

Tracie Blacksten
Assistant Principal

G. Thomas Hill
Principal

Karl Streaker
Assistant Principal

410-751-3661 Fax: 410-751-3667
<http://www.carrollk12.org/wml/>

November 2009

Dear Parents:

These are tough economic times. There is no doubt that we are all feeling the pinch, but we want to thank the parents, guardians, and PTO for continuing to work together with us to make the best things still happen for kids.

We had our first conference night here on October 13th with many families coming to meet with teachers. We have two more conference evenings coming up on November 12th and 18th. If you were unable to join us on the 13th, we hope that you can join us on one of these evenings. Teachers will be here from 4:30-8:00 p.m. on both evenings.

If evenings are too hectic, please consider joining your son or daughter here at West Middle during American Education Week. You can come in any day during November 16th – 20th to visit classes and see what your students are learning first-hand. By American Education Week some of our new security measures will be in place. If you use the front lobby entrance or side Auditorium entrance, you will see our new Visitor Management System. This system will allow office staff to monitor who accesses our building through those more remote areas. The office entry area will remain as it has been. In addition, a variety of cameras for the exterior and interior of the building will shortly be added as well to further secure our building and help insure the safety of our students and staff.

Keeping communication open between school and home through other means can be just as effective as coming into the school building. Please use the Homework Hotline, school and specific 8th grade teacher websites, e-mail and Alert Now to stay apprised of assignments and school events. West Middle's website has a variety of information included within it, including a copy of this newsletter. It's address is: www.carrollk12.org/wml/ If you wish, please help us save costs and help the environment, by signing up to access this newsletter on the website rather than receiving a paper copy.

We know that everyone is busy, but our children still need your involvement to help them be successful. Although money is tight, we have as much, or, as little, time as we have ever had. We need to use it wisely and keep our focus on what is important for our children and our families for the long-term. Spending family time together, eating meals together, and talking about our family values and expectations together are some ways we can keep everyone on the same page.

I hope you and your family have a healthy and successful Fall!

Tracie Blacksten,
Assistant Principal

If you wish to access the West Middle newsletter through our website and no longer wish to receive a paper copy, please complete the form below and return it to our school office.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____
Child/Children and Grade(s) (please print) _____
E-Mail address _____
Mailing Address _____

Student Fun Nights

- ⇒ October 23, 2009 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- ⇒ November 20, 2009 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- ⇒ February 12, 2010 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- ⇒ March 26, 2010 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- ⇒ May 28, 2010 7:00-9:30 p.m.
(8th Grade Dance)

Address Change???

If you have an address change through the school year, please send a proof of residency of the new address to the Guidance Office. An example of proof of residency would be an electric bill, phone bill (not cellular), lease agreement, or contract.

Power of Attorney

In the event that a parent/guardian must leave town and have their child placed in the care of a relative, neighbor, or friend, a Power of Attorney form must be completed. This form will allow the school to contact the individual that you have entrusted your child to, in the event of an emergency.

The Power of Attorney form can be found on our website: http://www.carrollk12.org/assets/File/WML/PDF/Power_of_Attorney.pdf

Student Supervision

Supervision of students extends from 1/2 hour before school and 1/2 hour after school. During school sponsored extracurricular activities, supervision extends from 1/2 hour before the activity begins to 1/2 hour after the activity ends. On a regular school day, students are permitted to enter the building at 8:15 a.m. Have your child dress accordingly as colder weather is on the way!

Dismissal

Some of our Special Education students get on their buses at a different location from the front of the building. These buses pick up their students at the Auditorium/Gymnasium entrance. To keep dismissal safe for our students we have placed orange cones in the designated pick up areas. Please note their location if you are doing a parent pick up in the afternoon, and do not use the entrance by the basketball courts to enter the school grounds.



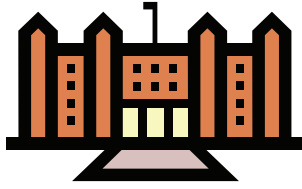
Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open beginning November 20th, 2009 during the school day. On December 1, the book fair will be having extended hours until 7:00 p.m. The book fair will end on December 11th. Purchases can be made by cash, check or credit card. Please take a moment to visit the Media Center and see the wonderful selection that will be offered this year!



A Note to 7th Grade Parents

Beginning October 12th, all 7th graders in Maryland will be involved in the administration of the Maryland Measure of Student Technology Literacy. This approximately 45 minute online measurement will provide data required by the State to report to the Federal Government as part of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. These scores do not affect student progress and will not be recorded on student transcripts. The measurement window will end October 20th. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school for further information.



American Education Week
November 16 - 20, 2009

“Making Public Schools Great for Every Child”

Schedule for American Education Week

Monday, November 16	Open Visitation
Tuesday, November 17	Grade 6 Visitation
Wednesday, November 18	Grade 7 Visitation
Thursday, November 19	Grade 8 Visitation
Friday, November 20	Open Visitation

Parents are encouraged to visit on their designated grade level days. However, everyone is welcome to attend on a day that is most convenient for them. We look forward to seeing you!



Parent Conference Days

Tuesday, October 13, 2009	4:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 12, 2009	4:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 18, 2009	4:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 2, 2010	4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Working Together to Make a Difference!



West Middle School's Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 19-23 SGA Canned Food Drive
21 Minority Family Forum 7:00-8:30 p.m.
23 Fun Night 7:00-9:00 p.m.
29 ***2 Hour 45 Minute Early Dismissal for Students***

NOVEMBER

- 5 Market Day Pick-Up 5:30-6:30 p.m.
9 ***2 Hour 45 Minute Early Dismissal for Students***
12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-8:00 p.m.
16-20 American Education Week
17 Honor Roll Assembly 3:30-5:00 p.m.
18 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-8:00 p.m.
19 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
20 Fun Night 7:00-9:00 p.m.
23-24 ***Schools Closed for Students***
25-27 ***Schools/Offices Closed***
30-4 Dec Outdoor School (1/2 of Team 2)

DECEMBER

- 3 Market Day Pick-Up 5:30-6:30 p.m.
7-11 Outdoor School (1/2 of Team 2)
9 7th Grade Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
14-18 Outdoor School (1/2 of Team 3)
15 8th Grade Band, 7th/8th Grade Orchestra 7:00 p.m.
16 7th/8th Grade Choral Concert 7:00 p.m.
23 ***2 Hour 45 Minute Early Dismissal for Students/
Schools & Offices***
24-Jan 3 ***Winter Break-Schools/Offices Closed***

JANUARY

- 12 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
14 Market Day Pick-Up 5:30-6:30 p.m.
14 6th Gr. Band/Orchestra/Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m.
18 ***Observance of MLK Birthday-Schools/Offices Closed***
22 ***2 Hour 45 Minute Early Dismissal for Students***
25 ***Schools Closed for Students***