

WILDCAT NEWS
West Millbrook Middle School



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Mark your calendar...

September

- 10 Student Council Elections
- 12 Fall Individual Pictures
- 12 Fall Sports Pictures
- 13 PTA Fundraiser Kick-Off
- 18 Open House for Parents of 7th/8th Graders
- 21 Early Release Day- 12:30
- 26 School Out - Vacation Day
- 27 Character Ed. Lunch- Responsibility 11:30



October

- 1 PTA Fundraiser Ends



**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:
GO WILDCATS!**

Embracing change! As our students and faculty begin the 2012-13 school year, change seems to be the resonant theme. The WCPSS entered this school year with a new student assignment plan and different transportation patterns. Statewide the school curriculum changed as we embrace the Common Core and Essential Standards. Students at West Millbrook will encounter new assessments this year. In October, our 8th graders will take the Explore test and throughout the year students in all grade levels will participate in Case 21 Benchmark assessments as we strive to ensure that all students are well-prepared not only for the EOGs but also for the next grade level. In August, we welcomed a new assistant principal, Christie Patrone, to our administrative team. We also hired 7 new teachers who joined the highly talented faculty at WMMS. We implemented a new bell schedule at West Millbrook, moving guided study to 6th period. And, ZAP (Zeros Aren't Permitted) has been revised and is embedded in guided study. However, when we

piece all of the changes together, we are still **West Millbrook!**

Our PTA is amazing! If your student tries to tell you that it isn't cool for parents to volunteer in middle school, please know that is NOT TRUE. The WMMS PTA supports the mission of WMMS in a myriad of ways and we would not experience the success we do without their continued support. Please consider joining our PTA and volunteering. We still have a few committees that need chairpersons and we always need our legion of volunteers for a variety of different activities.

The transition in our standard course of study (what we teach) to the new Common Core and Essential Standards is the single largest innovation is education that I've ever experienced. It is far more than a name change for courses. There are new standards in all content areas and high expectations for all students. It is imperative that parents understand these new curricular standards so they can support their children's learning. The school system has created parent friendly information about this curriculum change. Visit <http://www.wcpss.net/common-core/> to learn more!

My first 100 days as the principal of West Millbrook Middle School have been fantastic. This community has welcomed me and I feel very much at home. I was anxious for the teachers to return on August 17 and even more eager to see students on August 27! We've settled into the school year well. Classes are underway, student council elections are this week and the PTA fundraiser is right around the corner! Stop by the 'orange' office to say hello when you're on campus and I'll see you at our upcoming volleyball matches and soccer and football games.

Kelly Aman
Principal



Character Education Program

WCPSS has adopted **eight** character **traits** which summarize key principals surrounding good character and make up an effective character education program.

At **West Millbrook Middle School**, good character is promoted throughout the school year! One way we do this at WMMS is through a **PTA sponsored Character Education Committee**. **Every month** the **Character Education Committee** hosts a luncheon honoring students who have been unanimously selected by their team teachers for consistently demonstrating the **WCPSS** character trait of that month. Teachers will be looking for students who are exhibiting the specific monthly character trait and making the good choices all month long. Students grades 6th-8th are then selected by their team teachers and honored at the monthly Character Education luncheon. Students are treated to pizza, drinks, a healthy snack and a desert. They also receive an awards certificate, and a goody bag filled with area coupons and prizes. There is also a monthly drawing and one lucky student will win an exclusive, PE approved **character education T-shirt!** This is our way of saying thank you to students for making excellent choices and being leaders.

Several years ago the **Character Education Committee** decided to expand the luncheons and include a cultural experience. Students are creatively introduced to foods, facts and fun surrounding different countries and cultures from around the world during the course of the luncheon. Luncheons have truly evolved and have become very interactive, educational and fun for all!

This year the luncheons will be held the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30 outside the cafeteria at the **“Character Cafe,”** weather permitting. Otherwise all luncheons will be in the media center. If you would like more information about the **Character Education Program**, would like to become a volunteer or simply attend one of the luncheons, please contact **Courtney Florian 870-9577, or Patty Steinke 878-3426.**

September's trait is responsibility!

Students will find the trait of the month on TV monitor located in each classroom or at the front office. Look for our new life size Character Education Banner listing each trait, a definition and a related quote. Remember Character Counts!



YEARBOOK SALE!!!!!

The 2012-2013 yearbook is now on sale! Visit jostens.com to reserve your copy of "Life in the Middle" for only \$25! Don't procrastinate - sale ends September 30!

Thanks!

Jean Jett

West Millbrook Middle School
6th Grade Language Arts
Yearbook Adviser

PTA NEWS!!!!!

Welcome to a new school year at WMMS

I hope your year is getting off to a great start. The PTA is excited to offer many programs this year that will benefit all of the teachers, staff and students at our school. We hope that you will become a member of the PTA and also complete a volunteer form. Whether you are able to help out once or many times throughout the year, your efforts will be truly appreciated. By signing up you are placed on an email distribution that will solicit help when needed – you don't have to help every time – only when it is convenient for you. So we hope you will add your name to our list.

Our annual catalog fundraiser kickoff will be held next week, so be on the lookout for packets to come home with your children. This is our primary fundraiser and if it's successful, then our programs will be a success, so please support it as you can. Another way to support our school is to link your grocery cards - Kroger, Food Lion (214876), Harris Teeter (1986) and Target (81107) ... and don't forget to send in your Box Tops!!

West Millbrook is a wonderful school and I'm looking forward to working together with all of you this year!

Kim Miller- PTA President

TAKE NOTE & TAKE ACTION!

In an effort to improve communication, we have a **New PTA website: <http://wmmspta.weebly.com>** and a **New Face Book Page**. Please check them out and 'like' us.



Food Lion:

West Millbrook Middle School Code: **214876**

http://www.foodlionmvpwards.com/mvp_registration/cardno.php

Easy PTA Fundraisers FREE Money for our School!!



Help earn money for our school!

CLIP 'EM! Our school gets 10c for every box top. That doesn't sound like a lot, does it? However, as we add them up it makes a HUGE difference! Last year we collected enough box tops to earn over \$1200 for the school! Just clip them and turn them in to your homeroom teacher. For a complete list of products just click http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx?WT.ac=UHP_PartProducts_10012010

Don't forget to **RE-LINK** your grocery card!



Every time you shop, our school gets money to support our programs. You must re-link each year.



Harris Teeter

West Millbrook Middle School Code: **1986**

http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx



TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION™

Target:

West Millbrook Middle School Code: **81107**

<https://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-005158>