



The Wildcat

Westland Middle School

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Who is that man with the radio outside of the school every morning greeting you with a smile? Who is the man that flashes down the hallways of Westland in a single leap and jog? Is it a bird? Not in here. Is it a security officer looking to help the 6th grader in distress at his locker? Not quite. It's our very own principal, Mr. Vogelman.

Mr. Vogelman is the "Head of the Class" here at Westland Middle School. A native of Philadelphia, PA, Mr. Vogelman has been with the school system for 13 years. He became an administrator after teaching for several years and realizing that he wanted to affect the lives of more children both directly and indirectly.

Since becoming a Wildcat, he has watched the school climate change for the better. The school is more

welcoming. Through communication between the school and community, the community has taken on an increased sense of awareness of issues that are pertinent to Westland. He has watched the scores, as reflected in data, increase statewide and locally. There has also been an increased level of rigor in various subject areas.

With community service and Green Schools becoming more prevalent in the county, Mr. Vogelman is envisioning that the STAR period will allow you, the students, to become more aware of activities and systems that have made us an exemplary International Baccalaureate School. Teachers and faculty members alike will be able to work together in order to make a difference in our students' lives. Stay alert to see more community service projects like Pennies for Patients, Support Our Troops, and Help the Homeless to make your impact on the community.

For you incoming 6th graders and new students, Mr. Vogelman

offers you some key pieces of advice. Relax. Don't stress out. The transition may seem more daunting but rest assured that we [faculty and staff] have the experience to help you. Within a week you will get over many of the obstacles and hurdles you have been facing. Get involved and come to school events. Students who are involved become successful and well-rounded students.

What superhero do you think Mr. Vogelman would be? Quick. Think fast. No, not invisible man. Not even the Dark Knight. If you said, "Batman," you're close. Mr. Vogelman would see himself as Superman. He is one person here at school and another when he gets home. When it's time for him to go home, he takes off his principal hat and becomes a husband and father. Just like Superman he knows that everyone has weaknesses but knows how to overcome them in order to be effective.



Upcoming Events

September

Hispanic Heritage Month

5th—School Pictures

11th—Back to School Night 7-9 pm

29—Early release day K-12. Grading and planning. Students dismissed after lunch.

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6th Grade Orientation Eases Angst

6th Grade Orientation went off without a glitch on Friday, August 22, 2008. Hundreds of new students and their parents flocked to the school to get a glimpse of what their first day of school would entail. From the looks of the expressions on their faces when they stepped off the buses, many were anxious and nervous.

However, once they saw their long lost friends, anxieties were put aside and they were off to the races. Many couldn't wait to

see who their teachers would be. Would they in fact have the teacher from the black lagoon or would they have a real live person who understood their angst? By the end of the morning, parents and students were ready to begin a new year in a new school.



"It's great. Great facility. Good control of kids fast." Mrs. Ivoic, parent of a new 6th Grader

What's Going On...in and around WMS?

The 2008-2009 school year is well underway with hundreds of new students, teachers, and faculty members. WMS has a renewed sense of pride with the new classroom additions across from the media center as well as energized staff members readying to teach the leaders of tomorrow.

Have you looked on the walls as you've gone down the hallways? If not, you have missed some wonderful paintings and pictures that represent who we, the WMS Wildcats, are in spirit and character. The main office even got a makeover. Stop by and no-

tice the new furniture, paint job, and furnishings. Let the main office staff know how bright and cheery it looks in there.

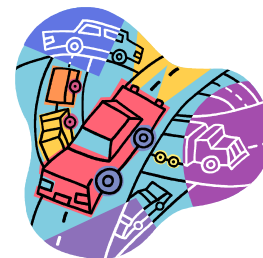
Ever wonder who the new teachers and staff members are? Take a chance and stop by their classrooms. Believe it or not, they are teachers from surrounding communities who couldn't wait to meet you and your parents. The new teachers and staff members are very eager to get to know you and what makes you a WMS Wildcat. Remember you are in Wildcat Country.

In national news, the Democratic National

Convention is taking place Denver, Colorado during the week of August 25-29.

Barack Obama will be officially nominated as the Democratic Party nominee for President of the United States. The Republican Party Convention takes place this week in Minnesota. More news to follow about the Republican Party in next month's issue.

In next month's issue...news in and around the beltway.



Wildcats of Westland, please join me in welcoming Mrs. Maniya Desroches to our school.

Mrs. Desroches is coming to Westland from A. Mario Loiederman MS in Silver Spring with over 11 years of experience

with the Montgomery County Public School system. Mrs. Desroches, a former Teach for America alumni, brings with her a wealth of cultural knowledge, special education experience, and good old-fashioned, down to earth, haven't see it before FUN (You will be able to find her on Fridays wearing West-

Spotlight on Mrs. Maniya Desroches

land gear and promoting WILDCAT Pride to the fullest extent). Mrs. Desroches

doesn't believe that one should allow a learning disability to hinder one's ability to succeed.

She is an educator whose family history is rich in educational values and appreciation of people of other cultures and races. During my interview with Mrs. Desroches, I found her to be a very open-minded professional who believes in several primary principles:

1. Treat people as individuals not as a group.
2. Don't make judgments based on outward appearances.
3. Acknowledge everyone as having a story.

Mrs. Desroches is not just an administrator but she is also a woman on the move. She loves spas, traveling, dancing, and staying involved in her community. When asked what fad, fashion, or music type from her time in middle school that she would bring back, she instantaneously said, "Old School Rap and Hip Hop. Conscious music. Music that makes you feel good." Some of the artists names that came up were Queen Latifah, Public Enemy, Salt N Pepa, and Madonna. Oops, I can't forget her favorite band of all time, Duran Duran.

As you can see, Mrs. Desroches is who she shows she is...a well-rounded and dynamic administrator.

What Are You Wearing This Fall?

What are you wearing back to school this fall? According to the online edition of *Cosmo Girl*, girls' back to school basics include: Many girls are continuing to wear the skinny



The hoodie sweatshirt



Printed Screen Tees



Filigree earrings

jeans with bright colorful shirts and shoes. Boys are playing it safe from what I've seen. The boys of WMS have been seen wearing baggy shorts and jeans, t-shirts representing their favorite vacation spot, and of course the ever so popular...tennis shoes or flip flops. If

you see a new trend in fashion that you would like to appear in *The Wildcat*, let us know.



Coming in the September issue, "What's in Your iPod?"

R-E-S-P-E-C-T Find Out What It Means to Us

Respect— means to show consideration for the rights of everyone in the school that you may come in contact with

R eport to class on time

E very day wear correct attire and bring your materials

S hare your ideas in class, by raising your hand

P ut downs, swearing and offensive language are not options

E very day do your utmost to keep the classroom and school tidy and damage free

C oncentrate on the lesson and task at hand

T rust and safety is built on your leaving others and their belongings alone and them returning the courtesy



SportsZone

Attention All

Athletes:

Intramurals will start for all grades during the 2nd week of school.

Softball and cross country tryouts start September 1st and 2nd for 7th and 8th graders.

This is a great time for you to get to meet new people and make new friends.

Upcoming 7th and 8th grade team sports:

Winter: Boys and girls basketball

Spring: Boys and girls soccer

Please see Mr. Crane for more information.

“Awards become corroded, friends gather no dust.”

Jesse Owens

Are You an IB Learner

IB Learners are:



Inquirers

- Are you curious?
- Do you know how to find answers to your questions?

Knowledgeable

- Do you know about a range of subjects?



Thinkers

- Do you apply what you learn to new situations?

- Can you use your knowledge to solve problems and make good decisions?

Communicators

- Can you express your ideas and opinions clearly when speaking or writing?
- Can you communicate in more than one language?
- Can you communicate using technology, art, music, and drama?





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Anika Browne - Assistant School Administrator

The Wildcat is the monthly newspaper of Westland Middle School. It is being used as a communication tool between the school and local community. Please feel free to contact Ms. Thornton in Room 218 if you have any comments, questions or concerns. If there are any topics that you would like to see in upcoming issues, please let us know.



Look for the words below in the puzzle.

ART

ENGLISH

HUMANITIES

LUNCH

MATH

MUSIC

READING

SCIENCE

School's In Session

Y P Q D T V G P T W D B G Y O
H H W T E K G P Q I X S E I H
H U M A N I T I E S H N E R S
A I A S Z Z V B Q D G C A C J
R E Q W C L Q U S L S T N S F
X R G D A L W N I G S X K U P
N E X D G W Y S A A T G N K L
D A R T D Y H P H C D C P B X
Y D Z S N A N S Y A B W O G F
X I F H C F S N K C V F H K D
V N V T U I D P X M U M T V C
W G T X J S E M Z Q X M A Q W
C I S U M X M N U A N L M R M
G G Q U Y O S S C W A C O T O
Z N K E P Q J P Q E S U R T P