

PAWPRINTS

Issue #1 PTSA NEWSLETTER

September / October 2008

Important Dates/Events

Sept.11 7:45am Wakefield Business Alliance Meeting at Wakefield Middle School

Sept.25 7:30 pm Growth Mgt. Meeting at WHS and Early Release Day

Oct. 2 Principal Coffee at WHS 8am

Oct. 4 Heart of Carolina Marching Band Competition

Oct. 5 Third Annual WHS 5K Road Race

Oct. 9 7:45am Wakefield Business Alliance at WakeMed North

Oct. 10 Teacher Workday

Oct. 16 Early Release Day

Oct. 17 Homecoming Night & Dance

Oct. 15 & 23 Concerts at WHS

Oct.29 – 11/1 Haunted House

Nov. 8 8:30 – 5pm Mistletoe Market – Holiday Fair at WHS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! At the time of this writing, we are on our tenth day and Wakefield has had a very successful opening. Our staff started this year with a dynamic school-wide focus: **to increase technology in the classroom, to become more data-driven and to focus our programming to reduce and then**

eliminate the achievement gap. Perhaps our greatest daily shift this year is our *Start on Time* initiative. I am more and more convinced that attention to small details results in big changes for student achievement and climate. This year, our staff is holding all students accountable for being in class on time and prepared to learn daily. The impact on our halls is already measurable.

Our enrollment is slightly less than anticipated, 2735. Progress continues to be made on our modulars at Wakefield North, and there are no foreseeable changes precluded having a true freshman center second semester.

As the year goes on, I encourage you to stay involved. Parent involvement typically drops in the high school years, and this can be a good thing- students should be exercising more independence and self-advocacy. However, I urge you to stay involved through conversation with your teen, attendance at PTSA events,

e-mails to teachers, etc. This will benefit everyone. Thank you for all your support moving forward.

Mark Savage
Principal,
Wakefield High School
WHS
Marching Band Kicks Off Season

***Concessions!
Souvenirs! Amazing Marching Bands! Be there!***

The Wakefield High School Marching Band is excited to present their 2008 production, "The Raven." Based on the writings of Edgar Allen Poe, "The Raven," is an original composition exploring the dark twists and turns that the narrator of Poe's poem experiences. "The Raven," is an original composition making its North Carolina premier with the Wakefield High School Marching Band. Featuring 120 of Wakefield's talented musicians and color guard students, under the direction of Joshua K. Potter, with assistance from Associate Director of Bands, Stephen M. Petrucci, and Color Guard Director, Shannon Proctor, this exciting program is sure to be a crowd pleaser. The band performs at every home Varsity Football game.

A highlight of the competitive marching season is Wakefield High School's 6th annual **Heart of Carolina Marching Band Invitational Competition.** Held on the afternoon of October 4, 2008, at our very own Wolverine stadium, this competition is one of the premier high school marching band events in the region.

The excitement of **Heart of Carolina** is quickly followed by the competition at the Bands of

In This Issue

- **Marching Band**
- **Business Alliance**
- **JUST THINK FIRST**
- **Fundraisers: Mistletoe Market, WHS 5K Run and Get it Done**
- **High School Reassignment**

- **ESL Academy**

America Regional Championships in Orlando, Florida, on October 11th. In addition to competitions at Panther Creek, Sanderson, and Cary, the Marching Wolverines also perform in both the Raleigh and Wake Forest Christmas parades. Check out the band website: www.wakefieldhsband.org for more information on performance dates, band activities, and our Band Booster community!

Sixth Annual Heart of Carolina Marching Band Competition
Afternoon and Evening of Saturday, October 4, 2008

General Admission \$7.00
Children under 7 free

☞ See the spectacle and feel the sounds as marching bands from throughout the region compete for best in class awards. A great day full of family fun and outstanding shows!

PTSA FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

GET IT DONE-Fast, Easy and Effective Fundraising.

Our budgeted goal is \$15,000

(in addition to Mistletoe Market)

by donations of cash or check. These monies support the Freshman Center, renovate teacher meeting and workrooms and help to purchase student directories and agendas.

Pick up a form at front office or on website:

www.wakefieldhs.net / PTSA tab

☞ ***Mistletoe Market***

Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 8

Wakefield High School 8:30- 5 .

See attached information. ?? contact mistletoemarket @wcpss.net or go to www.wakefieldhs.net / Mistletoe Market

☞ Come shop for arts & crafts, jewelry, silent auctions, food, raffles & much more



☞ Wakefield's JUST THINK FIRST Captures statewide award

The 2007/08 North Carolina State PTA - Oak Leaf Award was awarded to The JUST THINK FIRST...choices count program. On Saturday, May 10, the Wakefield High School PTSA, JUST THINK FIRST committee, will accept the State award. The Oak Leaf Award was established by the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers to honor outstanding contributions benefiting children and youth. The title was derived from the PTA symbol of the oak tree. The term "benefiting children and youth" encompasses education, health and welfare, and other child advocacy efforts.

In 2007, the JUST THINK FIRST..choices count video documentary was produced after receiving a grant from the Wake County New Vehicle Dealer's Association. This school year, the JUST THINK FIRST program was fully implemented for all driver education students at Wakefield beginning in 2008. In addition, videos, stickers and buttons were provided to all Wake County Driver Education programs. In April 2008, the video documentary was distributed to superintendents and

counselors in all North Carolina school districts to be used in their drivers' education programs.

In an effort to keep the JUST THINK FIRST..choices count goals in front of the Wakefield student body, many programs and speakers have been brought into the school to educate and motivate our teens at different

assemblies and health classes. WHS 5K Race, banners, student planners, prom tickets, hot line business cards, and information



available at Open House, all put the message of "choices count" in front of students.

JUST THINK FIRST..choices count video documentary on DVD can be purchased at cost. Call Wake County Public School System Customer Service at 919-850-1600.

or email your order to: customerservice@wcpss.net.

☞ REASSIGNMENT OF HIGH SCHOOLS - Meeting at WHS

☞ The WHS PTSA is hosting an information and feedback meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at

☞ 7:30 PM in the Media Center.

The Student Assignment Department of the Wake County Public School System has established geographic area committees to plan for future school assignments. Our geographic area will be greatly impacted by the opening of Heritage High School and H6

(unnamed) High School. These two new schools will hopefully open in 2010 with a ninth and tenth grade population. Reassignments will occur in all northern high schools in order to populate these new schools, and as happened with the opening of the new high schools in the southern part of the county a few years ago, transfer requests because of older siblings in established schools, etc. will most likely not be approved. Current plans call for an eventual shift of approximately 1000 students from Wakefield High School to other area schools in order to relieve our crowding and help populate these new schools. (continue)

If you have students currently in grades 7 and 8 (or younger), YOU MAY BE IMPACTED.

Principal Mark Savage, Dean of Students Deirdra Williams, and PTSA volunteers Patti Pilarinos and Martha Svoboda are the WHS representatives on this committee. In order to effectively represent WHS concerns in this planning process, your input is greatly appreciated.

Please come out and let your voices be heard. Questions/comments:

Email at:

Patti Pilarinos pepmailnow@earthlink.net

Martha Svoboda marthaj108@nc.rr.com

ESL Academy at Wakefield High School

Wakefield High School is one of four Wake County high schools that has been selected to host an ESL (English as a Second Language) Academy this year. The ESL Academy is a federally funded initiative aimed at helping ESL students succeed in the high school setting. Wakefield has

been selected as a starter site for the ESL Academy not only because of our large ESL population, but also because of the recognized strength of our ESL teaching team along with the commitment of our administration and PTSA to our ESL students. Leah Harkness, who comes to Wakefield with 10 years of experience in teaching ESL students, is the academy teacher.

All too often, these students struggle with completing all their academic tasks in a second language and often times drop out. The ESL Academy hopes to turn this trend around by providing intensive language, literacy and math instruction in a small group setting. The focus is on building and strengthening academic skills needed to succeed in high school level classes prior to taking classes required for graduation, such as English 1. The students receive two rigorous blocks of English instruction, a math course, and an elective. The ESL Academy teacher communicates with elective teachers and supports instruction during math to ensure student comprehension and success. The ESL department will monitor students as they exit the Academy and enter regular ESL classes, as well as other required classes, in order to

continually assess and improve the program.

As with past years, the ESL department welcomes any interested volunteer tutors.

No foreign language experience is needed

whatsoever! The students are here to learn English, so all tutoring assistance is conducted in English.

(continue)

The greatest need for volunteers is during 3rd and 4th period (between 10:30-2:15 p.m.) when students have ESL resource class.

During resource class students work on and receive assistance in completing their assignments from their other classes. This assistance may consist of rephrasing a question into something a bit more understandable, reinforcing basic math concepts, helping with a difficult passage in a textbook, etc.. This is a great opportunity for volunteers who want to work with students in the classroom, but may be having a hard time finding "just the right volunteer spot," on a high school level. All the ESL classes are held on main campus, so parents with students in the 9th grade center can get a feel for life at the main campus and start to meet some of the faculty and administrators there.

Tutoring in the classroom is considered a level 2

volunteer activity and volunteers need to be registered with the Wake County Public School System. This can be easily accomplished by visiting the media center and using one of their computers to complete your volunteer information.

Please, please feel free to email Naomi Tsujimura (naomi.tsujimura@mmicnc.com), the PTSA Liaison for ESL, or Roland Menestres (rmenestres@wcpss.net) the ESL department chair at Wakefield, with any questions or to find out more about working with this great group of students!

WAKEFIELD BUSINESS ALLIANCE WORKING TOGETHER FOR STUDENTS

What is the Business Alliance? It is a collaboration of business, community, and school leaders committed to educating each student to be a responsible and productive citizen who can effectively manage future challenges.

Many business leaders and PTSA members are active with the business alliance in a variety of ways. Interested? Go to www.wakefieldhs.net and click the Business Alliance tab / projects for a complete list.

Friday Fairs at Wakefield High School – a series of informal lunchtime meet-and-greet events in which members of the business community talk to students about their career plans. Encourage your student to take advantage of these held in February and March

each year.

Career Fairs: Great Explorations in November and Xtreme Beginnings in April. Students should ask their career technical teachers about these events.

Internships: Students get a jump start on experiencing the work world through internships. Check with Barbara Wiggins, Career Development Coordinator at WHS for the application process. As freshman and sophomores, students participate in career assessment programs, mock interviews and the hand to hand program which reinforces communication skills.

Also, the Business Alliance members will help students prepare for the Graduation Project by:

- developing a mentor database
- develop materials for use with mentors and judges
- train sophomores in networking skills prior to Friday Fairs
- train alliance members in judging skills
-

As students and parents begin the process of identifying mentors for their chosen project, there are many tools already in place to aid in this endeavor. The Wakefield Business Alliance and school's Graduation Project Committee will join together to communicate resources available to students and their parents. (Graduation Project link on school's website)

Interested? Contact Barbara Wiggins, CDC, at bswiggins@wcpss.net

PTSA members can help students by participating as judges, recruiting business partners, assisting students with limited resources and participating in Business Alliance activities such as Career and Friday Fairs.

Contact: PTSA, Sandy Gasper at

tgasper@nc.rr.com if interested.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Meeting dates are second Thursday of month.
Upcoming Business Alliance Meeting Dates:

Thurs. Sept. 11 at 7:45 Wakefield Middle School

Thurs. Oct. 9 at 7:45 Wake Med North

A PTSA Minute

- Parents **must fill out Student Directory Permission Form** to be in the directory. Forms on website or front office
- All freshman & sophomores received student agendas with handbook. Juniors, seniors and/or parents may pick up a student handbook in student services.
- All parents, teachers and students are invited to attend PTSA Executive Board and General Meetings. Executive Board meets every 3rd Tuesday of every month (thru May) at 6:30. **General Meetings with programs and speakers are 7:00pm. On Sept.9, Nov. 18, Feb and April. Mark your calendar.**

Volunteers are needed for:

Website coordinator, Mistletoe Market, Scholarships, Awards and Grants, Hospitality, Membership and Teacher Appreciation.

Contact: LouAnn Bakolia, VP Volunteers at gbakolia@bellsouth.net

Communication: Look for our newsletter on the school's website: www.wakefieldhs.net

under PTSA tab. Copies available at front office on shelf. Visit our bulletin board in the commons area by the front hall (left as you walk in) Any ideas or comments, you may leave it at the board.

PTSA Newsletter Ads: Interested in placing an ad? Pick up a form at the front office/or on the web. Business card-size available starting at \$25.00 per ad. Contact: Sandy Gasper at tgasper@nc.rr.com if interested.

DONE...FLYERS FOR MISTLETOE AND SK OR REDUCED ON ONE SHEET?

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Insert Graphic. Once your graphic
is inserted, click on the frame,
choose Format, Frame and delete
the borders*

Heading Text

This newsletter template is designed so that there are multiple columns of text on each page. To

replace the text with your own, highlight and delete. Then you can begin to create your own newsletter. Remember to play with formatting of text and

pictures to create unique and informative pages.

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Search for graphics that will catch the readers eye and create paragraphs that will hold them there. Use bullets and numbering to highlight issues and strong points.

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Editing the Masthead of Your Newsletter

Create the title of your company newsletter with special colors, logos, or maybe a new mascot. Here is your chance to make an impression.

This frame is a place-holder. Delete this text and then choose Insert Graphic. Once your graphic is inserted, click on the frame, choose Format, Frame and delete the borders

Your Company Name
Address
City, ST 01234-0000

REC
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Use different fonts and characters to type an attention-getting subtitle Create the title of your company newsletter with special colors, logos, or maybe a new mascot. Here is your chance to make an impression.

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