

WESTMONT PTSA

October 2009 Issue 1



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,

The Opening of School this year has had a special display of energy visible both with students and staff. Even though it seems we start earlier each year, everyone was eager to return to Westmont and immediately engage in their studies and activities. The large freshmen class has made Westmont the second largest school in our District. In general, the new students seem to be adjusting to their new environment very quickly.

The first six-week grading period ended on October 2nd. You should receive your student's first progress grades by October 10th. However, I hope you are learning to follow your student's assignments and grades on a regular basis through the **School Loop** program. If you are having any trouble navigating the system, please call Roma Martwick, our school secretary. As you have already heard, **School Loop** will give you access to all teachers expectations and grading. If you have questions along the way, I encourage you to email your student's teachers.

Although the reduced funding for schools is often in the news, we are hopeful that we can still provide the very best high school experience for your student. So far our main reductions have been in the staffing of the guidance area. We will continue, however, to do our very best to assist

your child. However, we recommend that you learn more about your student through **School Loop** and direct communication with your student's teachers. By working together, your student will continue to succeed at Westmont.

I am very pleased to announce that in the recently published results of API information Westmont showed a significant increase in our school API score to 764. This is an increase of 17 total points. This is the highest score we have ever achieved. It is also the largest increase by any school in the Campbell Union High School district. I would like to thank the students for apparently taking the STAR tests last spring very seriously.

We are very pleased to say that our school subgroups showed major increases. For example, our Latino students increased their API score by 16 points.

Congratulations to the students and teachers of Westmont. Thanks to you, their parents and guardians, for continuing to motivate your student to do his/her very best.

Guidance Counselors' Corner Aaron Duron (A-L) and Desa Ruybal (M-Z)

The Guidance Staff visited all the seniors in their Gov/Econ classes the week of Sept. 8th. They all received a copy of their transcript, a senior newsletter and a form regarding college requirements. The newsletter is published on School Loop entitled "Senior Information for Parents and Students." Some highlights of the newsletter and our presentation:

The next **SAT** test dates are: October 10, 2009 and November 7, 2009
Register at: www.collegeboard.com

The next **ACT** test dates are: October 24, 2009 and December 12, 2009
Register at: www.actstudent.org

Cal State University Application Workshop: Thursday, October 1st at West Valley College at 6:30 PM.

College Fair- Thursday, Oct 8th @ Independence High from 6:30-8:30

Transcripts: Every senior must make sure they are enrolled in the appropriate number of units in order to meet 220 unit requirements for June 2010 graduation. Seniors must talk to their Guidance Advisor right away if they are deficient.

College Applications: Private/Out-of-state colleges require letters of recommendations from Guidance Advisor and teachers. Seniors must give the person writing at least two weeks notice.

Questions? The Guidance Office can be reached at (408) 626-3406 — press 2.

College and Career Center News

It is never too early to start planning for college! Westmont is fortunate to have a College and Career Center housed in the round building in the quad (behind the library) and staffed Tuesday through Thursday during lunch by parent volunteers. Students can stop by to get their questions answered or do research on colleges, careers, SAT and ACT testing information, and more. The Center arranges for college representative visits, hosts workshops, posts student job listings, maintains SAT and ACT test information and college catalogs, and is equipped to help students with college decisions, applications, and career exploration. For more information, click on the Career Center link from the Westmont High School website.

Upcoming College Representative visits:

Colorado State University: 10/6/09 at 7:50 AM (tutorial)

UC Santa Barbara: 10/8/09 at 12:00 noon

USC: 10/16/09 at 12:00 noon

George Washington University: 10/22/09 at 12:30 PM

St. Mary's College: 10/28/09 at 12:00 noon

College Application Workshop: 11/3/09 at 2:15 PM

California State University application help with the SJSU Rep: 11/17/09 at 12:00 noon

The College and Career Center relies on parent volunteers to provide the best support to Westmont students. If you are interested in helping out at lunchtime, email the center at whsccc@cuhsd.org.

Westmont Drama Department Presents...

HAUNTED HOUSE 3

Fairy Tales of Fright!



Once again, the creepy crawlies are about to infest Westmont's Cafeteria as the 3rd Annual Haunted House gets ready to creak open its doors. This year's Haunted House will feature 13 frightful rooms based on familiar fairy tales that have gone horribly wrong! Over 60 students are involved in this ambitious student-written, student-directed, student-designed project. Evening tours will be held every 10 minutes from 6 - 9 PM on **October 29th - 30th - 31st** (not for young children nor the faint of heart!). Tickets (at the door only) are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students with ASB card. Special "not-so-scary" afternoon tours on **October 30th** from 2:30 - 4:30 PM are \$2 for children age 10 and under and \$5 for adults.

MOON OVER BUFFALO

Mark your calendars now for the Westmont Drama Department's exciting version of Ken Ludwig's *Moon Over Buffalo*. Buy your tickets online in November for 7:30 PM shows on:

December 3, 4, 5 & 10, 11, 12

For more information go to:

www.WestmontDrama.com



Homecoming Activities: Week of October 19th - 24th

Day:	Monday 10/19/09	Tuesday 10/20/09	Wednesday 10/21/09	Thursday 10/22/09	Friday 10/23/09	Saturday 10/24/09
Activity:	Powder Puff Football @ 6:30 PM	Lip Syncs at Lunch	Night Rally 6:30 - 10 PM Main Gym <i>All are invited!</i>		Football vs. Branham at Westmont JV @ 4:30 Varsity @ 7:00	Homecoming Dance 7 - 10 PM Main Gym

PTSA President's Message by Joanne Longoria

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I am so excited to get started, to meet the new faces at Westmont, and to work with you in providing support for you and your students! Your PTSA Executive Board is busy planning events for the school year and finding ways to help your students.

This is my final term as PTSA President and so it will be a bittersweet year for me. I am looking for someone to act as Co-President this year with an interest in becoming PTSA President next year. If you are looking for a direct way to help Westmont, please contact me! Your Class Representatives also have opportunities for you to get involved. Please refer to page 7 of this newsletter for a listing of the Westmont PTSA contacts. We'd love to hear your ideas, suggestions, or comments.

Because PTSA stands for Parent, Teacher, **Student** Association, we are very proud this year to have one of our students as a member of the Executive Board. Senior **Ben Neves** is our first student Executive Board member and has been busy keeping our students informed of PTSA and visa versa.

Your purchase of Platinum and Gold packages during registration included a PTSA membership and we thank you for your support!! Your membership goes directly to benefit Westmont students and helps provide funding for student scholarships, teacher grants, the school newspaper, the PTSA newsletter, Grad Night, Juntos Podemos, College and Career Center, student events throughout the year (Homecoming, District Art Fair, student aid, etc), plus much, much, more. If you did not purchase a Platinum or Gold package, you can still help.

- Become a member for \$35/family (<http://www.westmontptsa.org/Forms.html>)
- Contact your Class Rep to help at events
- Attend PTSA meetings (on the first Tuesday of each month)
- Volunteer as a PTSA chairperson

I thank you so much for your support and encouragement and look forward to working with all of you this year. Please join us at our next meeting on November 3, 2009!



New On-Line Service: The Westmont Webstore!



*Order your 2009 Homecoming
T-shirt today!*

The **Westmont Webstore** is now on the internet! No longer will you have to rely on students carrying checks or large amounts of cash to school. You can purchase ASB items safely and securely from the comfort of your home. The link to the Westmont Webstore is on our website www.westmont.cuhsd.org. Click on the shopping cart icon to start shopping. All organizations with accounts at Westmont High School are welcome to use the Webstore. Buy clothing, tickets, supplies, memberships, yearbooks, and more!

Faculty Mini-Grants

Did you know that the PTSA sets aside a fund every year for Westmont's teachers who need to purchase items or materials for their classrooms? We will meet on Thursday, October 22nd in the Teacher's Lounge for about one hour to review and approve requests. All parents are welcome to participate. Here is what Westmont teachers are saying about Mini Grants: *"I applied for a mini grant to buy different science magazines for my classroom. There is nothing like current science to help make connections between the classroom and the real world for students."* Robin Davis, Science Department. *"The PTSA Mini Grants have allowed Westmont Drama students to do things they would not have been able to do without the PTSA's help."* Jeff Bengford, Drama Department. Contact Erin Saucedo at grants@westmontptsa.org for more information.

The Teen and Family Counseling

Center's supervised interns and trainees are once again on campus this school year providing **FREE** teen and family therapy counseling sessions to our students. Families can find support at TFCC's low-cost clinic in Campbell where the initial session (one per family) is free. For more information call TFCC at (408) 370-9990 ext. 23# or visit www.teenfamilycounseling.org.

Bowlers Needed! Do you like to bowl? Want to try it? Students and adults are welcome to join the WHS Bowling League! Get your friends together and come bowl with us! This is the only PTSA fundraiser of the year and the funds go directly to benefit your students. Join the fun on Monday evenings at 6:30 PM at Cambrian Bowl. No experience needed . . . and anyone can participate. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Cushman at cushman_kathleen@yahoo.com



Update

The Westmont PTSA encourages you to sign up for eScrip, the painless way to fundraise on a secure system while you go about doing your usual shopping. Your friends and relatives can sign up to support Westmont, too! Please visit www.escrip.com.

If you are already a member, please take the time to update your eScrip account to make sure your credit card numbers and expiration dates are current and Westmont High School is your designated school. Don't forget to renew your Safeway card! Sign in to your personal page at www.escrip.com using your email address or telephone number, click on "renew Safeway card" and you're done! Thank you for your support!

Yearbooks for Sale — Past and Present

Forget to buy a yearbook last year? Know someone who went to Westmont 20 years ago? See Mrs. Jarrett in Room 16 to check out the old Westmont yearbooks. She is selling yearbooks from 1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1999 and 2005 for \$5 each. There are also 2008 yearbooks available for \$10 and 2009 yearbooks available for \$20. Check it out!

A Friendly Reminder. . .

If you need to deliver a personal item to your student, you must make prior arrangements with your student to pick up the item in the main office during break, lunch, or after school. The office staff cannot interrupt classes to deliver personal messages or items—including lunches—to students and cannot hold items for students. Westmont is not responsible for any items left in the office that your student does not pick up. **Please do not text message or call your child during class time as phones are not to be used in class. Please plan ahead. Thank you for your cooperation.**

The deans were happy to observe another very smooth opening of school for the 2009-2010 school year! Just a few reminders about school rules and procedures:

- If students are riding a skate board to school, they must store it in a classroom or the office during the day. If a student is walking around the campus with a skateboard it will be confiscated.
- Bikes must be locked in the bike cage with a sturdy chain and lock.
- Students are advised not to bring expensive electronics, such as IPODS and cell phones to school where they are subject to loss or theft.
- During construction on campus the bus chute in the large parking lot is not available for student pick up after school. It is advised that parents stagger their student pick up to avoid congestion in the front of the school. Perhaps parents might consider arriving for pick up a little later while your student confers with a teacher or makes use of the homework center.
- For our new students and parents we are re-printing "helpful hints for Westmont parents."

Helpful Hints for Westmont Parents

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep your student <u>safe</u>. Monitor his whereabouts, friends, activities, and hours. 2. Set clearly defined limits with your student and be consistent with consequences when the limits are not being adhered to. 3. Be involved with your student's academic progress. Monitor homework, discuss subject matter, go online to follow assignments and grades. 4. Communicate with his or her teachers when necessary. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Show interest in your student's social life as well as academic progress. Remember that high school is a place for social growth as well as academic growth. 6. Encourage your student even if they are only making small strides in academic growth. Remember that some students are "late bloomers" and initial failure does not preclude later success. 7. Celebrate your student's uniqueness and be open-minded about their individual talents and interests. Remember that there are many ways to be successful! |
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Westmont PTSA Contacts

President: Joanne Longoria (president@westmontptsa.org)
 Treasurer: Marejka Behman-Sacks (marejka@artisanprinting.com)
 Secretary: Erin Saucedo (erinsauce@aol.com)
 Student Re: Ben Neves (bigbenz7@yahoo.com)
 Vice President (eScrip): Judie Pouya (jmpouya@yahoo.com)
 Newsletter: Janet Gregg (newsletter@westmontptsa.org)
 Daily Bulletin: Barbara Mastman (dailybulletin@westmontptsa.org)
 Mini-Grants: Erin Saucedo (grants@westmontptsa.org)
 Juntos Podemos: Candy Barajas (july_3791@yahoo.com)
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 Drama: Karen Bradford (Karen.c.bradford@nasa.gov)
 FFA: Karen Thompson (kathompson1056@aol.com)
 Music Boosters: Judy Baldrige (judybaldrige@comcast.net)
 Cheer: Julie Blythe (whtttevr@yahoo.com)
 Bowling: Kathy Cushman (Cushman_kathleen@yahoo.com)
 Speech and Debate: Wendy Hunter (altadiva@gmail.com)
 Career Center: Doranne Hardt (sdhardt@pacbell.net)
 CUHSD Parent Rep: Wendy Hunter (altadiva@gmail.com)

Freshman Class Reps:

Elaina Vaughn (v4haynqt@aol.com)
 Michele Wallace (modens2w2@sbcglobal.net)
 Student Rep: Carly Rodgers

Sophomore Class Reps:

Diane Fukuda (DianeF2@comcast.net)
 Lindsey Tappero (Lindsay_tappero@xilinx.com)
 Nancy Wills (twill3333@sbcglobal.net)
 Student Rep: Brittany Bolden

Junior Class Reps:

Cheryl Haisley (cherylhaisley@yahoo.com)
 Cristina Murphy (murphy_c_m@yahoo.com)
 Student Rep: Kimya Behrouzian

Senior Class Reps:

Joanne Longoria (joanne_candlelady@comcast.net)
 Brook Hendershot (brookhendershot@yahoo.com)
 Tammy Messer (messerfamily@yahoo.com)
 Student Rep: Nikita Bedi

Tools for Parent Communications



School Loop

<http://help.schoolloop.com/cuhsd.htm>

Sign up to receive a daily email that shows your student's homework assignments for the week and current course grades. Click on "progress report" for each class to view scores for assignments and tests.

Event Calendar

www.cuhsd.org/events_calendar.htm

An event calendar is published in this newsletter but you can get all event information, including athletic schedules, on the district website. Click on Event Calendar, My View, and select Westmont.

PTSA Website

www.westmontptsa.org

Great source of information for school, district and PTSA activities. General resources and education for parents, with links to helpful websites, including Booster Clubs.

Daily Bulletin E-mail

dailybulletin@westmontptsa.org

Maybe you have the perfect student who comes home each day and tells you EVERYTHING going on at school. But just in case you don't, you can receive by e-mail the same information your student gets each day on the Morning Announcements, plus the "just for parents" information on Booster Clubs, PTSA events, parent education, and volunteer activities. If you'd like to be added to the distribution list, sign up on the PTSA website. Click on Resources, Daily Bulletin, enter your email address, and click "Join Now."



Thank you to the PTSA for your support of Westmont High School. The ASB is always grateful for the support that PTSA provides. There will be a few changes this year concerning extracurricular activities. First, we are trying to preserve the brand new floor that was constructed over the summer in the gym. This means that many events that normally have taken place there will be moved or highly regulated. We appreciate your support in this matter.

-- Matt Kolda, Activities Director



Westmont High School
4805 Westmont Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008

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

Homecoming Week!
WHS Drama's Haunted House!
College and Career Center Update
...and more!

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.

October 2009

- 6 PTSA Meeting - 7 PM - Library
- 9 Minimum Day - End of 6 week grading period
- 12 Minimum Day - End of 6 week grading period
- 19 Homecoming Powder Puff Game 6:30 PM
- 20 Juntos Podemos Parent Night 6:00 PM - Library
- 21 Homecoming Night Rally - 6:30 PM Main Gym
- 22-23 Collaboration Days - Late Start
- 23 Homecoming Football Game 7 PM Varsity
- 24 Homecoming Dance at WHS 7 PM - 10 PM
- 29-31 Westmont Drama's "Haunted House 3"
- 30 Not-so-scary Haunted House for young children

November 2009

- 3 PTSA Meeting - 7 PM - Library
- 11 Veteran's Day Holiday - No School
- 20 Minimum Day - End of 12 week grading period
- 23 Minimum Day - End of 12 week grading period
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday - No School

December 2009

- 1 PTSA Meeting 7 PM - Library
- 2-3 Collaboration Days - Late Start
- 3-5 WHS Drama Production "Moon Over Buffalo"
- 10-12 WHS Drama Production "Moon Over Buffalo"
- 21-31 Winter Break - No School

January 2010

- 1 Winter Break - No School
- 4 Classes Resume
- 5 PTSA Meeting - 7 PM - Library
- 18 Martin Luther King Day Holiday - No School
- 19-21 Semester Finals - Minimum Days
- 22 No School

February 2010

- 2 PTSA Meeting 7 PM - Library
- 8-12 Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week
- 10-11 Collaboration Days - Late Start
- 15-19 President's Week - No School