phrases/Number Sense, Concepts and Operations

September 8
September 15
September 29 Mock Test

Main Idea, Plot and Purpose/Measurement

October 6
October 13
October 20
October 27 Mock Test

Comparison and Cause & Effect/Geometry and Spatial Sense

November 3
November 10
November 17
December 1
December 8
December 15 Mock Test

Reference & Research/Algebraic Thinking/Data Analysis & Probability

January 12
January 26
February 1
February 9
February 16
February 23 Mock Test—extended
March 2 Review/Strategies

Students' Generosity Starts Early at Western

Once Jessica Bencivenga heard the news about the earthquake in Peru, she knew she wanted to help. Staggering numbers were being updated daily: over 500 killed, 200,000 homeless, and 1,000 injured. Pictures of the damage and the homeless survivors laying on the floor inundated her. Once school began, she talked to Mr. Works (the drive's sponsor) about creating a drive to help the earthquake victims. While hanging up posters around the school, it amazed her to see the response from her peers. There were a lot of people who showed their support and enthusiasm. Many students offered help: among them Stacey Capilos, Tanya Gale, Nicole Gandolfo, Vanessa Delahosa, Estefania Masis, and Matt Iacabelli. They started to collect donations for the survivors, including can openers, batteries, food, clothes, and tents. The entire school came together to help out. Thousands of items were collected, sorted, boxed, and delivered to Opa Locka airport at the end of the drive. The people that were collecting the donations at the airport were amazed to see that this generation of students cared about something that didn't even affect them directly. After dropping off the items, Jessica realized how much our school helped others rebuild their lives.

Words of the Week

Vocabulary knowledge and achievement in reading and writing are closely related. In order to assist our students in developing larger vocabularies, we are instituting a year long vocabulary program called "Words of the Week." Two or three days each week a new word will be taught during second period, right after morning announcements.

Each month, every teacher will receive a Words of the Week sheet containing the words to be taught, definitions, and sentences. The Words of the Week and their definition(s) will be given during morning announcements. Following that, classroom teachers engage in several different strategies to teach these words to their students.

The Words of the Week are posted on the Western High School website and on the bulletin board in the Student Affairs office.

Debate News

The Debate team meets in room 428 on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. As a fund raiser, they sell pizzas every Thursday after school at the green counter in the cafeteria. The Debate team is hosting a judge instruction night on Sept. 11 at 6:00 pm in the Western cafeteria that is mandatory for students and parents. At this event, a 7 night Norwegian cruise for 2, with balcony, anywhere in the Carribean that Norwegian sails will be auctioned off. Our debaters performed very well at CFL and NFL champions during the summer. Jared Sonnenklar placed in both for Congress. Our first tournament is in Winter Springs (Orlando) the 3rd week of school, then the team will travel to Yale University Sept. 27th. Good luck debaters!!

HOSA News

Health Occupations Students of America is a co-curricular club that promotes leadership and learning in the medical field. Since its initiation in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily, reaching nearly 90,000 members through 44 chartered HOSA State Associations. Western High School's first HOSA meeting was held on Monday, August 27, 2007 in Mrs. Boulger's room (room 319) after school. In order to be a full fledged member, students must be enrolled in a Health Science class at some point throughout the school year. HOSA also organizes 4 blood drives throughout the year, the first being Monday, September 24, 2007. So come join "HOSA: Where Dreams are Made and Futures Begin."

If you have newsworthy material pertaining to any Western student, please contact Michel le Kefford at 754-323-2439.

2007 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

9-14	VS CYPRESS BAY - 7PM	H
9-21	VS EVERGLADES - 7PM	A
9-28	VS MCARTHUR - 7PM	H
10-5	VS SOUTH BROWARD - 7PM	A
10-12	VS FLANAGAN - 7PM	H
10-19	VS HOLLYWOOD HILLS - 7PM	H
10-25	VS COOPER CITY - 7PM	A
11-2	VS ST. THOMAS - 7PM	H

JV FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

9-11	VS NOVA - 6:30 PM	H
9-19	VS S. PLANTATION - 6:30 PM	A
9-26	VS COOPER CITY - 6:30 PM	H
10-3	VS S. BROWARD - 6:30 PM	A
10-10	VS CYPRESS BAY - 6:30 PM	A
10-17	VS FLANAGAN - 6:30 PM	H

2007 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

9-7	VS NOVA - 6 PM	A
9-11	VS EVERGLADES - 6 PM	H
9-14	VS PIPER - 4:30 PM	A
9-17	VS MCARTHUR - 4:30 PM	A
9-19	VS SOUTH BROWARD - 6 PM	H
9-20	VS STRANAHAN - 4:30 PM	A
9-25	VS MIRAMAR - 6 PM	H
9-28	VS CORAL GLADES - 6 PM	H
10-2	VS CORAL SPRINGS - 6 PM	A
10-3	VS CYPRESS BAY - 6 PM	A
10-8	VS S. PLANTATION - 4:30 PM	A
10-10	VS COOPER CITY - 4:30 PM	A
10-12	VS TARAVELLA - 6 PM	H
10-17	VS CORAL SPRINGS CHARTER	A
	4:30 PM	
10-18	VS PLANTATION - 6 PM	H
10-22 THRU 10-27	DISTRICTS	

VARSITY SWIMMING

9-19	VS PINES CHARTER & C.S.CHARTER - 7 PM	A
9-26	VS C. GIBBONS & EVERGLADES 6 PM	A
10-3	VS CYPRESS BAY & PIPER - 6:30 PM	H
10-10	VS FLANAGAN - 4:30 PM	A

CROSS COUNTRY

9-11	POMPAÑO BEACH HOSTS @ TRADEWINDS 4:30	
	VS C. GIBBONS, ELY, WESTERN & PIPER	
9-18	WESTERN HOSTS @ MARKHAM PARK 4:30	
	VS ST. THOMAS, SOUTH PLANTATION, CARDINAL GIBBONS & SOUTH BROWARD	

- 9-25 EVERGLADES HOSTS@ MARKHAM PARK
4:30 PM
VS COCONUT CREEK, MIRAMAR,
WESTERN & CORAL SPRINGS CHARTER
- 10-2 HALLANDALE HOSTS @ T.Y. PARK
4:30
VS WESTERN, STRANAHAN, MONARCH,
FT. LAUDERDALE & CORAL SPRINGS
CHARTER
- 10-9 EVERGLADES HOSTS @ C.B.SMITH PARK
4:30
COOPER CITY, WESTERN, CYPRESS BAY
& FLANAGAN

10/15-10/19 RAIN WEEK

BCAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP
10-26 MARKHAM PARK
HOST – EVERGLADES
COACHES MEETING 3:30

10/29-11/3 DISTRICTS

ASL Students Share their Memorable Summer

Can you imagine taking an American Sign Language class and then being hired to become a camp counselor at Schott Communities for their Deaf Literacy Camp? That is exactly what happened to three of our Western High School students this past summer. What a wonderful opportunity these students had to be immersed in this beautiful language while getting paid. Let's see what they had to say regarding this invaluable experience.

Lauren Allison raved, "My experiences at the Schott Communities Camp for the deaf children were moments I will never forget. The chance to work with such beautiful, amazing children was more than I could ever ask for. I not only was given the opportunity to practice my signing skills, but to strengthen them as well. The children were so unbelievably helpful and giving, being patient as I tried to keep up with their fast paced communication and quickly responding to any instruction given.



I was given the wonderful opportunity to work for service hours instead of getting paid, making the work even more rewarding. I made such strong bonds with the children and found something special in each and every one of them."

Nicole Kline said, "I really enjoyed working at the Schott Communities Literacy Camp. During the day, we would help the kids with reading and understanding the material they were given so they could complete their work. When the academic part of the day was finished, the real fun would begin. Every day included a fun activity that the kids loved to participate in. Some of the activities included bowling, swimming, a trip to a nature museum, an air boat ride, karate, and arts and crafts. Working with these Deaf and Hard of Hearing kids was extremely rewarding. I not only had the pleasure of meeting this great group of kids, but I also learned more about sign language and about the Deaf Community."



Lauren Ruder added, "Working at Schott Communities summer camp was an amazing experience. At first, I was nervous because I felt that I was not the greatest signer. When the deaf children first showed up, I thought, 'Oh no, what did I get myself into?'" After about an hour, I was in love and had a bond forming with every child. Some of them were oral and a few had cochlear implants. They were a big help. At the end of camp, it was the counselor's job to come up with some kind of show for the children to perform for their parents. I learned so much from working with these kids and I would gladly do it again. I will be keeping in touch with a few of them and hopefully I will be hired to work there again next summer."



A Letter from your Sophomore Class President

Attention all sophomores:

Get involved with your class. Our class meetings will be held on Tuesdays inside the cafeteria at 2:45 P.M. Our class sponsor is Mrs. Boulger and our class officers are Fahad Mithavayani, Felisha Dake, Appy Ali, Kristi Schnepp, and Melissa Ostrander. At our meetings we will discuss future plans such as service hour projects, fundraising ideas, and school events. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings because all of your ideas are needed to make this a great school year!

Sincerely,
Alex Carmona
Sophomore Class President