

WESTLAWN ELEMENTARY

January 8, 2008

# Tailfeathers

Kim Dockery, *Principal* • Cecilia Vanderhye, *Assistant Principal*



**Main Office:**  
703-241-5100

**Attendance Line:**  
703-241-5151

## Teacher Leadership Grant

July 28th -  
August 15th

### Westlawn Summer School

As Fairfax County and FCPS head into some intense budget cuts that mean the loss of many programs, Westlawn is fortunate to have one year left in our remarkable Teacher Leadership Development Grant. This program features a three week Summer Institute for teacher development embedded in our own site based summer school. The Summer School offers a jumpstart into learning. There will be offerings for students in grade K-5 as well as Young Scholars classes.

The teacher leadership development grant consists of 34 extended contracts to Westlawn teachers who serve in a range of capacities in the school. Some teachers teach summer school, providing a lab setting for new and developing teacher learning. Here teachers who are new to the profession or new to Westlawn observe master teachers teaching our own wonderful students. Those teachers observe, co-teach and develop the school wide strategies that are hallmarks of our strong instructional program.

The summer program for students focuses on learning new

## Good for Westlawn



*Boyer After School Teachers: Our grant supports this as well as Summer School*

vocabulary and concepts that are in the upcoming grade. Taught by teachers in the grade students will be in the upcoming year, the students have a chance to strengthen literacy skills in exciting, new curricular contexts. Our summer programs also offer Young Scholars curriculum.

Other Westlawn teachers with extended contracts work on assessing new kindergarten students and rising first grade students before the first day of school. We estimate that first grade teachers save almost three weeks by getting this assessment started before the school year. Other teachers work on school wide projects, developing curriculum, creating assessments, planning with their team for the upcoming year, and working on the components of our

school plan (like the school based GT Center and Boyer Day).

FCPS will be announcing that because of budget issues, the summer school programs as they now exist will be cut. They are offering elementary schools the opportunity to provide programs similar (but much smaller) than ours. These will also be offered in August. These changes require families to make adjustments to the schedules they have become used to. While we know that change is hard, we feel the August jump-start is great for teachers and students and feel fortunate that Westlawn has one more year of this program. Mark your calendars now for summer school 2008, July 28th to August 15th.

Kim Dockery, Principal

**For more information, visit our web site at [www.fcps.edu/Westlawn](http://www.fcps.edu/Westlawn).  
*Tailfeathers* is a bimonthly publication.**

## Boyer Day (After School Program) Register Now! Grades 3-6

In today's Tuesday folder you will find a registration form for our Westlawn After School Program. Called Boyer Day for the original grant from The Boyer Center, this program is now supported by Title I funds supplemented by a fee for each student paid by parents. This year Boyer Day will offer the same wonderful mixture of classes based on teacher strength and interest with the hope that students sign up for something they are interested in doing or learning more about. With the development of our own School Based Gifted Center program, all classes will be developed with enrichment components with the opportunity for students to add performance, authentic skills or service into as many classes as possible. Director, Amy Williams supported by Carleta Waytes and with GT Coach, Kerri Fulginiti will lead this program. The fee for the program is \$50.00 for a 12 week session, only a little over \$4.00 for an hour and half class taught by Westlawn master teachers. What a bargain! This fee doesn't begin to cover the cost for the entire program but combined with our own Title I funds, we will once again be able to offer this exciting program for students in grades 3-6. There will be scholarships available through BRTRC student support. Classes begin January 31st and run through May 1st. Classes run from 2:50-4:15. There will be one bus run. Please note that while we offered classes for K-2 last year we will only be offering this program for grades 3-6 this year!

## FCPS Magnet School Registration

FCPS offers two magnet programs at Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and Hunters Woods ES for the Arts and Sciences. Information about application may be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/magnet.htm>. For further information or a copy of the registration packet please contact the Westlawn front office.

## Two Weeks At-A-Glance January 7th-18th

7	8 8:00-9:00am Parent Partners	9 7:00-8:00pm Family Reading Night	10	11 NESTS!
14	15 8:00-9:00am Parent Partners	16	17	18 SCA Spirit Day Backwards Day!!

## Spotlight on Learning

### Westlawn Art Students Shine!

When BRTRC approached Westlawn with an idea for a partnership, no one pictures where this would end up. BRTRC partnerships sponsors, Peggy Walker and Brenda Adams worked with CEO Terri Hopkins to envision a holiday card for BRTRC that featured the theme of service to others. Fitting with the



*BRTRC Employees Announce Art Winners*

school board adopted goal 3 focused on service and highlighting the service BRTRC provides to Westlawn every single day, this theme was the perfect match. Art teacher Alice Long and counselor, Susan Lawrence, teamed up to teach students about service and represent their ideas through their art. The result was a group of pictures that were sent to BRTRC for final judging. The results, five Westlawn student's artwork was selected to be featured on the BRTRC holiday cards. When they got to production the five pieces of art were combined for one card that was sent to all of BRTRC's clients. Artists were recognized at the Winter concert when BRTRC surprised them with a special presentation of cards and gifts. A framed card is on display in the school office. "Making a difference by serving others", BRTRC leads the way.

### Upcoming Dates

January 21

January 25th and 28th

MLK Day School Holiday

Teacher Workdays No School for students