

December 2009

# WMST-PCHS Parental Involvement News

Volume 2 Issue 3

## PTSA—We Are Moving Right Along!

We are working on everything from learning how to educate parents about community activities to getting training to hold helpful seminars. This will expand our understanding of what is necessary for the creation of students that are “Free to Excel” as our school motto states.

We look forward to continuing to interact with parents while providing a platform that allows everyone; parents, students and teachers, to voice their concerns

about our school as well as situations that are occurring within their communities. Take a moment to review your goals for our school and your student and attend a PTSA meeting to discuss your thoughts. PTSA meetings are held every first Thursday of every month.

Be assured that the WMST-PTSA will continue to build toward being that strong and sturdy support that parents need in these days and times.

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## The Parent Coordinator

A school Parent Coordinator serves as a facilitator between parents, administrators, department leaders, teachers and students. Let me introduce myself, my name is Sandra Henderson and I am the WMST-PCHS Parent Coordinator. My job is to act as the liaison between you and any staff within our school that you would need to talk with, meet with, establish a working relationship with or communicate a situation or circumstance too.

Parental involvement is a key component in the academic success of all students and their achievement possibilities. Encouraging parents to get involved in their students education is critical to the development of any suc-

cessful academic program. Therefore, it is our goal at WMST to make absolutely certain that every opportunity is given to you as parents to participate in as many areas of our program as possible. We welcome all of our parents to participate as volunteers, PTSA members, committee members, as well as providing us with input on a variety of issues that may be of interest to you.

If you would like to talk with me about any of the information in this article or if you have concerns that may need my assistance, please feel free to contact me at 202.636.8011 ext. 142. Remember my job is to get you to the right person that will be able to resolve the situation. Please call if you need me and remember I love you all.

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## WMST Focus On DC CAS- 10th Grade Academy

The District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) is created and managed by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). DC CAS is taken each April by all Washington DC students, charter schools as well as DCPS, to measure their knowledge and skills in Reading and Math (Grades 3rd-8th & 10th).

In an effort to foster a learning environment conducive to producing WMST 10th graders that have the ability to do well on the DC CAS we have created the 10th Grade Academy that all 10 grade WMST students have been asked to attend. Students can participate Monday through Friday by attending specially de-

signed academic sessions that are held here at the school from 3:45 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Currently only the students that are already high achievers are attending. We are asking that parents **strongly encourage** their 10th graders to attend this specially designed program. Students will be able to learn what is necessary to be a successful test taker, something that not only applies to DC CAS but to all of their future educational endeavors. **Remember**, if large numbers of students are not proficient by DC CAS Math and Science standards this may result in WMST-PCHS scores that miss the Average Yearly Progress (AYP) mark of success; meaning, there will be consequences for all parties involved; our school, parents and students.

## What Going On! New Staff Additions

WMST—PCHS has several new additions to our staff.

**Officer Thomas Marshall** is our new **School Resource Officer**. He comes to the school via the 5th District Metropolitan Police Department's School Safe Division. Officer Marshall of course, is an official police officer and his duties in addition to being present and in the school daily are, to protect and serve, teach, help and advise.

**Mr. William Fitchett** is our new **Director of Security**. He brings 25 years of experience to his new job and believes that "every individual has a right to a safe, secure educational environment".

**Mr. Michael Powell** is our new **Director**

**of Technology** a job that includes developing, coordinating and implementing technology plans and recommending modifications as needed. Mr. Powell comes to us from Sidwell Friends School and taught previously at WMST. He will provide technical assistance to teachers and administrators to facilitate the effective integration of technology into the school curriculum. In addition, he will provide consultation for teachers and administrators to assist with technology problems and concerns. He will also support and maintain school wide software applications and recommend budget requirements to support the school technology plans and supervise the desktop support specialist.

**Humberto Rodriguez** is our new **Head of Maintenance**. He brings years of expert experience in the upkeep of building systems.