

February 2010

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WMST-PCHS Parental Involvement News

Mark Your Calendars for DC CAS

WMST sophomores will take the DC CAS, the state test that all DC public schools are required to administer, during the last two weeks in April. Tenth graders will be tested in reading, mathematics, and composition. Also, students who take biology will take the biology assessment.

Our students have been very busy preparing for the test. In addition to teaching the content standards in their classes, the teachers have been giving the students extra test-taking practice. Moreover, all tenth graders are required to attend a DC CAS after school academy on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 3:45 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Parents of each WMST student can assist us by ensuring that his or her child is on time and in school every day. Also, you should ask your child about his or her scores on the benchmark tests that they have taken so far, and encourage them to do their best on the upcoming benchmark test, and ultimately the DC CAS. Most important, impress upon your child the importance of the DC CAS and the importance of your child maintain a positive, serious attitude about this test.

If you have any questions, contact your child's teacher, counselor, or Ms. Robinson, the DC CAS Coordinator.

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WMST PCHS English Department

Ms. Debra Brennan is the Department Chair for our WMST-PCHS English department. She is dedicated and well liked by her students. Read along as she gives updates on her department.

The English Department is planning some exciting activities for the Spring, and we are looking to challenge our students with creative and inspiring classes and projects. We will be holding a Poetry Slam Café during lunch for all of our student poets to share their work, and we encourage students to write their own poetry to share with their peers. The tenth graders will be attending a Math and English carnival in March that will

hopefully be fun as well as informative, while other students will have an opportunity to meet author and scientist Ben Carson at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. One senior English class is producing a documentary film on statues in Washington, D.C. and we are excited for all of our seniors as the college acceptances arrive daily.

10th Grade Parents: Please be sure that your tenth graders are attending the Tenth Grade Academy daily after school.

All Parents: Encourage your children to read every night! Reading is the best way to build vocabulary.

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The WMST Science Department

Dr. Alice Franklin-Rier is the WMST Science Department Chair and Dr. N'Deye Diagne, is Vice Principal and Science Coordinator. Below are some science events that they want you to know about.

WMST science students participated in the NASA downlink with the Space Shuttle. On February 20, 2010 science students participated in the Science Bowl that was held at Friendship Collegiate. **Mr. Tate** of our health department was the coach and sponsor.

WMST Science Fair featuring over 200 science projects will be held during the week of February 22, 2010. Students will attend a lecture series at Johns Hopkins University featuring Dr. Ben Carson on March 1, 2010.

Future Science Student Participation

The first Robotics Competition will be held March 5, 2010 sponsored by the American Association for Cancer Research. The King's Dominion Science competition is coming in the Spring, WMST student will participate.

PTSA Spring Celebration Dinner

On April 1, 2010 our WMST PTSA will hold a celebration dinner here at the school beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the upper level cafeteria.

We will have a sumptuous sit down dinner celebrating our WMST parent/teacher/student family and their commitment to excellence in education.

We hope to have administrators, board members, teachers, staff, parents, students and friends. We will update you on school events and answer ques-

tions on topics of importance to you. Our plan is to have financial aid info, enrollment info, school department updates and information on the **2010 WMST Gala**. **DC CAN and FOCUS** will also participate.

Parents will be able to pick up their Spring fundraiser packets and speak with your **PTSA President, Ms. Barbara King**.

For further information call at 202.636.8011 or email me, Sandra Henderson at shenderson@wmstpchs.net

School News

Ms. Martha Thomas Staggs, our Special Education Coordinator will hold a **Parent Conference Luncheon** for the parents of Special Education students here at the school on **April 26, 2010**. Look for more information in upcoming issues.

Mr. Bruce Bradford, our Health Issues Coordinator, would like parents to read more about **Michelle Obama's "Let's Move"** campaign against childhood obesity. Obesity can be a contributory cause of diabetes, respiratory problems and even high blood pressure, among other health issues, in children. Please

monitor your child's carryout, soda, sugar and snack intake. We all love our children and want to see them live long, healthy, and productive lives.

The **WMST PCHS Open House** will be held on **March 13, 2010** here at the school from **10 a.m. until 1 p.m.**

Mr. Bethel, of our Social Studies department would like parents and students to send *any photos* that you might have for the **WMST Yearbook Club and committee** to the following address misterbethel.wmstpchs@picasaweb.com.