

# Volume I, Issue 2 September/October 2008



## The Wildcat of Westland Middle School

### Teacher Time

By Devin Doherty

the involvement of parents. We are truly lucky as pupils to have teachers as well as parents who care so much about our education and learning. This means that even though a student might not be interested in doing well in school, their parents will push them and contact that teacher and the school in order to force them to hit the books and complete their homework.

Another major reason that teachers enjoy their careers at Westland is the availability of high-tech teaching tools. Many classrooms have Promethean or Smart Boards. It's one of the first things that catch a student's eye upon entering the room. These new Promethean boards help teachers give their pupils a better learning experience akin to the Greek Titan, Prometheus, and how he gave primitive humans fire and taught them how to live like we live today.

Teachers at Westland have a cornucopia of reasons to enjoy educating. Eventually some of our students here at Westland will have the opportunity to become teachers. Will we be as lucky as the teachers we have now to teach in such a great place as Westland?



**T**he teachers and instructors at Westland are a pretty dedicated bunch. Many of them realize that the environment in which they teach is a wonderful place for them to educate our next generations. That is probably why a great majority of teachers have stayed in their posts at Westland Middle School for such long periods of time. Why you may ask? The answer is actually pretty simple.

A majority of teachers just love the students and enjoy working and teaching here. Mr. Camp, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade World Studies teacher, has been here for 17 whole years and he simply stated that he enjoys teaching 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Even teachers who haven't been at Westland for more than a decade say that they enjoy the student body and the school itself.

Ms. Wiggin-Epp, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, says that she likes



### It's Not Easy Being Green

By Haley Callicott

**W**hen teachers talk about Westland, they say we are a "Green" school. What makes us "Green?" Our school colors are blue and yellow, right? Westland is part of the Maryland Green Schools program. Green Schools

focus mainly on energy conservation. As a Green School, we take extra though within our school environment to preserve the natural world. As you might have noticed, the teachers are using less paper this year. Mr. Vogelman sends our phone messages to our homes, instead of printing 700+ copies of Backpack Wednesday. Our monthly school newsletter is viewed mainly online to save many trees and lots of time. All Classrooms have signs under the light switches saying "please turn me off" or other similar messages. We recycle our lunch trays. We even go so far as to put paper bird profiles on the windows so real birds don't fly into the glass and hurt themselves.

We are definitely green at school. So what can we do at home to be more environmentally?

1. Take shorter showers.
2. Walk or bike to school.
3. Use a water filter to purify tap water instead of buying bottled water.
4. Borrow from libraries instead of buying personal books and movies.
5. Unplug appliances when you're not using them.

These are just a few ideas. Check out this website for more "Green" ideas. <http://www.worldwatch.org>

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"Isn't it nice to see children cycling to school?"

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chat Room

### By Naomi Langer

Let's take an inside look at the conversations of WMS's 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Some students are interested in the election while some students follow sports. Some people are talking about nail polish while others are talking about movies. Our conversations change during the day. When we get off the bus, we meet our friends and tell them extensively about last night or complain about not getting enough sleep. At any time during the day, we can freak out about not doing the math homework or forgetting to study for the Spanish quiz. In the halls, conversations are mainly limited to a rushed "hi" or "see you next period." At lunch, we discuss anything from week end plans to teachers to people of interest in our classes. The chatting never ends in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Until next time, let the chatting continue.



## WHAT'S IN YOUR IPOD?

By Liberty D'Anton



Hey! I've been looking around Westland before and after school...it seems like

most Westlanders have iPods. I'm curious about what artists are on their iPod's. I want to see what music do most students listen to and what is the most popular kind of music flowing into everyone's ear. The music heard around school could also affect other Westlanders and encourage them to try out new music. Music should express who you are or what you feel! That's why I asked random students what music they liked most on their iPods. He are the top 5 artists: Miley Cyrus, The Jonas Brothers, Rihanna, Maroon 5, and Green Day. Our musical artist of the month is Miley Cyrus.



## Fashion Alert by Sarah Bien

Are you wearing the fashion? Today for summer going into fall preteen girls are wearing layered tanks, plaid shorts, labeled sweat shirts and skinny jeans. Also the labels that are still in for girls and boys are Abercrombie, Hollister, American eagle and Aeropostale. Though their stuff is expensive it's still comfortable and kids want to stay in fashion. For guys they are wearing plaid pants, jeans and labeled shirts. Any new fashions let us know.



**W**elcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue of The Wildcat. This is a combined September/October edition. Look for a special 2008 Election Results Issue the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>. Welcome the new staff members and writers of The Wildcat: Haley Callicott, Devin Doherty, Sarah Bien, Naomi Langer, Celia Ragland, Abby Frye, Liberty D'Anton, and Nate Caplan. We will have several contributing writers throughout the school year as well as featured artists and columns. Please feel free to email or write us with any of your comments or suggestions for future stories. If you would like to be a guest columnist, let us know as well. We hope you enjoy this 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of The Wildcat.



## **What Are You Planning to Do in November?**

**November 4** – Rock the Vote. Remember you too can go to the polling places with your parents and learn about the election process.

**November 11** – Report Cards will be distributed during STAR

**November 11** – Early Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences

**November 12** – Early Dismissal Professional Day

**November 26** – Early Dismissal

**November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** - Thanksgiving Holiday

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