



WHS Newsletter

Publisher PTSA Volume 18, Issue 1, October, 2009



A Letter from the Principal

The first semester of the 2009-10 school year is off to a great start at Williams High School and we're well on the way to the end of the second six week grading period. I'd like to give a special thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to help get school started by volunteering at schedule pick-up, putting packets together to go home with students, helping in the library, helping with copying, selling snacks and a million other things to get the year up and running. We could not have done it without you! I'd like to give a special note of thanks to our fabulous PTSA board and especially to Karen Quillicy for stepping up to serve as the PTSA President for this school year!

Our official enrollment as we end the first nine weeks is 2,005 students! The buses are running on a set schedule now and we appreciate your patience as transportation has worked to get the routes running on time. The students are handling themselves and high school extremely well but if your child needs help with lockers, schedules or school life in general, please let our counseling and administrative team help you. We also appreciate your patience with the ongoing construction around the building. We've asked for support from the Plano Police Department to help patrol the area and direct street traffic while this construction is ongoing so if you see them, give them a wave of support for all of their help! The rain has delayed the construction but the City is working as quickly as they can to complete the work and get all lanes open around the building.

Because college readiness is the ultimate goal of high school, I thought I'd let you know that 40% of our entire student body have elected to take either three or four of

their core classes at the honors or AP/IB levels! That is an astounding figure and shows how academically motivated our students are! We also had over 200 9th and 10th grade students who took the Practice PSAT Test. This is the first time we have offered this practice test and strategy session and we look forward to your feedback on its effectiveness.

We hope that you've had a chance to register for the Parent Portal so that you can monitor your child's attendance and grades at school. Grades are updated by teachers each Monday so you can check on the progress your child is making. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the teachers! If you need directions to register for Parent Viewer, you can visit the Plano ISD website at www.pisd.edu. In addition, you can find teacher contact information (emails and phone numbers) on the Williams High School webpage at: www.k-12.pisd.edu/Schools/Williams and click on Home Page. Our building tutorial schedule is being added to the webpage so that you will know when tutorials are available for each subject both before and after school should your child need extra help.

We are looking forward to a great year at Williams!

Sara Bonser
Principal

If you haven't signed up for Parent Viewer to gain access to your child's live grades and attendance, it's not too late. If you go to www.pisd.edu, Parents Page, and select Parent Viewer, you will find directions that allow you to set up an account. Once your request to have Parent Viewer is approved, you will receive an email asking you to set up a password for your account. This will allow you to check grades (which are updated by staff each Monday), look at progress reports with grade/assignment descriptions, and receive automated email reports. We hope that you'll take advantage of this outstanding educational tool.

Williams Website – <http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/williams/index.htm>
Links to staff email, calendars and curriculum information

Williams Campus Calendar

<http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/williams/page/calendar>

Construction/School Bus Update

Starting Oct. 15th, the buses began dropping students off on the north side of the building (at the Warrior Center) in the mornings. Buses will continue to pick up the students in the afternoon on the south side of the building (17th street).

Pep Rally - Rescheduled

Due to the rainy weather we have been having, the Fall Pep Rally was rescheduled. It is now going to be held on Oct. 22nd from 9 – 10:30 a.m. on the football field (again, weather permitting). There will be short performances from our cheerleaders, drill team, step team, and other student groups.

President's Pen



**JOIN PTSA Today! Become a member for \$ 10 a person
SUPPORT WILLIAMS**

**A New School Year Begins
Karen Quillicy, President**

Welcome back to school! The start of school is full of excitement and new possibilities for everyone.

Please note this year we are changing the way the newsletter is provided to you. The WHS Newsletter is going electronic! You'll receive the newsletter via email. Through electronic distribution your PTSA will save approximately \$6,000. This cost savings will be used for other programs for the children of Williams High School. To receive the newsletter, please subscribe to enews@pisd.edu.

If you do not have a computer or Internet access, the PTSA will provide a limited number of newsletters at the front office.

The officers of Williams PTSA look forward to a year of growth and development as leaders, but more importantly as parents. We ask you to please contact any PTSA officer with any questions or concerns you may have. May you and your family have a great and enjoyable school year!

**BECOME A WILLIAMS PTSA MEMBER TODAY!!!
THANKS TO STAFF AND PARENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY JOINED!!!!
WHS PTSA Board Members**

Officer Position	Member Name	Phone	E-mail
President	Karen Quillicy	214-763-3934	qu4s@tx.rr.com
1st VP-Membership	Julie Pancake	972-633-9967	jmcpancake@juno.com
2nd VP-Programs	Denice Burke	972-578-5741	Burkegang5@tx.rr.com
3rd VP- Budget & Finance	Mary Jessen	972-231-2212	mjessen@prodigy.net
Secretary	Diane Mueller	469-939-8753	DianeMueller@kw.com
Treasurer	Angela Miner	972-422-0723	minertx4@verizon.net
Parliamentarian	John Fay	972-479-0785	johnfay4@tx.rr.com
Historian	Rossi Kerby	972-423-1272	r.kerby@tx.rr.com
Chairmen			
Arts in Education	Marci Griffith	972-424-7577	gsmervgriffith@aol.com
Council Delegate	Debbie Haer	972-234-4781	Dghaer4@gmail.com
Council Delegate	Dana Verhulst	972-633-4567	verhulsts@verizon.net
Directory	Robyn Tatman		rdtatman@tx.rr.com
Hospitality	Marjorie Campbell	972-690-665	judithreiter2000@yahoo.com
Hospitality	Felicia Stone	214-830-5694	Yellowstone4@gmail.com
Newsletter	Rhonda Anderson	972-680-3582	abusyquilter@tx.rr.com
Publicity			
Principal	Sara Bonser	469-752-8300	sara.bonser@pisd.edu
SAGE	Sue Short	972-422-5496	s-short@ti.com
Snacks	Misty Hembrough	972-782-2735	mhembrough@aol.com
Snacks			
Student Recognition(WHS)	Sue Hollingsworth	214-505-4444	suehollingsworth@tx.rr.com
Teacher Representative	Lisa Greco	469-752-8300	lisa.greco@pisd.edu
Volunteers	Jackie Bathman	972-675-6812	jl bathman@verizon.net
Painless Fundraisers			
Webmaster			

Quick Links

Plano Council of PTA's
Texas PTA
National PTA
Practical Parent Education
PISD
E-NEWS subscribe today!!!

planopta.org
txpta.org
pta.org
practicalparent.org
pisd.edu
enews@pisd.edu

Stay Tuned For Exciting Programs Sponsored By Your PTSA!!!

Raptor System

The Raptor System is now in place in all Plano ISD schools. Each visitor or volunteer is required to check in upon arrival at the school building. The first time that you come into the building, a valid driver's license will be required. Once you are in the system at a school, you may just provide your name upon entering and a badge will be issued.

If you are a volunteer, you must complete the school district volunteer application, required annually. Go to pisd.edu to fill out the form. Upon entering the Williams, please let Gloria Morales, our receptionist know that you are a volunteer -- the Raptor System will be tracking volunteer hours for you!

Snack Sales at Williams

The Williams PTSA sells snacks daily during all four lunch periods. We require three volunteers each day to staff the snack booth area. If you would like to volunteer to help with the snack sales, please contact Mary Jessen at mjessen@prodiqy.net or call her at 972-231-2212.

Student Recognition Program

The PTSA is asking for donations to use for our student recognition program. Gifts such as movie gift cards, itunes gift cards, merchandise or gift cards from Best Buy, Frys, any mall...essentially anything a teen would like, would be very appreciated. We are asking that all gift cards be at least \$10 each. To donate, please contact Sue Hollingsworth at suehollingsworth@tx.rr.com or call her at 214-505-4444.

Note From the PTSA Volunteer Chair

The 2009-2010 volunteers started their school year this summer by stuffing envelopes for the summer mailing. We stuffed, labeled and boxed. Many, many, many thanks to all the volunteers who came and helped out. These volunteers again continued their work at schedule pick-up, braving the noisy, hectic crowds of students and parents. Again thanks to all who were there.

A reminder to all our volunteers: Please make sure to fill out the online Volunteer Application at www.pisd.edu/volunteer . This application is now sent electronically, instead of the having to print out and notarize the form. Also, when you enter the building to volunteer, please make sure to stop in the office show your ID, sign in and receive a name tag. You MUST also sign out and return your tag to the front desk. Without this information your time cannot be counted.

If you would like to be a Williams High School volunteer please contact Jackie Bathman, Volunteer Coordinator, at jl bathman@verizon.net for more information.

Volunteer you can make a difference! Please take a moment to review the volunteer opportunities available at Williams High School. Simply fill out this form and drop it off at the office or during schedule pick-up. For more information please contact :Jackie Bathman, PTSA Volunteer Coordinator, at jl bathman@verizon.net for more information.

Name: _____
Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone (Home): _____ (Work/Cell): _____
Email: _____

Please check all that you are interested in.

- _____ **SNACK SALES** – sell snacks to students during lunch. This is the main fundraiser for Williams PTSA. (Daytime; 2 ½ hours weekly or bi-weekly)
- _____ **LIBRARY** – help in the library in the mornings or afternoons. (Daytime; 2 hours weekly or bi-weekly)
- _____ **COPY MACHINE** – help copy teacher material. There will be training on use of copy machine. (Daytime; mornings or afternoons)
- _____ **HOSPITALITY** – help chairman with food, set-up, clean-up and baked goods for staff appreciation luncheons, parent coffees, PTSA meetings, etc. Donate door prizes used for staff appreciation. (Evening, morning, afternoon as needed)

- _____ **FOOD/BAKED GOODS**
- _____ **SET-UP**
- _____ **CLEAN-UP**
- _____ **DOOR PRIZES**

- _____ **GREETER/ OFFICE VOLUNTEERS** – act as greeter and assist visitors and parents as they enter Williams High School. (daytime; morning or afternoon; weekly or bi-weekly or during special weeks)
- _____ **SBIC (Site Based Improvement Committee)** – serve on Williams SBIC committee setting and implementing goals for WHS campus. (2 meetings each year)
- _____ **W.H.S. (Williams Helping Students)** – help with community service projects throughout the year as sponsored by PTSA, CIS, counseling office, clinic, etc. - i.e. Red Ribbon Week, vision/hearing screenings, student recognition, judging, decorating bulletin boards & halls, new student registration first week of school, etc. (daytime and evenings as needed)
- _____ **BILINGUAL HELP** – help staff or parents during registration and special weeks – please indicate language:
- _____ **MENTOR** – mentor a child once a week during lunch or when you are available

Please circle day(s) you are available to volunteer
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
Morning Afternoon Evening “As Needed”

Student(s) Name: _____
Grade(s): 9 or 10 Student(s) Area of Interest/Club(s) belong to: _____

PISD requires that every volunteer complete a Criminal History Check form and Volunteer Information form for every school year.

Reflections Program

The 2009-10 Reflections program theme is "Beauty Is..." Categories include literature, visual arts, photography, dance, music composition, and film production. Students may submit as many entries as they wish. Rules and entry forms can be found in the art room, library, and cafeteria. Deadline for the program is Tues. Nov. 12. Please put the entries in the box labeled "Reflections" in the library.

Plano ISD Council of PTAs

Special And Gifted Education Committee

What does Special Education and Gifted & Talented have in common?

Children in both areas learn differently and share a common need for a special focus in their education. These students make up approximately 25% of the student population in the Plano ISD.

The Plano ISD Council of PTAs established the SAGE committee to provide an opportunity for families and educators of students who learn differently to share resources and friendship.

We do this in three vital areas:

Education: SAGE sponsors various classes and seminars throughout the year to provide families and educators the latest information. These classes are typically free of charge. These seminars are offered in the day as part of the **SAGE Brown Bag series** as well as during the evenings for those who can't get away during the day.

Communication: The objective of SAGE is to promote dynamic communication between educators, families and the community. The SAGE website at www.planopta.org/sage.htm is communication central for event calendars, updates, resource links and contact information for the local school SAGE chairs. The SAGE database registry sends out email announcements regarding events in the community as well as in PISD. If you are not registered in the SAGE database to receive notices for upcoming speakers or events, please notify your local SAGE chair on your campus or register online at www.planopta.org/sage.htm.

Support: In the past, SAGE has facilitated the formation of special interest groups so that others can share the information that is most relevant to their need. SAGE interest groups have included, but are not limited to: ADHD, Dyslexia, Gifted and Talented, Tourettes and so on. These support group listings and more can be found on the SAGE website link.

If you are interested in a parent/teacher support group for a specific learning need, contact your local SAGE chair or contact us at www.planopta.org/sage.htm. For 2009-2010, the SAGE committee is working on several **Special Education** topics – including the creation of social events and networks to help facilitate friendships for our kids. For the **Gifted & Talented**, we will be presenting an ongoing program modeled after SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) as well as other special topics for parents. In the spring, we will host a summer camp vendor fair for kids special needs and the gifted as well as for their typical peers!

French Club News

The 2009-2010 Williams French Club is off to a great start with the election of an excellent slate of officers for the upcoming year!!

Our official cabinet is as follows: President - Rachel Goodwin, Vice-President - Breann Davis, Secretary - Ishrat Hafiz, Treasurer - Stephanie Borja, Public Relations - Jenn Beam, Fernando Osornio, Yareli Ramos, Historians - Stephanie Borja, Katelyn Garrett, Gabby Vallejo, Krista Alba, Sergeant d'Arms - Daniel James.

The Club meets twice a month on Tuesday afternoons, in Room E-107. Madame Ristevski is the sponsor. Club dues are \$7.00. The Club is going to plan a get together party at its next meeting which will be on September 29. The Club is open to all students who are currently taking French and to those who are native French speakers. For more information, contact Harriet.Ristevski@pisd.edu

Spanish Club News

Spanish Club recently elected officers for the 2009-2010 year.

President: Amy Chyao
Vice-President: K.C. Nwora
Secretary/Historian: Anna Shapovalova

Spanish Club meets every third Tuesday of the month after school from 4:30-5:30. Anyone who is interested in Spanish culture and language is welcome to join. Dues are paid once a year and the members participate in activities like making sugar skulls for Day of the Dead, making rain sticks in the spring, making piñatas, discussing important dates and facts about the Spanish speaking world and even learning to salsa dance.

Club sponsors: Maria Martino and April Nevill. Contact April Nevill at 469-752-8300 x38419 or april.nevill@pisd.edu

Car Wash and Garage Sale For JROTC Students

All this muddy weather means everyone will surely want to clean their car. Plan to visit the Tetco Station at 3951 Legacy Drive on October 21 and 24 to drive through and wash your car. For those two days, 50% of all proceeds will go to the JROTC Panther Battalion Booster Club, which supports all JROTC students at Williams.

Looking for bargains? Then check out the JROTC GARAGE SALE October 24 in front of Clark High School from 9-12. Proceeds benefit the JROTC Panther Battalion Booster Club! For more information, contact Karen Miller, klmiller9905@hotmail.com, or Annette VanHecke, annette.vanhecke@tx.rr.com

English Department

Ninth-grade Pre-AP English I

Students kicked off the 2009-2010 school year with a discussion about why we love certain movies and books. As we developed our list of reasons, we grouped them into four categories: character/voice, style, theme/insight, and plot/conflict. These represent our focus areas as we talk about literature and explore how authors use various techniques to create interest in their writings. The end-goal is for our students to become sensitive to what constitutes quality writing and develop and incorporate those ideas into their own compositions. We are off to an awesome start as we watch this new crop of ninth-graders turn into life-long readers and writers!

Ramona Berdea	Ramona.Berdea@pisd.edu
Carol Bernstein	Carol.Bernstein@pisd.edu (team leader)
David Humphrey	David.Humphrey@pisd.edu
Robin Liesenfelt	Robin.Liesenfelt@pisd.edu
Portia Morrison	Portia.Morrison@pisd.edu
Matt Zellner	Matt.Zellner@pisd.edu

English II

Students begin the year by reading selected short stories and poetry in our Finding Meaning in Moments unit. Students are encouraged to find meaningful moments in literature and study how writers find inspiration for their work. Students will then use the process of writing to uncover the significance in everyday moments in their own life and write about them. They are assigned an essay to write or revise each week that is due on Friday.

As we move into the second six weeks, students will self-select a memoir to be read in and outside of class. There will be many fun and engaging activities as we hold our first in-class Book Club at Williams High.

Students finished the Meaning in Moments unit and began the Memoir Unit. Ask your student which memoir they are reading!

Edie Alderson	edie.alderson@pisd.edu
Cameron Davis	cameron.davis@pisd.edu
Jill Engelking	jill.engelking@pisd.edu
Robin Liesenfelt	robin.liesenfelt@pisd.edu
Angie Ritchie	angie.ritchie@pisd.edu (team leader)
Danielle Sturgeon	danielle.sturgeon@pisd.edu

International Honors English II

In IH English II, we have begun the year by writing a research paper on the life and leadership of Julius Caesar. This will help lay the foundation for our first in-class reading assignment which is William Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. Additionally, students will have outside reading assignments consistently throughout the year as well as weekly writing

assignments. The students have already begun the first outside reading assignment which is Alexandre Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

Jenny Bird

jenny.bird@pisd.edu

Pre-AP English II

We are very excited to start Pre AP English II for the 2009-2010 school year with outside reading of a selected memoir. The students will work on group activities and have a graded discussion over the entire book. The memoir unit is followed by reading the novel, *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok. *Asher Lev* highlights a young man who struggles against his ultra-conservative Hasidic Jewish background because of his extraordinary artistic talents.

In class, students begin the unit, Finding Meaning in Moments. They study short stories and poetry by various authors and are challenged to recognize meaningful moments not only in the literature, but in their lives as well. Students will also receive instruction in grammar addressing sentence types and verbals. The students continue to practice silent sustained reading with weekly Book Club and strengthen their vocabulary with WAVE.

Writing compelling essays continues to be a skill advanced in Honors English II. Each Monday students are assigned either an essay or a revision assignment of a previous essay that is due on Friday. Weekly essay assignments are essential in helping to foster each student's growth as a writer.

Students will also prepare for AP by writing analytical paragraphs, completing AP style questions and learning literary terminology.

Edie Alderson

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Jenny Bird

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Cameron Davis

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Michael Lloyd

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Angie Ritchie

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English I

The year has gotten off to a great start! We are excited to be working with you and your student(s) for '09-'10 Academic School Year. Here's a look at what we're currently studying:

Author's Craft - Our first unit of study is a comprehensive look at the art of writing. Through short stories, essay-writing, and poetry, students are exposed to the elements of plot, conflict, theme and style. As we wrap up our unit, students will be tested over these elements and will complete a *Poster Project*. Each student will present one element of writing to the class, illustrating examples of this element through the reading we've selected in class as well as their self-selected novel for Book Club (Reader's Workshop). With these elements displayed in class, students will be reminded of what goes into successful writing as we continue our study throughout the year.

We are happy to answer your questions or address your concerns as they arise. Please feel free to contact your student's teacher at the e-mail addresses below:

Samantha Wilson
Ramona Berdea
Mark Clifford (Matt Zellner)
Mitra Farshchian
David Humphrey

Samantha.wilson@pisd.edu (Team Leader)
Ramona.berdea@pisd.edu
Mark.clifford@pisd.edu
Mitra.farshchian@pisd.edu
David.humphrey@pisd.edu

International Honors English I

The IH English I classes of 2009-2010 embarked on their new literary journey at Williams High School with much expectation and enthusiasm. This road began for them in California during the Great Depression with the study of realism in John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men*. The next leg of the trip consists of making stops across the world with the study of short stories from various continents and cultures. They'll then travel on to England, where students will discover literary romanticism by focusing on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's narrative poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

After visiting England, they'll return to the United States to explore Harper Lee's classic American novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The semester's voyage ends in ancient Greece where students will read Edith Hamilton's anthology *Mythology*, Sophocles' play *Antigone*, and Homer's epic poem *Odyssey*. Throughout their world journey, students additionally will focus on vocabulary, writing, and grammar.

This semester's study promises to provide an exhilarating virtual trip around the world which will help our IH students begin a lifetime of communicating effectively and thinking critically.

Carol Bernstein

Carol.Bernstein@pisd.edu

Williams Speech Department

HELP WANTED!!!

We are excited about the opportunity to host the Annual Warrior Classic Speech and Debate Tournament on November 20-21. The Warrior Classic has been one of the largest Speech and Debate Tournaments in the Metroplex. We cannot do this without your help! We are searching for people willing to volunteer to judge. We will train you! Call Pam Ballow at ext. 38410 if you are interested. I will schedule training for you!

Debate I Class

The students have been learning the fundamental concepts of debate and writing competition cases for Cross-Examination Policy debate, Lincoln Douglas debate and Public Forum debate. The students also competed in their first tournament at Southlake Carroll High School.

Debate II Class

The varsity squad is focusing on strategies for debate rounds and preparing their position to enter the Ninth Annual International Public Policy Forum hosted by Bickel and Brewer.

Oral Interpretation Class

The students finalized piece selection for all events (Humorous and Dramatic Interpretation, Prose and Poetry Reading, and Duet Acting) with a focus on character development.

Communication Applications Class

We started the six weeks with a unit on communication concepts, prepared and presented an intrapersonal project, and then began working on an interpersonal project. We will begin a unit on informative speaking focusing on workplace communication skills.

Tournament Results

PSHS on September 4

Yemi Adewuyi advanced to double-octos in Varsity Lincoln Douglas debate.

Southlake Carroll High School on September 12

K C Nwora advanced to semi-finals in foreign extemporaneous speaking.

Jamison Williams advanced to semi-finals in Prose interpretation.

American Sign Language NEWS

In ASL-1 we have been working hard at building vocabulary. All of the students did great posters showing things that they like. These are on display in "E" hall if you happen to be in the building, take a look! For this six weeks we are working on signs about self (born, live, grew up); cities and states, colors, favorites, dates and weather. Our upcoming Unit for the next six weeks will cover members of the family. I have really been impressed at how students are picking up signs. By the end of the year they will have been taught over 1,200 signs!

In ASL-2 we are concentrating on health signs this six weeks. The students have been learning signs for different ailments and the symptoms. In addition we will be learning how to describe annoying behaviors.

ASL calendars, assignments and PowerPoints are all available online on the student's desktop within their ASL class!

Thanks for loaning me your students during the week to learn this great language!

Cindy Bell

cynthia.bell@pisd.edu

Science Department

Testing days for science are TUESDAYS. We have departmental tutorials for each subject. Please check on the teacher's MyPISD website for schedules. When performing experiments in the lab using chemicals, students are required to long pants and close toed shoes as a safety measure. Not doing so will result in a consequence.

Biology

Biology students have had a wonderful start to the new school year! We started the year off discussing the energy flow through ecosystems and symbiotic relationships between the organisms in the ecosystems. The next unit we tackle is Energy Conversion (Enzymes, Photosynthesis and Respiration).

Honors - Pre-IH Biology

Honors students have been working on Experimental Design the first part of this 6 weeks. We have now started our first unit on Biochemistry. This unit is the foundation for the rest of the year. All living organisms are composed of organic compounds. We are studying characteristics of the organic compounds and the processes of how they are built and broken down within an organism. It is a very abstract unit, so we have actually built them using candy so the students can see the actual molecule.

The second major project for those who chose the 6 unit projects is due Monday September 28th.

Chemistry

So for this year, we have completed two units in Chemistry and started the third. We have covered safety where the students learned safety procedures for Chemistry and where the safety equipment is located in each classroom.

The second unit covered atomic theory. The students learned about the history of atomic theory starting with the ancient Greeks to modern atomic theory. The structure of the atom was empathized.

Presently, we are studying different types of mixture and comparing mixtures to elements and compounds.

Chemistry One

Students have just completed a very challenging unit over elements and compounds. They learned how to write formulas and name compounds. They learned how to use the periodic table to find the number of valence electrons, ionic charges, and elements names and symbols. The unit on elements and compounds is a foundation unit for much of the work they are to do the rest of the year. Most of the students were successful in learning the targeted skills.

Honors/Pre-IH Chemistry

The honors chemistry students started this year off with a Metrics Unit. They have been working on conversions and significant figures. They have already done an Elements Project and have started their next unit on Separation and Purification. They will be doing the Foul Water lab. This teaches them the best way to separate and purify water. Their next unit will be atoms. They will start off studying the history of the atom.

LASER (Learning About Science and Engineering Research)

The year 2009-2010 welcomed a stunning number of students wanting to enroll themselves in Science Fair. This was encouraging and surprising due to the fact that students were yearning to engage themselves in extensive research and planning. So far, we have gone through the topics and have witnessed a great number of higher level thinking skills. The students seem to be very excited and are showing great interest in this task.

Having a greater number of projects would mean greater competition amongst the students and a collection of higher level topics. Students are in the final stages of procedure approval and will begin experiments soon. We, as a team meet every two weeks to discuss students' weaknesses and strengths in their area of study. Our building fair will be held at the school during the month of December. We also wish our students the very best during the District Competition to be held in February.

Library Links

We have been so busy in the library this year and we enjoy starting the year with new books and new students. We started the year with new bookshelves and have been moving the nonfiction books to the new stacks. Of course, this means we had to basically move the entire library. Thanks to the help of great library volunteers, the job is almost complete. We have had a record number of checkouts in the fiction section and are pleased that the students are reading for pleasure. Of course, research projects necessitate using nonfiction materials and we do have excellent nonfiction books. We have had a record number of checkouts and computers used.

Plano ISD provides for on-line library resources that are available at school and also at home. For finding resources at home, use the following URL: <http://k-12.pisd.edu/library.html>. The login for home use is planoisd and the password is library. Ask your son or daughter to come in the library and pick up a bookmark with the passwords. Encyclopedias, magazines, eBooks, images, and much more information is available. If you have questions about any of the databases for home use, we will be glad to sit down with you and show you the resources one on one. Just give us a call.

The Academic Book club is now meeting every 3 weeks. The calendar for this club and activities can be located through mypisd.net. Everyone is welcome.

Check-out the activities for the Williams Library on mypisd.net. New books, a calendar, links to reading lists, and other information can be found here.

Reading – the secret treasure for a well-rounded life! Fay Martin, Librarian contact her at 469-752-8327 or fay.martin@pisd.edu

WHS Choir and Booster Club

Have cell phones you are no longer using? Don't let them pile up or collect dust! Support the WHS Choir Booster Club by dropping your old cell phones in the box in the WHS Office or Choir Room. Your phone donation will help raise funds for the Choir Booster Club! Mark your calendars....November 13th & 14th

Total Harmony and Fusion's annual Jammin' with Java!

You don't want to miss WHS Pop Choirs perform! Stay tuned for more information.

Are you a Choir parent?

You can still support your WHS Choir student by joining the Choir Booster Club! Membership is only \$10 per family. Your membership will contribute towards the success of the WHS Choir! Contact Staci Witten @ staci@swpassociates.com or Ann Romagnolo @ Ann.Romagnolo@pisd.edu for more information.

Williams Orchestra

Welcome, each and every one of you, to one of the best orchestras in the district. No matter which group you're in, some of your best times at Williams will be with this orchestra. Thank you all so much for being a part of this great tradition.

Well, down to business. Our first concert, themed "Jazz, Fiddle, and Blues" will be held in the auditorium on Tuesday, October 20th, at 7:00. Admission will be free, so invite all your friends.

All-Region orchestra auditions were held last weekend. Watch upcoming e-news to find out who made it!

Our passbook sales have finally ended, and thank you so much to everyone who participated. Make sure to turn all your leftover books in to Mr. Planks or Mrs. Dominguez ASAP. Our leading class was fourth period, with fifty eight passbooks sold. Way to go!

Last but not least, congratulations to all those elected to officer positions- William Allred (president), Michelle Zhou (vice-president), and Shane Kok (equipment manager) from Sinfonia, our Philharmonia president Malvika Gupta, Camerata president Emily Brzozowske, and equipment manager Kiera Green. Thank you for stepping up to the responsibilities of your positions.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our upcoming events and to a great year for the orchestra. Until next time, William Allred, Sinfonia President

WHS Warrior Band Notes

The Williams High School Band has been very busy preparing for the 2009 marching season. The band started with summer camp on August 3, where they began learning and reviewing marching fundamentals as well as learning music that will be performed during marching season. With the start of school, the band continues preparing for the marching performances with daily rehearsals scheduled from 7:00-8:30 AM. The students started learning their opening drill on August 11, and performed a portion of it at an exhibition for their parents on August 13. We can clearly see the results by the improvement made from day to day. In addition to it being a joy to see our 10th graders step up and take leader roles in the band, it is just as neat to see how fast the first year marchers are learning how to march and read their coordinate sheets. All of the students have positive attitudes and their work ethic has been outstanding. It is clearly evident that their goal is to continue the tradition of past groups in representing Williams High School in a very positive manner this school year.

In addition to working to perfect marching fundamentals, learning new music and marching moves for our show, over 175 band members participated in the fourth East Cluster "March of Pride" to raise money for our Pre-UIL East Cluster Eisemann Concert in April and the spring band music festival in Dallas at the Majestic Theater. The March of Pride held at Kimbrough Stadium on Saturday, August 29, was a huge success as over 1200 students and directors took part in the March.

On Friday, August 28, the band performed in the East Cluster High School Mass Band at the Plano East vs. Flower Mound football game at Kimbrough Stadium. Fans got to see the largest band in Texas as the Clark, Williams, and Plano East Senior High Bands performed: "Gimme Some Lovin' " for the crowd.

As stated above, the band has been very busy preparing for the marching season and looking forward to performing for our school and community. The band will be performing at the Williams 10th Grade home football games, the Plano East Marching Festival, and the Region 25 UIL Marching Contest. This year's marching show, A View from the Sea, features the Music of Joseph Curiale and Karl Jenkins.

The 2009 Drum Majors are Matthew Connelly, Sarah Hise and Jacob Small. Other officers include Color Guard Captain, Tori Rogers and Lt. Capt. Rachel Silva and Lindsey Daniel. The Drum line Captain is Harper O'Neill. The Color Guard and percussion instructors are Alexis Carreon and Doug Ward. Band Directors are Travis Smith and Pete Tolhuizen.

The Williams Band is looking forward to representing our school and community in all of its performances and supporting our Football and Drill Team at our games. The continued support of the parents, administration, faculty, staff and students is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at our performances.

Fall Band Calendar of Events 2009

OCTOBER

22	Williams 10 th Grade vs. Shepton @ Clark Stadium	7:30 PM
29	Band 8 th Grade Orientation in Auditorium	7:00 PM

NOVEMBER

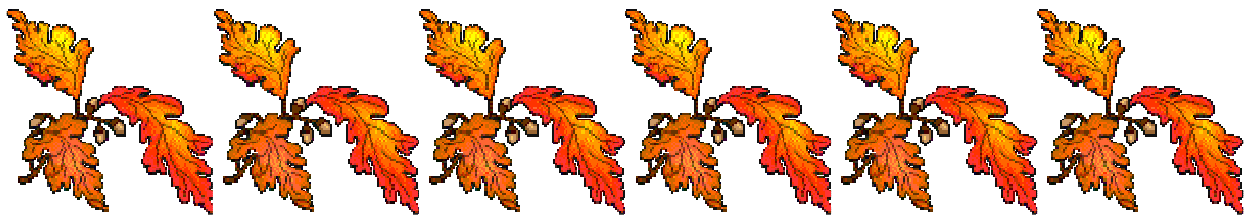
10	<i>9th Grade All Region Band Auditions @ Vines</i>	5:30 PM
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DECEMBER

5	HS All Region Band Auditions – Phase I Allen HS	
7	HS All Region Band Phase II Auditions @ Allen	5:00 PM
10	East Cluster Percussion Concert Plano East	7:00 PM
11	Band Winter Concert - WHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
12	Plano Christmas Parade	

The Williams Marching Band participated in Plano East Invitational Marching Festival on Saturday, October 10, and received a First Division (Superior) rating from all judges for their performance.

In addition, the band also received awards for Superior performances in the following categories: Band, Music, Drumline, Color Guard and Drum Majors.



If you would like to submit information to upcoming issues of the PTSA newsletter, email Editor, Rhonda Anderson at abusyquilter@tx.rr.com. Be sure to put WHS in the subject line.