

Tailfeathers

Cecilia Vanderhye, Acting Principal



Main Office:
703-241-5100

Attendance Line:
703-241-5151

Strong Teacher Leadership = Strong Westlawn



First grade team



Connect Team



Fourth grade team

Westlawn Teacher Teams Are the Heart of the School

We had two successful and well-attended Back to School Nights. Thank you for supporting Westlawn Elementary School.

As we continue on our learning journey this year, Mrs. Dockery will be greatly missed! Her five years at Westlawn will be remembered for her dedication to children, her positive relationship with our community and her leadership in the area of empowering teacher leaders. We wish her all the best in her new appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Special Services; we know Mrs. Dockery's talents will allow her to make a difference for students across all of Fairfax County Public Schools. I am

honored to help our school during this transitional period, and I am confident that the strength of our instructional programs and the support of our staff and community members will keep our school going strong.

Westlawn is a school of teacher leaders who work together to guarantee student learning. The leadership roles staff pursue encompass all aspects of the business of teaching and learning. Leadership roles include teachers who: collaboratively lead their grade level, ensure equity of literacy support, lead teacher research, infuse our school with a passion for mathematics, champion our mentor program, create meaningful

science experiences for our students and help children to see themselves as members of a larger global community.

Collaboration at Westlawn is part and parcel of the very fiber of our school; it is our *modus operandi*. We know that a high level of collaboration directly increases our creativity and ability to help each student succeed. By working together, we meet the needs of all our students. Our success is based on the hard work and collaboration of students, staff and our Westlawn community.

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**For more information, visit our web site at www.fcps.edu/Westlawn.
Tailfeathers is a bimonthly publication.**

Support Your PTA

Support Our Students

The Westlawn PTA is a vital part of our school community. The efforts of this organization make a stronger school culture, supporting parents, teachers and students. With great activities such as the Family Fun Nights they bring together our community. They raise money to support our children, and they physically support the school activities with hundreds of volunteer hours. Please do three things: 1. Join the PTA today. Your small contribution with membership dues sends a strong statement about how important this organization is. 2. Sell and buy wrapping paper to fund the PTA budget making programs they provide possible. 3. Volunteer for PTA activities. The Parent in PTA means you.

Free and Reduced Lunch Alert

September 30th is the last day for students to receive free or reduced lunch who have not completed new forms. This form must be completed each year. If you have not completed the form, please call the school today. There are no funds to provide lunches to those who have not filled out the form. We can help you but you must contact the school.

Advanced Academic Parent Information Night

The county will hold three Parent Information Nights for Advanced Academic Opportunities. Each night will provide an overview of the continuum of services and opportunities offered through the K-12 Gifted and Talented programs. Each night is open to the public and no registration is required. The three nights are:

October 2, 7:30-9:00, at McLean High School
 October 15, 7:30-9:00, Oakton High School
 October 22, 7:30-9:00, Annandale High School

Two Weeks At-A-Glance

September 29th- October 10th

29	30 8:00-9:00am Parent Partners	1	2 7:00-8pm PTA Meeting Principal selection panel discussion with Mrs. Pajardo	3
6	7 8:00-9:00am Parent Partners	8 12:40 Early Release	9	10

Spotlight on Learning

Writing with Pictures

With the support of Marilyn Miner, our new Title I Reading teacher, students and teachers are learning about "Writing Pictures." This is a technique used to teach students how to use their written language to create visual and descriptive pas



sages. It progresses through six structured levels of writing. Fiction or nonfiction writing, personal narrative, grammar, and mechanics can be addressed naturally with the writing pictures technique. Writing Pictures allows students to learn the steps of the writing process with very short pieces of writing. This success then motivates and promotes better quality in longer pieces of writing.

Upcoming Dates

Oct 13 Columbus Day Holiday No School
 Oct 24 Fall Picture Day
 Nov 3rd, 4th Teacher Work Days