


# WOMS Newsletter

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White Oak Middle School

September – October 2010

Ms. Virginia A. de los Santos, Principal ♦ Mr. James Allrich, Assistant Principal ♦ Mrs. Lisa N. Shorts, Assistant Principal

September Activities						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22 "A Day"	23 "B Day"	24	25
			MAP-R through Social Studies			
				7:00pm Back to School Night		
26	27 5:00 & 7:00pm NEC Fair – Blake HS	28 Activity Bus Starts 3:15 pm Girls' Softball & Cross Country, Newport Mill @ WO 6:00pm Health Class Parent Info Mtg	29 "A Day"	30 "B Day"  Activity Bus	Oct. 1 Early Release K-12	Oct. 2
October Activities						
3 National Disability Awareness Month	4 5:00 & 7:00pm NEC Fair – Northwood HS	5 Activity Bus	6 "A Day" Walk your Child to School Day 3:15 pm Girls' Softball, Key @ WO	7 "B Day" Activity Bus 7:00pm NEC Open House – Springbrook HS	8	9
10	11 	12 3:15 pm Boys' Softball, Eastern @ WO 3:15 Cross Country, WO @ Eastern Activity Bus	13 "A Day"	14 "B Day"	15 MSTA Convention – No school for students	16
			Practice Reading and Math MSA (in class)			
17 National School Bus Safety Week	18	19 Student Pictures through PE classes 3:15 pm Girls' Softball, Sligo @ WO Activity Bus	20 "A Day"	21 "B Day" 3:15 pm Boys' Softball & Cross Country, Lee @ WO Activity Bus 7:00pm NEC Open House – Paint Branch HS	22	23
24	25	26 Activity Bus	27 "A Day" 3:15 pm Boys' Softball, Takoma Park @ WO 3:15 Cross Country, WO @ Takoma Park	28 "B Day"  Activity Bus 7:00pm NEC Open House – Blake HS	29 1 <sup>st</sup> Marking Period Ends Walk for the Homeless in Health and PE classes	30

El Boletín de Noticias está disponible en Español en sitio web de White Oak [www.whiteoakms.org](http://www.whiteoakms.org).

**Inside This Issue:** Back to School Night, Parent Health Meeting, NEC Choice, and more!

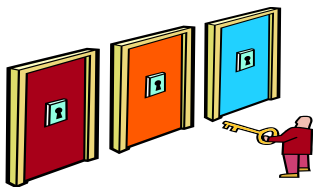
**Back to School Night – Thursday, September 23, from 7-9:00 p.m.** We look forward to seeing all parents for our back to school night. Our schedule this year will be a lot like last year. Instead of beginning with a large meeting in the gymnasium, we will have town hall rotations for each grade level beginning with 8th grade.

We will begin the evening with Edline activations and instruction in our Media Center. There will be a meeting for parents of students that are taking high school credit courses in room 114. We will begin our Back-to-School schedule at 7:00 with a town hall meeting for 8th grade parents and 1st period for 6 and 7th grade parents. Come to find out ways to get involved through volunteer opportunities, joining parent groups such as PTSA and PALA, and helping with fundraising. Community support is pivotal to the success of our school. Back to school night is our best opportunity for framing the school year and aligning our efforts to meet our academic targets.



<i>Schedule</i>	<i>8 Grade</i>	<i>7 Grade</i>	<i>6 Grade</i>
<b>6:00 pm</b>	Edline Review/Help (Media Center)		
<b>6:30 pm</b>	Meeting for High School Credit Courses (room 114)		
<b>7:00 – 7:20 pm</b>	Admin Homeroom-Media Center	1 <sup>st</sup> period	1 <sup>st</sup> period
<b>7:24 – 7:39</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> period	Admin Homeroom-Cafeteria	2 <sup>nd</sup> period
<b>7:43 – 7:58</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> period	2 <sup>nd</sup> period	Admin Homeroom-Media Center
<b>8:02 – 8:10</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> period	3 <sup>rd</sup> period	3 <sup>rd</sup> period
<b>8:14 – 8:22</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> period	4 <sup>th</sup> period	4 <sup>th</sup> period
<b>8:26 – 8:34</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> period	5 <sup>th</sup> period	5 <sup>th</sup> period
<b>8:38 – 8:46</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> period	6 <sup>th</sup> period	6 <sup>th</sup> period
<b>8:50 – 9:00</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> period	7 <sup>th</sup> period	7 <sup>th</sup> period

**Health Class Parent Meeting:** Would you like more information on what your child will be learning in health class this year? If so, there will be an informational meeting at WOMS on **Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 6:00pm in the cafeteria.** Instructional materials will be reviewed and you will have an opportunity to discuss the comprehensive health education program with the teachers. See you then!



**Attention 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents!**

White Oak Middle School is a part of the **Northeast Consortium (NEC)**. This means that our students are provided the opportunity to **select** their high schools from three in the Northeast Consortium including Springbrook, Paint Branch, and Blake.

It is hard to believe, but **the Choice Process is almost here!** In the month of September, we will begin to prepare the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for the Choice process for high school. **On September 30,** high school student representatives from Paint Branch, Springbrook and Blake will come to speak to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders about their school experiences. In addition, parents will be receiving NEC information by mail and ConnectEd calls about the upcoming “Options Fairs” at Blake and Northwood HS.

Please check the White Oak website [www.whiteoakms.org](http://www.whiteoakms.org) for more information about the NEC, or contact Ms. Khelawan, 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor in the school counseling office. We look forward to working with our families to transition into the best fit for students’ high school experience.

**Option Fairs**

The Option Fairs will focus on information about the high school *Choice* process and the three NEC high schools and their *Signature* programs. Parents and students will learn about application programs available to Grade 8 students. Information presented is identical at each session.

- **Monday, September 27** – Blake HS, 5:00 and 9:00 pm
- **Monday, October 4** – Northwood HS, 5:00 and 9:00 pm

## Open Houses

- **Thursday, October 7** – Springbrook HS, 7:00 pm
  - **Thursday, October 21** – Paint Branch HS, 7:00 pm
  - **Thursday, October 28** – Blake HS, 7:00 pm
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**The Counseling Department** is excited to begin a new school year! Ms. May, Mrs. Khelawan, and Mr. McMillen will be working together on a number of programs throughout the year to support the needs of our students, including Student Empowerment, College and Career Exploration, and Student Outreach. The first program in October will focus on student empowerment and bullying prevention. We look forward to continue working with you to help your child be successful. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child or programs and services we offer, please feel free to contact your child's grade level counselor: Mr. McMillen – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Ms. May – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, and Mrs. Khelawan – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

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**8<sup>th</sup> Grade News** – The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team started out the year with a town hall meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school. Eighth graders heard about expectations, fundraisers, and field trips being planned throughout the school year. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade started the Wolfgang Candy fundraiser on September 7 and should have all money and order forms back to Mr. Grove by September 28. Mr. Hwang is organizing another fundraiser by selling pizza and other refreshments after school once afterschool activities start in mid-September. The money for all fundraisers will go to offset the costs of field trips and other activities for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Our first field trip will be to 300 Shady Grove. This trip is an incentive for doing well on their report cards, staying off the D and E list, and having no referrals to the office. At 300 Shady Grove, students will be able to bowl, dance, play billiards, play Wii, and eat as much food as possible!

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**After School Activities and Buses:** Our after school buses will begin running on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on Tuesday, September 28. Only students who participate in activities with a sponsor will be allowed to ride these buses. Students who are not participating in an organized activity with a sponsor will need to leave the school building immediately at dismissal.

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## **New Wildcats:**

- **Ms. Madelyn Badger** is our new Media Specialist. This is her second career. Prior to working in schools she worked with graphic arts and was a computer scientist specializing in networks. She began working in schools 8 years ago as a media assistant at Wood Middle School and most recently at Northwood High School. We are going to benefit greatly from her experience in both middle school and high school media programs as well as her technology expertise. Ms. Badger has three teenagers, two dogs, two cats, and one hamster. She loves photography and quilting for fun.
  - **Ms. Dawn Barrett** is the newest member to our building service staff. Prior to coming to White Oak, she was the building supervisor at Seven Locks elementary school and prior to that at Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School. She is already making a great impact by helping our building look beautiful and as she is getting to know our staff and students. Outside of work she loves going to the theater and watching football games.
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The Parent Academy has kicked off a new year and is offering workshops throughout the fall. In September, topics range from school bus safety and school nutrition to financing college education and learning basic computer skills. Later this fall, the Parent Academy will feature sessions on the Maryland State Assessment, reading strategies for middle school students and how parents of special education students can become more effective advocates for their children.

The workshops are taught by MCPS employees, parents and outside experts. Free child care and interpretation services will be provided upon request, based on availability. More than 30 sessions are scheduled at various schools and locations throughout the county this fall. [See the schedule.](#)

Workshops are free of charge and led by MCPS staff members and representatives from community organizations. Free child care and interpreters are provided upon request. Information and online registration is available on the Parent Academy website [www.mcpsparentacademy.org](http://www.mcpsparentacademy.org). [Register online](#) or by calling the Department of Family and Community Partnerships at 301-279-3100.

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## Softball & Cross Country Schedule– All games start at 3:15pm.



- September 28 – Girls' Softball, Newport Mill @ WO (Boys away)  
Coed Cross Country – Newport Mill at WO
- October 6 – Girls' Softball, Key @ WO (Boys away)
- October 12 – Boys' Softball, Eastern @ WO (Girls away)  
Coed Cross Country – WO at Eastern
- October 19 – Girls' Softball, Sligo @ WO, (Boys away)
- October 21 – Boys' Softball, Lee @ WO (Girls away)  
Coed Cross Country – Lee at WO
- October 27 – Boys' Softball, SSI @ WO (Girls away)  
Coed Cross Country – WO at Takoma Park



## Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes for September

- Give a Little Time . . . Make a Big Difference

SSL: Fosters Civic Responsibility.

- SSL is a graduation requirement in the state of Maryland. Understand the SSL plan in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) by contacting the SSL coordinator in any middle or high school and exploring the SSL Web site [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org).
- Service performed during the summer for which SSL hours are desired must be documented on MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification* and turned in to the SSL coordinator by the last Friday in September (September 24).
- All organizations and opportunities for which SSL hours are desired must be preapproved. Check the list of organizations tagged, "Approved SSL MCPS" and opportunities tagged, "MCPS SSL Approved" at the website [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) or get MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* granted in advance of any involvement.
- Students may serve on campaigns of individuals running for public office. MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* is required by each student in advance of any service.
- The award of SSL hours outside of the instructional day (before school, lunchtime, after school) is one SSL hour for every hour of service. **There is a maximum of 8 hours within a 24 hours period. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### Reminders:

- **Student pictures** will be taken on Tuesday, October 19. More information will be distributed to students in October.
- **Check your child's grades on Edline.** Need an activation code? Have a question about Edline? Visit our website at [www.whiteoakms.org](http://www.whiteoakms.org) for more information or contact Mrs. Badger at 301-989-5728.
- **Daily Announcements** are posted on Oaknet listserv and Edline. If you would like to be part of the Oaknet list-serve send an email to [oaknet-subscribe@yahooogroups.com](mailto:oaknet-subscribe@yahooogroups.com).
- Every month White Oak MS will publish a newsletter informing you of upcoming events. **Current and archive copies of WOMS Newsletters** are available on the White Oak website [www.whiteoakms.org](http://www.whiteoakms.org). Click on "newsletters" under Quicklinks on the main page.
- **The Kids Ride Free program** was SUSPENDED ON JUNE 27, 2010. Students will NO longer be able to ride free Monday thru Friday from 2 pm to 7 pm. The Youth Cruiser Pass is available at a great rate - \$11 that will allow unlimited rides on Ride On buses ONLY. Youth Cruiser Passes may be purchased by mail, online or at the TRIPs stores in Silver Spring or at Ride-On Headquarters in Rockville. The Youth Cruiser Pass is NOT accepted on Metro buses! Additional information is available on the web <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tsvtmpl.asp?url=/content/dot/transit/index.asp>
- **Support our school by updating your Giant and Safeway cards. Schools earn funds to help support programs.**
  - **Giant's A+ School Rewards program** starts October 8, 2010 and runs through March 24, 2011. Parents and supporters must "re"-register their card every year. Please add **White Oak Middle School - number 00886** to your card. For more information visit Giant's website at [http://www.giantfood.com/our\\_stores/bonus\\_bucks/index.htm](http://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/index.htm)
  - **Safeway's eScrip** program allows participating merchants to contribute a percentage of purchases to schools. To **update and/or enroll** in the **eScrip** visit the Safeway website at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). Follow the steps and designate White Oak Middle School. **School ID number is 6586891.** Be sure to click on White Oak Middle School in Silver Spring.
  - Clip "**Box Top for Education**" coupons and drop off in the main office any time. Just look for the Box Top logo on hundreds of products. **School earns .10 cents for each Box Top coupon.**



**PTSA** meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.