

WESTMONT PTSA

December 2009 Issue 2



Westmont High School, 4805 Westmont Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008
westmont.cuhsd.org (408) 626-3406

www.westmontptsa.org

Principal's Message By Owen Hege

Dear Westmont Families,

I would like to wish all members of the Westmont community a very peaceful and joyous holiday season! May all our students enjoy a restful vacation period with their families and friends. Classes will resume on **Monday January 4**. There will then be two weeks to prepare for the First Semester Final Exams, which are most important in determining the First semester Grade when the semester concludes on January 21. It is this semester grade that is listed on a student's transcript, replacing the two progress grades that you have received up until now.

Final Exam days are **January 19, 20, & 21**. There will be two Exams of 2 hour length each day. **Students will begin Final Exams at 8:00 am and be dismissed at 12:20** daily. Please encourage your students to prepare for these exams in a meaningful way. Make certain that your students arrive early on these exam days. Teachers believe that this special schedule provides a more meaningful exam for students and the best opportunity for success.

I wish to congratulate all those students who participated so successfully in fall activities. In sports our football, volleyball and Girls cross country teams qualified to participate in the CCS playoffs. It was great to see so many of you join us for the very exciting Homecoming Week activities that were so successfully planned by ASB leaders and Activity Director Matt Kolda. We thank you for your support.

The Marching Band was evident at all the games, but also very successfully competed in a series of Saturday

Band competitions. Speech & Debate students were successful in several early competitions. The Drama students provided their successful Haunted House and have now completed their first full production of the year, **Moon Over Buffalo**. The Future Farmers of America students have also been successful in their early competitions with other FFA programs. We hope this is only a glimpse of the many successes students will have throughout this school year.

In staffing changes we have welcomed **Kim Vu** to our guidance staff. Ms. Vu will be here daily for Ms. Ruybal who is on maternity leave for the balance of this school year. She will be the guidance counselor for all **Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors whose last names begin from M - Z**. **Ms. Moua** will be here on alternate days and will be the counselor for all **seniors from M - Z**. Mr. Duron will continue to be the daily counselor for all students whose last names begin from A - L. Ms. Tovar, who will alternate days with Ms. Moua, will be responsible for special programs. She will also be available to help individual students as needed. As we have been short in our counseling staff, we are most happy to have Ms. Vu with us.

Again, my very best to all the Westmont families for a wonderful holiday season!

Next PTSA Meeting: January 5, 2010
7 PM in the Library

Guidance Counselors' Corner

Mr. Duron Freshman - Seniors A-L
Ms. Vu Freshman - Juniors M-Z

Ms. Moua A-Days Only Seniors M-Z
Mrs. Tovar B-Days Only Special Projects

College Applications: Students applying to private/out-of-state schools who require a letter of recommendation from your Guidance Advisor should have already turned in the request with the "Brag Sheet" filled out, the secondary school reports and a self-addressed stamped envelope. We prefer to write all letters of recommendation BEFORE the holidays!

Financial Aid: Do not rule out a college because of cost! Consider this - less than 50 percent of all students graduate from the college in which they first enrolled. Don't limit your choice to an affordable college. Consider college where you will be comfortable and where you will gain the educational experience that will suit you best.

Who should apply for Financial Aid? Everyone! The application is FREE! and if your family's income is too high, you may not receive need-based aid, but you could still qualify for scholarships, low interest student loans and work-study. Don't wait until you've been accepted to college to apply for Financial Aid. If you do, you may miss out on grants, scholarships, and other funding for your education. Students need to apply online www.fafsa.ed.gov. These forms ask that you indicate your family's income for the 2009 year. Your parents need to complete their taxes as soon as possible—estimates are OK but accurate figures are better. **A district sponsored financial aid workshop will be held on Thursday, January 14th at 6:30pm at West Valley College.**

Get organized. Create financial aid files for all your paperwork. Later you will add your Student Aid Report (SAR), award letters, and other important papers. The best source of financial aid information is at the college you plan to attend. Many private colleges require an additional form called the PROFILE. Call the college financial aid office and ask if the PROFILE is required. Some campuses may require the form be completed now, PROFILE forms are available online and in the guidance office www.collegeboard.org/profile.

The financial aid process starts with the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Grade Point Verification Form. The FAFSA asks for information about your family's finances, mostly from tax returns. The FAFSA must not be submitted before January 1, 2010. Submit the form no later than March 2, 2010. The federal processor will send you a Student Aid Report with the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Seniors need to apply on line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Create a PIN number before you apply online for financial aid. To set up your PIN, visit the following website: www.pin.ed.gov. The California Student Aid Commission uses the information provided on both the FAFSA and the Cal Grant Grade Point Average Verification Form to determine the amount of state grants. Applying for a Cal Grant Award is a two step process. You must 1) submit a GPA Verification Form, and 2) fill out and submit a FAFSA. Both forms must be submitted on or before March 2, 2010.

College and Career Center Upcoming Events

Financial Aid: January 14, 2010 - Seniors & Parents (Free)

Step by step filing of the FAFSA application, the Cal Grant process and scholarship research.

Choosing the Right College: March, 2010 - Seniors

Selecting the college to attend by May 1st, housing application process and tips on preparing for college.

Jr. College / Community College: April, 2010 - Seniors (Free)

On Community College Day, local representatives will present. WVC will provide Early Admission and De Anza will provide their placement test on campus.

College Basics: April, 2010 - All Students & Parents (Free)

Learn about the CSU, UC, and Private Universities' entrance requirements, the SAT vs. ACT, and what colleges are looking for in a student.

College & Career Exploration: June, 2010 - Open to All students

You will complete a career assessment, research careers, college majors and develop list of potential colleges to apply to.

For more information, send an email to whsccc@cuhsd.org.

The center is open M- F during lunch.

Name: _____
 (Please print first and last name legibly)

Number In Party: _____
 (Please count only adults and children over the age of 5)

Please mark the one box that applies to you.

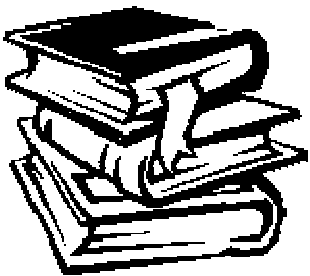
- CSF
- Honor Roll
- Other: _____

* Leave this form at the cash register to get your **fundraising points!**
 * The receipt must be attached for credit.
 * Sorry, **no discount coupons** may be used.



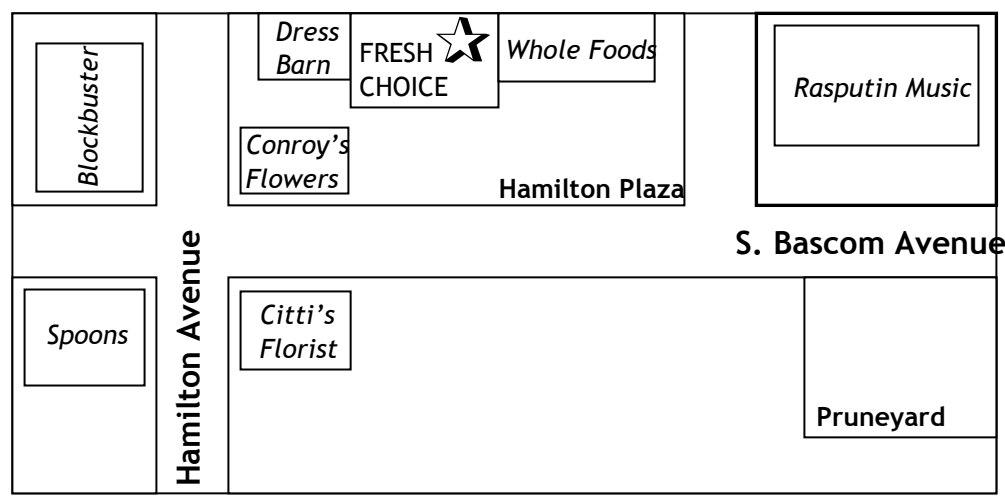
CSF & Honor Roll Club WESTMONT HIGH SCHOOL Fresh Choice Night

Profits go toward scholarships and Westmont
 CSF/Honor Roll Club activities.



When: Monday, Tuesday, Wed., January 11, 12, 13th
 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Where: Fresh Choice in the Hamilton Plaza
 1654 S. Bascom Avenue
 Campbell, CA 95008



PTSA President's Message by Joanne Longoria

Hello everyone and thanks for all your support so far this year! We have had a busy start to 2009. ASB worked very hard to plan a wonderful Homecoming week ending with a fun-filled Homecoming dance—and PTSA was glad to be there to help! Many people have asked me about 'Coat Check' and didn't realize that PTSA offered this service to our students. Coat Check is provided for the students during a dance event to keep student belongings secure ...and it's more than just coats! This service, along with many others, is provided as long as we have enough volunteers to help. Please consider helping out at the next dance to keep our students' belongings safe.

To date, PTSA has awarded over \$4,000 in grants to the teachers, provided funds to the Art Department for their first art show, helped fund scholarships to students, served hospitality events, and provided funds to the Senior Grad Night committee....and the year has barely begun!

However, we need your help! Please do not think that someone else will step in. Every person counts, every opinion matters, and every donation is appreciated, but we need to hear from you! Please attend the PTSA meetings and learn about all the exciting things happening on campus...from the students, the teachers and staff, and the district—as they all share their plans to help our school. Most importantly, you will meet other parents and students who want to reach the same goal....to provide the best possible high school experience for our students.

Both students and parents are welcome to the monthly meetings. Student representatives share what their class is working on, which gives your student a chance to help out. We welcome you and your student to the next PTSA meeting to join in on the excitement at WHS!

You can also help by picking ONE event or one activity to volunteer your time. Check out our new Volunteer Opportunity section or email info@westmontptsa.org to find out how you can get involved. Our goal this year is to have every family volunteer 1 event, attend 1 meeting, or bring 1 item to any event. *Can you help?*



S.O.S.

PTSA Needs Your Help!!

S.O.S.

The Westmont High School PTSA will have to be DISBANDED in 2010 if we cannot fill the following positions:

- PTSA Webmaster (help post updates to our website) **Immediate need*
- PTSA Daily Bulletin (help post articles for daily emails to parents) **Immediate need*
- PTSA President 2010 (organize meetings and plan activities) **Critical*
- PTSA Secretary 2010 (take notes from PTSA meetings)
- PTSA Treasurer 2010 (manage budget and bank accounts) **Critical*
- PTSA Newsletter Coordinator
- PTSA Volunteer Coordinator (help find volunteers for the school)

Please don't assume someone else will step in; our students need us! Please consider helping this vital organization to support your students! *Join us at the next PTSA meeting on January 5, 2010 at 7pm in the WHS library!*

Contact: info@westmontptsa.org

Attend a Mini-Grant Meeting!

Help Westmont teachers utilize PTSA money in their classrooms!! Come to the meeting on Thursday January 21, 2010 at 4:30 pm in the Teachers Lounge. So far this year, the Mini-Grant Committee has purchased the following for Westmont Teachers:

- ☑ Graphing Calculators for Algebra students.
- ☑ Lab equipment to measure voltage for Physics students.
- ☑ Shakespeare assembly for English and Drama students.
- ☑ Cameras repaired for Photo 1 students.
- ☑ Barnes & Noble cards for Accelerated Reader students.

*"PTSA Mini Grant has been fantastic for my students!" -
Ms. Wyss, Read 180 Coordinator*

For more information, contact Mini-Grant Chair Erin Saucedo at erinsauce@aol.com.

From the Health Office by Susan Sweeney

The Public Health Department states that if your child has a fever, he/she needs to be kept home until **24 hours after the fever is gone**, without the use of fever reducing medication. If symptoms become worse, or new ones develop, consult your health care provider. Thank you for helping to keep our campus healthy.

Senior Parents! Yearbook Baby Ads

Baby Ad information for the yearbook is here! You should have received a flyer in the mail, but if you did not receive it or misplaced it, here is the information. You have the luxury of doing this at home. Go to www.JostensAdService.com to create your baby ad for your Senior 24/7. If you have questions, please call Mrs. Jarrett at 626-3406 ext. 6216 or stop by room 16.

Full Page - \$350 $\frac{1}{4}$ page - \$125
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Page - \$220 1/8 page - \$75

Deadline to submit ad is January 22, 2010.

ASB Appreciates Teachers

by Carly Rodgers, ASB Freshman

On October 20th, the Associated Student Body (ASB) arranged a teacher brunch to honor all the hard work the teachers have been doing this new school year. Offered at the brunch were cookies, fruit, and brownies. A special treat was Starbucks coffee with all the trimmings which was generously donated by Starbucks because they, too, wanted to show their appreciation for the teachers at Westmont High School.

When the teachers walked in and saw all the food and coffee laid out for them, their eyes lit up and they asked, "Is that all for us?" ASB was delighted to tell them that it was. By the end of the day, all the teachers were full of food and Starbucks coffee; you could tell by their smiling faces that they were happy. When teachers are happy, everyone else is happy too.

The ASB once again thanks all the teachers for their tremendous dedication and support helping make Westmont High School a great school for all of us!

Show Me the Money

Seniors, check out these free scholarship search sites:

www.google.com
www.scholarship.com
www.college-scholarships.com
www.brokescholar.com
www.review.com
www.finaid.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.collegenet.com
www.salliemae.com
www.scholarsite.com
www.blackexcel.org
www.minority-scholarships-guide.com
www.collegesscholarships.com
www.collegeonestop.com
www.uncf.org
www.ncaa.org
www.armyrotc.com
www.microsoft.com/college/scholarships
www.nsbe.org

The Deans can't believe that winter break time is almost upon us and that the end of the semester is fast approaching. High school life comes at you fast; yet, for most people, it is the four most important years in their educational life. Earning good grades is very important, but high school is also a time for your student to learn responsibility, good decision making, organizational skills, and the importance of obeying the law and avoiding temptations like drug or alcohol use, theft, and fighting.

We wish you a safe and restful holiday and remind you that monitoring your student's activities during the break is an important parental responsibility. Knowing where they are and whom they are with is the minimal information that you should be given at all times. Have a way of contacting your student should that be necessary. Your student should have a curfew time with consequences if the curfew is not met. Your student will undoubtedly have school work to do over the holiday. If you have not already done so, you should register as a parent on School Loop, our online program for school academics, including information on grades and assignments. School Loop will enable you to see how your student is progressing in each class as well as his or her assignments and when they are due. We urge you to get involved in your students academic life including e-mailing teachers when there are concerns.

The Deans also hope that you make time to schedule some family activities during the winter break. Your student needs to know that they have a strong support base at home that they can depend on to help get through this challenging time in their life. Try to have frequent talks with your student about their classes, teachers, activities, and social life; but don't avoid difficult topics such as sex and drugs.

We sincerely hope that you and yours have a wonderful and refreshing winter break and that your student comes back to school re-energized for that important final push for their semester grades!

Freshman Success and Support

By Karen Stoneham, Vice Principal

Our Class of 2013 is off to a strong start. They have so much support built in for their academic success. Our freshman faculty were hand-chosen for their ability to teach and embed key academic skills and for the mentoring role they play. Many of our AP and junior/senior teachers also teach freshmen so the students learn a little about the courses to come. Our Link Crew peer leaders welcomed freshmen at registration and facilitate lessons about goal-setting and college-readiness in the freshman English 1 classes on minimum days. Of 435 freshmen, about one third are enrolled in advanced coursework: Honors English 1, advanced math (Geometry, Alg2, Trigonometry), science (Biology), and advanced World Languages (Spanish 2 and 3). This is a great privilege and they are working harder than ever to meet these expectations.

We assigned every freshman to a tutorial teacher and classroom. Our 43 freshman teacher/advisors were prepared to greet and induct their 10 freshmen when school started. The students who attended morning tutorial in their freshman advisory had a warm welcome, lots of insider knowledge, and a wealth of "how to" questions answered. Those who participated had a successful start to high school. But without making attendance mandatory, even the early attendees drifted off. The successes: those students know how to use tutorial and navigate the campus to get the help they need, and the staff learned that a few weeks of personalized mentoring helps every freshman with the 8th to 9th grade transition. The losses: students who need the most help still do not use tutorial nor do they have as many positive adult role models out there cheering for their success. Next steps: craft the right amount of mandatory advisory needed to support each student, and continue to form support teams with parents for any student who is not passing classes and stop their downward spiral with a team approach.

Westmont's academic support system remains strong and available to all students: daily tutorial with every teacher, HW Center in the library Tu-W-Th after school, and after school support by appointment with teachers and staff. Each freshman has at least 6 highly-qualified teachers, a Link Crew peer leader, a guidance counselor for academic planning and counseling, and a dean for attendance and guidance for any bullying or discipline issues. Peer tutors are available for those who come to the HW center. Peer tutors have also been placed in many of our freshman Algebra 1 classes, to maximize the positive help and modeling available during each class period. Students whose reading skills lag over 2 years from their peers and Algebra support classes are available through your counselor. Congratulations on a successful transition to high school. Congratulations to you, our parents, who are supporting your kids and our school to achieve successes together.



Westmont PTSA

Have You Volunteered Yet?

Westmont PTSA Goal =

Volunteer 1 event, Attend 1 meeting, or Bring 1 item

- Dec 18th - Jr. Class Treat Day for Teachers (bring treats to the main office on Dec 18 am)
- Monday Night Bowlers - We need 2 people interested in bowling on the PTSA bowling team ... lots of fun!
- PTSA Webmaster - Update the PTSA website
- PTSA Daily Bulletin - Post daily bulletin going out to parents
- Jan 9th Winter Ball - Coat Check (help secure student belongings during the dance)
- Jan 21st Mini-Grant Meeting (help determine outcome of fund requests from teachers)
- Grad Night raffle prizes (send in gift cards, donations, movie passes, etc)

For more information on any of these areas to help, please contact: info@westmontptsa.org

Thank You!

High Tech U

For several years Westmont High School has been able to send students to an outstanding extra-curricular event, High Tech University (HTU). This is a three-day experience sponsored the Semi-Conductor Manufacturers Institute (SEMI). HTU takes place at various companies' facilities--Intel, Applied Materials, etc., and includes hands-on activities that teach statistics, gate-array logic, semi-conductor manufacturing and the like.

Every student who has attended comes back really charged up--and three of them have received \$1000 scholarships from going.

If your student is interested in going, please contact Mr. Earhart (jearhart@cuhsd.org). The next HTU will be in February 2010.

Juntos Podemos

Juntos Podemos is looking for someone to help plan events and provide information to our students. The PTSA, the school administration, counselors, and activity director would like this person to attend and plan one meeting a month and help bring important information to the Spanish community. If you can speak both Spanish and English, please consider helping out in this important role.

Info: info@westmontptsa.org

What Test Scores Mean to Your Child and Our School

by Karen Stoneham, Vice Principal

Do you have a stack of mail somewhere on the kitchen counter? If you're like many families, the ads, bills, holiday cards, and personal mail can pile up. In the summer, you get some beautifully colored charts and data about your child's performance on spring testing at Westmont. It might be in that same pile. I know you look at the scores, but if you knew what they meant for your child, our school, and our community, I believe your child would perform even better in their current classes and Westmont would achieve an 800+ API score.

The PTSA has invited me to make a short presentation "What Test Scores Mean for our Child and Our School" at their February meeting. We'll post the presentation on our website at that time. I will explain what STAR (9-11th grade), CAHSEE (10th), and EAP (11th) scores predict and what actions each of us should take depending on the scores. So, please dig out those 2009 scores and bring them to the February 2010 PTSA meeting. You can e-mail your guidance counselor to print out a copy and pick it up in our main office.

Subscriptions to *The Shield*

Editors: Seniors Hilly Hess and Elyse Lambing

The Journalism Department offers subscriptions to our dynamic newspaper, *The Shield*, which is published 8 - 9 times per year. Subscriptions last year helped to produce 9 issues, including a 32-page color issue in June, and also helped to pay for 12 scholarships to graduating seniors. A \$15.00 annual subscription funds the production of our student-based newspaper, and, in return, serves as a tax write-off for you! Please make checks payable to Westmont High School and deliver to Andy Evans, 4805 Westmont Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Westmont High School
4805 Westmont Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Permit No. 738
Campbell, CA

Grad Nite!
CSF Fresh Choice Fundraiser!
"What Test Scores Mean" February 2nd
...and more!

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

2009-2010 Westmont Activities Calendar

The following dates are subject to change. The school calendar can be accessed on-line at www.westmont.cuhsd.org. Click on Event Calendar, My View, and select Westmont High School.

December 2009

16 Winter Concert - Cafeteria
17 Westmont Clothing Drive and Lunch Rally
21-31 Winter Break - No School

January 2010

1 Winter Break - No School
4 Classes Resume
4-8 Wally's Winter Wonderland
5 PTSA Meeting - 7PM - Library
9 Winter Dance
18 Martin Luther King Day Holiday - No School
19-21 Semester Finals - Minimum Days
22 No School
28-29 Faculty Show

February 2010

2 PTSA Mtg 7PM - Library "What Test Scores Mean"
4 AP Classes Parent Night 6 - 8PM - Library
8-12 Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week

February 2010, continued

10-11 Collaboration Days - Late Start
15-19 President's Week - No School

March 2010

2 PTSA Meeting 7PM - Library
3 4.0 Recognition Celebration
4-6 CSF Southern Calif College Trip
9 Athletic Boosters Meeting 7PM - Library
12 End of 6-week grading period - Minimum Day
15 Minimum Day
15-19 Spring Fest Spirit Week
16-17 CAHSEE Testing (Sophomores)
18 Spring Night Rally
19 Sadie Hawkins Dance
24-25 Collaboration Day - Late Start
31 District Music Festival

April 2010

12-16 Spring Break