



# Gar-Field High School

2007 FALL NEWSLETTER 2007



## MESSAGE TO PARENTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

To the Gar-Field Community:

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you who have taken the time to congratulate and welcome me to my new position as Principal of Gar-Field Senior High School. I am excited about this role and the opportunity to touch the lives of the students we serve.

Over the past twenty years under the leadership of Mr. Roger Dallek, Gar-Field has thrived. Our students have experienced success in curricular and co-curricular activities; our staff is passionate about teaching, learning, and engaging families. Many stakeholders provide unwavering support to the school's traditions of being a "School of Champions" while emanating a sense of pride about being a Gar-Field Indian. Big Red is strong! Truly, I am impressed and most importantly honored that I have been chosen from the many qualified candidates to sustain and lead Gar-Field to an even higher level of excellence.

Like other educators, doing what is best for students is at the forefront of all my decision-making. Hence, it is my hope that each stakeholder will continue to partner with the Gar-Field family as we strive to move Gar-Field through continual school improvement. A notable educator and researcher named Robert Marzano posed that "any school can operate at advanced levels of effectiveness if it is willing to implement what is known as effective schooling." One of my primary goals will be to work from a "fixed and well-defined focus" and other solid research-based models to develop Gar-Field into a learning organization centered on teaching, learning, and leading that provides "meaningful understandings" for all students.

Finally, I ask that each and every one of you keep an open mind and a spirit of flexibility as we partner together to make Gar-Field Senior High School a flagship school for PWCPS that is committed to *Excellence in Every Endeavor*.

Respectfully,  
Brenda L. Aiken

## SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August	24/25	Freshman Fair
September	6	Back to School Night
	15	Senior Parent Breakfast
October	11	Junior/Senior Info Night
	17	PSAT
November	15	ASVAB
	20	PLAN test

## GRADE REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR 2007-2008

School Year 2007-08	Ending of Grading or Interim Period	Grades/Interims Go Home
1 <sup>st</sup> Interim	October 3, 2007	October 11, 2007
1 <sup>st</sup> Report Card	November 5, 2007	November 13, 2007
2 <sup>nd</sup> Interim	December 13, 2007	December 21, 2007
2 <sup>nd</sup> Report Card	January 25, 2008	February 1, 2008
3 <sup>rd</sup> Interim	March 3, 2008	March 11, 2008
3 <sup>rd</sup> Report Card	April 11, 2008	April 18, 2008
4 <sup>th</sup> Interim	May 14, 2008	May 21, 2008
4 <sup>th</sup> Report Card	June 13, 2008	Mailed Home June 20, 2008

## PAPER! PAPER! PAPER!

It would not be a new year unless your child came home from school on the first day with forms, handbooks, and other assorted papers. On the first day of school, students at Gar-Field High School will receive the following items for **your** attention. Please check to see that you receive the following:

- Gar-Field High School Student Handbook
- Prince William County Schools Code of Behavior
- Two Emergency Cards (per student), which must be filled out and returned immediately.
- Student Insurance Forms
- Attendance Policy
- Dress Code Brochure

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## EMERGENCY CARDS - PLEASE READ

Virginia state law requires that parents sign a statement showing that they know their responsibilities. This statement is printed on the back of the EMERGENCY INFORMATION

CARD. Parents must read this statement, sign and return the signed card to school. **Two emergency cards** will be sent home to parents during the first week of school or given to them at registration. One will be kept at our main switchboard, and one will be filed in our clinic. The new **Code of Behavior** will be distributed and reviewed by the first block teacher of each student during the first week of school.

Students will **not** be assigned a locker until emergency cards are returned with proper phone numbers and parental or guardian signatures. If you change any emergency information during the year (work telephone, emergency contact information, home telephone, etc.) it is important to report the change to his/her administrator. It is imperative to list any health condition/problem on your child's emergency card. Your cooperation is appreciated. The telephone number for Gar-Field Senior High is 703-730-7000.

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## STUDENT MESSAGES & PHONE CALLS

Whenever there is an **emergency**, we will always contact your child and help you in any way. Other situations, (doctor/dental appointments, etc.) should be handled **before** or **after** school hours in order to avoid interrupting instruction. Students are permitted to use the telephone in the main office for **emergency situations only**, with a 2 minute time limit per phone call. For other needs, we expect them to use the pay telephones before and after school, or during lunch.

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## SENIOR NEWS

### Senior Parent Breakfast

We invite you to join us on September 15, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in the lower cafeteria for our senior parent breakfast. At this time we will be discussing the calendar for the year and other items that we think you, as a parent, should be made aware. Come out and meet our new principal, Dr. Brenda Aiken, class administrator, Mrs. Regina Nash, and class sponsors, Kathleen Hugh, Karen Shaver, and Cindy Ardecki as well as enjoy the atmosphere. If you are planning to attend the breakfast, please RSVP no later than September 7<sup>th</sup> by calling Ms. Jane Lowther at 703-730-7106. We look forward to meeting you.

### Senior T-Shirts

You should have received an order form in the mail for your Class of 2008 T-shirt. Don't forget to send your orders in to Mrs. Nash by September 11, 2007. Let's make sure that "Big Red" is in the house at the Homecoming Pep Rally!

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## FROM THE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

The Athletic Department has a new scheduling program that is viewable by the public on [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net). Adjustments to schedules are in real time and parents and students are encouraged to sign on to the automatic email notification system to receive adjustment notices as they occur.

Please support our Athletic Booster Club as they begin their annual fund raising drive. Raffle tickets for a Cruise as well as other great prizes will be available at all home football games.

**Ticket Prices:** All Varsity games or multiple scheduled games \$5.00  
All stand alone freshman or JV games are \$4.00

Passes will be on sale at all home games and are also available at the Activities Office during the regular school day.

**Season Family Pass:** Good for up to 5 immediate family members. \$140.00 Allows admission to all regular season athletic events for the school year.

**Punch Passes:** Ten admissions for \$35

Rudy Zimmermann  
Director of Student Activities  
Gar-Field HS  
703-730-7137

## Books and Beyond News and Notes from the Library

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year and to the Library! We're really excited about our new and expanding collections and services.

This year, the Library offers 15 unique databases for our students, their families, and our school staff. These databases provide the full texts of thousands of newspaper, journal, and magazine articles as well as government and corporate press releases, photographs, and other special features.

**PLEASE NOTE:** These databases also include both school and remote access. That means that your students can use these databases anywhere at school or in the world where there is a computer with Internet access. Students can pick up lists of these database passwords from the Library staff. Databases include:

**AccuNet/AP Archives** (Science, weather articles and features, plus thousands of Up-to-the-minute photos from the Associated Press)

**African American Experience** (Database that covers diverse aspects of the Black American experience through history, the arts, literature, sports, industry, and science)

**Congressional Digest** (Articles by Members of Congress about current issues)

**CQ Researcher** (extensive, scholarly research articles on controversial, Contemporary U.S. and world issues)

**Columbia Earthscape** (Columbia University earth science database)

**CIAO** (Columbia University world affairs database)

**CultureGrams** (Detailed info about countries and cultures of the world; Provided by PWCS's International Languages/ESOL Division)

**ELibrary** (Current events as well as academic journal articles. Provided by the Library of Virginia)

**Gale Group** (Collection of reference databases in social studies; science; literature; current events. Provided by Library of Virginia)

**Issues and Controversies** (Research materials on hundreds of current issues)

**Journey Back in Time** (Primary sources -- from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries--- about North American history and culture)

**Latino American Experience** (Database that covers diverse aspects of the Latino American experience through history, the arts, literature, sports, industry, and science)

**Opposing Viewpoints** (Articles and books about controversial issues)

**SIRS** (Current events, research, and academic articles)

**The World and I** (Newspaper and magazine articles from international Newspapers and magazines published in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and North and South Americas. Includes additional database of folktales by country/culture)

In addition, our print resources, including non-fiction, international languages, ESOL, and Video/DVD collections will be substantially larger this year as well as our fiction collections (especially award-winning Young Adult titles, graphic novels, and novels for reluctant readers.) In the future, look for an expanded Library Web Page including book reviews, bibliographies of websites by subject areas, and mini online tutorials to help students evaluate websites and conduct library research.

**Remember:** The Library is open 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday; 7:00 A.M. to 2:15 P.M. on Friday. The Library is also open all four lunch shifts. Students who stay in the Library after school may also request bus passes for the 4 P.M. or 5 P.M. activity buses.

**Any questions?** Please feel free to contact us by phone or email.

Becky Ferrall Librarian 703-730-7016  
[ferralrt@pwcs.edu](mailto:ferralrt@pwcs.edu)

Dawn Lewis Librarian 703-730-7044  
[lewisdm@pwcs.edu](mailto:lewisdm@pwcs.edu)

Demetra Hilios Secretary 703-730-7017  
[hiliosdx@pwcs.edu](mailto:hiliosdx@pwcs.edu)

## GET ON THE WATER WITH GAR-FIELD CREW!!

Now is the time, while the weather is still hot, to get on the water and give crew a try!! Gar-Field rowers join others from four other local high schools when the 5 week rowing program sponsored by Prince William Crew Association gets started on September 24<sup>th</sup>. No experience is necessary...there are programs for both beginner (novice) and experienced rowers.

Stop by the Crew table at the Freshman Fair on August 25<sup>th</sup> or at Back to School Night on September 6<sup>th</sup> for further information. Also, be sure to attend the Crew Information Night on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the lower cafeteria to register.

The fun is not over when Fall Crew ends....Winter Crew starts on November 26<sup>th</sup> and involves conditioning at the school to ready the team for the competitive Spring Gar-Field Crew Season which begins on February 25<sup>th</sup> and runs through the end of May.

Crew is a great opportunity for a student to try a new sport. Most rowers have never experienced rowing so everyone starts at the same level. For further information talk to Coach Newman (room 2105) or contact Patty Bell, Crew Booster President at [PattyBell1@aol.com](mailto:PattyBell1@aol.com) or (703) 590-8635.

## CHEERLEADING!!!!

Fall cheerleading tryouts for junior varsity and freshmen squads will take place the second week of school. Please contact Nikia Hovey at [hoveynl@pwcs.edu](mailto:hoveynl@pwcs.edu) for more information. Athletes must have a physical in order to tryout.

Thanks!! Nikia Hovey Gar-Field High School  
Language Arts Teacher Cheerleading--Head Coach  
[hoveynl@pwcs.edu](mailto:hoveynl@pwcs.edu)

## Gifted Education Program Meeting: “Back to School Night” 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 6

There will be a meeting for the parents of students in the Gifted Education Program (called SIGNET in middle school) in the school library at 6:30 p.m. sharp, Thursday, September 6. This meeting occurs a full half-hour before the “Back to School Night” general meeting in the auditorium, so parents who are new to Gar-Field will have ample time to meet Bruce Snyder, the Gifted Education Resource Teacher. Mr. Snyder will explain how the high school level Gifted Education Program works and how Gar-Field’s unique seminar programs enrich and extend both the I.B. Programme curriculum and the advanced studies diploma curriculum. Resource materials will be available for parents to borrow, and a pamphlet explaining the seminar model will be disseminated. Although this meeting is specifically designed to introduce new-student parents to the Gifted Education Program at Gar-Field, all parents of Gifted Education Program students are welcome!! For further information go to the Gifted

Education page of the Gar-Field High School website, contact Mr. Snyder at [snyderbx@pwcs.edu](mailto:snyderbx@pwcs.edu) or call him at the Gifted Program Office, 703-730-7000 ext. 6174 on or after August 22.

## Summer Watermelon Sale 2007

During the period July 14 through July 21, 2007, Gar-Field’s African American History Club and the Young Black Men’s Club (YBMC) sold South Carolina watermelons as a fundraising project. Five hundred watermelons were sold. Thanks to all the teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and other patrons who supported this project. The funds raised will be used to support field trips, club materials and social activities. Club Members participating were: Julius Kinlow, Christopher Norfleet, Omari Polite, Tevin Polite, Nelson Powell, and Tavon Town.

## From the Security Office:

Welcome or welcome back to Gar-Field Senior High School. The Gar-Field Security Team is comprised of the following five people: Mr. Russell, Ms. Plummer, Mrs. Ciminelli, and Mrs. Bond. Please keep in mind the following tips through the school year:

1. Report criminal activity as soon as possible. The sooner we have information the quicker we are able to solve crimes or prevent criminal activity.
2. Lock, LOck, LOck, LOCK up your stuff!!! Nearly 100% of thefts occur because students fail to secure their belongings. Students who fail to properly secure their belongings face possible disciplinary action. **LOCK up your stuff!**
3. Fighting automatically results in school suspension. Seek assistance from teachers, administrators, or security personnel to peaceably resolve conflicts before a fight occurs.
4. Gangs and any related gang clothing, paraphernalia, or graffiti is strictly prohibited. Violations of the gang policy will result in severe discipline.
5. Clothing: No "Dickies" brand clothing **or** Dickie look-a-like clothing is permitted at Gar-Field High School. This type of clothing is often used by gang members to identify gang membership.
6. Search: Any student or guest of any age is subject to search while on school premises.
7. Chains (e.g. wallet chains and decorative chains attached to clothing) are specifically prohibited by the Code of Behavior and are classified as weapons (see PWCPS Code of Behavior, page 13). Do not bring chains to school.

Remember that any student parking a vehicle on school property must display a permit. You must notify the security office by first period if you park a vehicle on school grounds without a permit. All vehicles not displaying a permit will be towed at the owner's expense.

Keep an eye out for Gar-Field High School's Crimestoppers and Amnesty Box programs. We count on your assistance in the fight against crime.

We on the security staff look forward to working with each of you in our goal to make Gar-Field High School the safest school in the community.

## Guidance Department News

The guidance and counseling program at Gar-Field focuses on career/educational development for all students. All aspects of the program are complementary to the efforts of parents, school staff and the community. Guidance involves assistance to students in developing career/educational goals that focus on self-understanding, interpersonal skills, decision-making, occupational information, education and training, economic awareness, and employability.

If you should have a need to meet with your child's teacher(s) please contact your child's Guidance Counselor at (703) 730-7117 to schedule a parent/teacher conference.

## COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS 2007-2008

### Counselors

Malaika Gaskins  
Katrina Cook  
Michelle Trahan  
Bowen Vigus  
Harriett Rowe  
Danielle Johnson  
Dennis Scott  
Rosemary Bozo  
Jason D. Supon

### Alphabet

A-Cal  
Cam-Fh  
Fi-H  
I-Mc  
Md-P  
Q-Sm  
Sn-Z  
Career Counselor (all)  
Guidance Director

Check the Gar-Field website ([www.gar-field.org](http://www.gar-field.org)) for information on careers, testing, colleges, vocational programs and more. Click on "Guidance."

**Junior/Senior Information Night** will be **October 11 at 7 PM** in the auditorium. Pertinent information on graduation requirements, SOLs,

SAT/ACT/PSAT, college application/processes, military, apprenticeships, financial aid, and a copy of your transcript (seniors only) will be given. Seniors and their parents will be able to attend a

Break out session with their individual counselors after the main session in the auditorium. At that point the juniors and their parents will be able to stay in the auditorium to gain more information relevant to their grade level.

**Back-To-School Night** will be **September 6 at 6:30 PM**. Come and meet your student's teachers.

Information and exploration for Career/College visit [www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com).

Enter Site ID: **0055467**. The password is **"indians"** (case sensitive).

- Last school year **seniors** registered for a new program, **Family Connection**. This program allows the student to check his/her GPA and explore colleges and scholarships. Scholarships that match the student can be put on their personal page. Students will also sign up for passes to visit with the college representatives who visit Gar-Field. If your student does not have an account, please have him/her contact Mrs. Bozo in the Career Center. Parents can also start an account by contacting Mrs. Bozo with the student's name, last three digits of the student's social security number and birth date. Parent logon instructions will be emailed.

For **SAT** dates please visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and for **ACT** dates please visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

The **PSAT** date is **October 17**. This is the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and is the qualifying test that students must take to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for college scholarships. This year, Prince William County Schools have agreed to cover the cost of the PSAT for all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and they will not need to register. However, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who have already completed geometry and are successful in their English classes are encouraged to take this test. To register, please come to the Guidance Department by **October 1**.

The **PLAN** (pre-ACT) test is on **November 20** and is offered to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students only. Registration is from November 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> (in Guidance Department) and will cost \$12.

The **ASVAB** Military Aptitude test will be given at Gar-Field on **November 15**. Please come to Guidance for a registration form from November 8<sup>th</sup> until November 12. This test is free of charge.

## **COLLEGE FAIRS**

**West Prince William College Fair** –  
Battlefield High School, Monday, September 24, 2007, 7 PM – 9 PM

**East Prince William County College Fair** –  
Forest Park High School, October 9, 2007, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

**STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION** – Periodically the Student Services Office receives requests for the names and addresses of our students. Requests for this information are more frequent during a student's senior year. If you wish to withhold this information on your child, please come to Guidance to complete the opt-out form.

**SCHEDULE CHANGE PROCEDURE** - The following is the Schedule Change Policy for 2007-08. The actual schedule change form may be downloaded on our school website: [www.gar-field.org](http://www.gar-field.org).

### **Gar-Field High School Schedule Change Policy 2007-08**

Student requests for schedule changes should be directly related to changes in a student's overall educational plan and career goals. **Teacher, lunch and period preferences are not considered to be valid reasons for schedule changes.** Administrative approval is necessary before consideration is given to requests involving teacher changes after 9 weeks and after parent/teacher conferences. All requests for schedule changes must be submitted on a **Gar-Field Schedule Change Request Form** which are available in the guidance office or downloaded from the guidance

section of the Gar-Field web page. Read the conditions discussed on the schedule change form prior to requesting a schedule change. A parent or guardian's signature must be included on this form before it will be considered.

Please direct your questions regarding these procedures to the Guidance Department.

The following timeline will be utilized regarding requests for schedule changes. Change requests will be considered on a space available basis. Schedule change requests must be submitted on the official schedule change form.

- Aug. 1-30** Requests for changes that are submitted on the official Schedule Change Form will be considered on a space available basis.
- Aug. 1-30** Counselors will register new students and make schedule changes impacted by summer school attendance.
- Sept. 4-14** Counselors will register new students and alter schedules that require corrections.
- Sept. 10-14** Counselors will consider requests for new courses on a space available basis only.
- Sept. 14** New courses will **NOT** be added after this date.

**Please remember these important conditions regarding schedule changes:**

- Schedule changes could result in the loss of eligibility for participation in sports or other activities, loss of academic letter and/or a change in diploma type.
  - All IB MYP and IB course changes must be approved by Mr. Bassett and require his signature.
  - All VHSL approved activities participants must have coaches' signatures.
- After September 14, 2007, students may NOT request a new course. Courses that are dropped after the first interim (October 15) will receive a "WP" (withdrew passing) or "WF" (withdrew failing) notation on the student's transcript. Year long courses dropped after the first semester ends (Feb. 4, 2008) will result in an "F" (failure)

notation for the year grade on the student's transcript. Semester classes dropped after the first marking period (November 16, 2007) will result an "F" notation for the semester grade. This will be reflected on their transcript.

- Changes from one level to another level of the same course must be completed by the second interim (January 4, 2008). Example: AP Govt. to US & VA Govt.; IB MYP English 10 to English 10, etc.

**RECORDS INFORMATION UPDATE**

If you have changed your address, home number, work number or any other important student location information since last school year; please complete the attached form and **return it to the Guidance Department**. Along with the submission of this form, one additional proof of address is required.

**NIGHT SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**Registration will be held the week of September 10 - September 14, 2007 at each high school.**

Representatives from the night school program will register students on an alternating schedule **during lunch and immediately after school dismissal**.

Students attending night school only, may register at OSMAP between 9 AM and 3 PM.

The following are the scheduled registration dates at Gar-Field High School:

**September 10 - Lunch**  
**September 13 - After School**  
**September 14 - Lunch**

Students may obtain registration forms in the Guidance Departments the first day of school. The completed registration form must be presented which includes the student identification number and counselor signature. A cashier's check or money order will be accepted for payment and should be made payable to Prince William County Public Schools. Students registering for the 20-hour tutorial must submit their research papers along with the registration form.

### Gar-Field High School – CHANGE OF ADDRESS / INFORMATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Information:**

Premise Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home #) \_\_\_\_\_

(Mom's Work #) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mom's Cell #) \_\_\_\_\_

(Dad's Work #) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dad's Cell #) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from premise address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

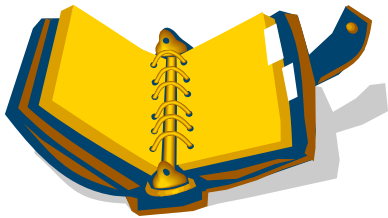
Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

# FRESHMAN FAIR

**AUGUST 24 & 25, 2007**

**August 24 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM (Registration & Informational Meeting)**

**August 25 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Student Orientation & Activities Fair)**



**SCHEDULES**

*Fun...*

*excitement...*

*& much, much more!*

**DON'T MISS IT!!**



**LOCKERS**



**MEET NEW  
FRIENDS**



**FOOD**