

"A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE"



ALEXANDRA BATES
PRINCIPAL

JARVIS ADAMS
ESTELLA COOK
CANDICE HICKMAN
CHANTRISE HOLLIMAN
CECLIA JOHNSON
TOSHA OLIVER
JAMAR ROBINSON



Westlake Pride



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WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL ATLANTA, GA

2015 Issue 03

WHS TENNIS PLAYER EARNS LONG WEEKEND IN NYC

BY STAFF

ATLANTA - Last weekend, the Westlake tennis community said bon voyage to student-athlete Camille Quick, who earned a free trip to New York City as a reward for stellar essay writing.

Camille was named the 15-16 year old age group winner of the Arthur Ashe Essay Contest, a national competition that encourages young tennis players to identify a community hero and explain how that hero has positively affected their lives.

According to Camille, she never would have guessed that she would be so well rewarded for her writing.

"I never imagined I would be able to do this based on an essay. Every year, our coach tells us to write it, and I think, 'Ugh! Let me do this fast so I can get back to playing tennis.' This year, I got an email three or four weeks before school started saying that I won. Every time I write the essay, I forget about it because I know I'm not going to win, but this year, I did win," said Camille.

When Camille found out she had won, she screamed in excitement, a sentiment shared by her parents.

"My parents were really excited and proud for me. Everyone was happy. The night they found out, they bought me five things of ice cream and candy, and we celebrated all night," admitted Camille.

When Camille arrived in New York City, she was initially overwhelmed by the lavish Grand Hyatt Hotel, where she would be staying with the other kids selected for Arthur Ashe Kids' Day. The hotel, however, was just the beginning.

"They treated us like famous guests and made sure we saw the city in style," observed Camille. In fact, all thirty invited students were treated



Camille with Coach Sam Kennedy (Upper Left), Rafael Nadal (Upper Center), former NYC Mayor David Dinkins (Upper Right), Arthur Ashe's widow (Lower Left), Katrina Adams, President of the USA (Lower Center), and retired professional tennis player James Blake (Lower Right)



to a trip around the city on a tour bus exclusively reserved for the Arthur Ashe kids. Camille marvelled at the bus, which had seats that were sideways so they faced a side of the bus that was all windows.

Camille probably did not need the tour bus, however, because she brought her own tour guides, her mother and father.

"My dad grew up in New York, and my mom spent her adult life in New York, so it was really emotional for them," explained Camille.

"Every time we walked around, they explained where they went and what specific places meant to them. They kept telling me how nostalgic it was being back. Even before this trip, they had been telling me we need to take a family trip to New York so they can show me all the stuff they had to go through and ride all the trains. I'm happy that they got that experience," said Camille who had a New York con-

nection herself.

"I was born in New York, but I grew up in Atlanta, so I've always wanted to go back. I've always seen New York on TV, especially Time Square. We went there, and it really is how it is on TV," continued Camille.

While in New York, Camille was granted the rare privilege to see the pros prepare for the U.S. Open first-hand.

"We went to the stadium and saw some of the pros practice. That was one of my life long goals to see the professional tennis players in real life. I got to see Serena Williams and Madison Keyes. I saw Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, and Roger Federer, and my sister saw the Bryan brothers," said Camille with more than a hint of jealousy.

The next morning, it was time for the Arthur Ashe Kids' Day.

"We had to get up around six in the morning. We went into the stadium, and they gave us two or three hours to ex-

plore and walk around. Novak Djokovic came out to play with the little kids, and they bought us tickets to sit in the Presidential Box for the Arthur Ashe court. It was really nice. It had all glass windows, and they had a bunch of food, TV's, and couches."

From the box, Camille and the other VIP's watched a concert starring the talent of Natalie La Rose and Bea Miller. According to the Arthur Ashe Kids' Day website, past performers for the concert has included Ariana Grande, Ne-Yo, Demi Lovato, Carly Rae Jepsen, Jonas Brothers, Britney Spears, Justin Bieber, and Rihanna.

Without a doubt, this became a great bonding opportunity for Camille, who met many young tennis players from around the country throughout the weekend.

"We were always together in one group. I got some of their numbers, and we talk now."

Other people that Camille met on the trip

included former NYC mayor David Dinkins, the first and only African-American to hold this position. Mayor Dinkins hosted a special luncheon at the prestigious Yale Club where Camille received a plaque of honour.

Camille dedicated this plaque of honour to her tennis coach, Sam Kennedy, the hero that she wrote about in her essay.

"Coach Sam is an amazing person. He actually has two sons who went to Westlake, Zach and Sam, who are playing in college. This is my fourth year I have been with him, and he has improved my tennis game tremendously. I had heard about him even before I started going to him," said Camille with obvious admiration.

"He has changed my whole perspective because he takes kids under his wing. The park where we used to practice, there was an apartment building right behind it, and there were kids who would see us

practice and come out. Coach Sam would give them rackets for free and give them free lessons."

Two boys from the apartment next to the tennis court even stuck with the sport.

"They are amazing tennis players now," said Camille, who stressed even more emphatically the personal growth they had achieved.

"When they first came, they were rude, and now there are like brothers to me and so respectful. It's all thanks to Coach Sam. He's a really, really nice and humble person. He's like my second dad."

This trip to New York is surely the trip of a lifetime, but being in the city made Camille start to consider New York City as a future college destination.

"When I was walking around the city, it made me consider NYU as an option. My mom said that living in New York is not hard, but it is tough. It gives you a sense of independence. She said it made her a more responsible person," explained Camille.

"My first choice is still Georgia Tech. I've always wanted to go there since I was ten. My coach thinks I can get a scholarship to a D1 school, and I want to play on the Georgia Tech tennis team. I also want to study engineering in college, so I don't know how the two will go together, but I know Georgia Tech is the right place for me to pursue both my goals," said Camille.

Camille is certainly a student with a plan, which helps explain how she has become such a great tennis player, as well as student. Success at either takes hard work and long range planning. Congratulations, Camille for making such strides in everything you do and earning this trip of a lifetime!

MR. JOHNSON BECOMES NEW COLLEGE ADVISOR



BY MALAIKATU KARGBO, KAYLA WHITE
ATLANTA - As the year opens up, we welcome Stephen Johnson as Westlake's new college advisor.

Mr. Johnson actually graduated from Westlake in 2007 with renown football player Cam Newton, so he knows the Westlake community intimately.

He thoroughly expressed his excitement in joining Westlake's staff, noting that it was a homecoming of sorts.

After graduating from Westlake, Mr. Johnson attended Georgia Tech and began working at the college as a recruiter, which gives him an inside look into how students are recruited for colleges.

Mr. Johnson certainly offers Westlake students the upper hand as he

emerges from his previous job in admissions at Georgia Tech.

We are lucky to have him to help the next generation of lions in their after high school aspirations.

Mr. Johnson conveys that the biggest challenge this year for rising college freshman is finding a college that fits them whether it is in-state or out-of-state.

Even after I finished hounding him with MY personal questions for college including SAT questions, Scholarship opportunities, and tuition inquiries, Mr. Stevens still asserted that his doors are open to all students and he's ready and well prepared to help with all and any college preparation questions.

BY STAFF
ATLANTA - A recruiter from Vanderbilt University visited Westlake on Wednesday to promote Vanderbilt to seniors and answer questions.

The recruiter spent the afternoon with 35 seniors explaining the ins and outs of applying to the exclusive Tennessee college, which has only an 11 percent admission rate.

Despite Vanderbilt's reputation for exclusivity, Westlake's new college advisor, Stephen Johnson, knows that many Westlake students are Vanderbilt material.

"One great thing about my position is that I have a lot of super well-qualified students to work with, which is encouraging to see. These kids are learning everything they need to in class, which translates into their grades and test scores. College is on their radar."

One student in particular, Breesa Bennett, is aiming for Vanderbilt, a place she visited and felt would be a good fit.

QUOTE, QUOTE, QUOTE, said Breesa.

Mr. Johnson has high hopes for Breesa, who is a second round Posse Scholar, a great sign since Vanderbilt is a Posse Scholar school.

The Posse Scholarship is an innovative scholarship that identifies talented students, lets them

choose their most highly desired school out of a handful of options, rewards them with a full scholarship that lasts for four years, and establishes an extra support system of ten students who become a "posse."

QUOTE, QUOTE, QUOTE, said Breesa.

Mr. Johnson had nothing but praise for Vanderbilt's recruiter, Leslie Sandifer.

"Mr. Sandifer is a really, really great guy. He starts off by telling you that he's a laid back person, so you have to take him at his word. He's very chill. Very zen," said Mr. Johnson.

When meeting recruiters, students might expect an elaborate pep rally selling the school, but Mr. Johnson said that high energy sessions full of glitz and glamour can be intimidating, unhelpful, and misleading.

"You want somebody like Mr. Sandifer who is encouraging, who is welcoming but also sincere," said Mr. Johnson.

Often, recruiters are not cheerleaders but instead direct contacts who can build personal relationships to bridge the school to students.

According to Mr. Johnson, a recruiter's primary job is to return emails, answer questions, and be honest, and Mr. Sandifer is a perfect example of that mentality.

VANDERBILT RECRUITS; MORE UNVIERSITIES TO VISIT SOON

Mr. Johnson also had high praise for Vanderbilt's financial aid package, which was transparent and helpful.

"A lot of the time when schools advertise that they have a large financial aid package, loans will be a big part of that, especially federal loans, but Vanderbilt is different. When they say that they are putting dollars in your pocket, then they truly are," explained Mr. Johnson.

Westlake has been lucky so far this year, because in addition to Vanderbilt, 12 students attended a visit from the prestigious Boston University hosted by another excellent recruiter, Shenita Graham.

Next, students can look forward to visits from Spelman College and University of Georgia, the first in-state schools to visit this year.

The turnout for Spelman and UGA should be large because there are so many fans of the institutions.

Spelman will be at Westlake on Tuesday September 8th at 1pm, and the recruiter will be Allyson Smith, a Spelman Alumna.

"Spelman is very much a family. When you are a Spelman sister, you are a Spelman sister. The school is built to foster the relationship of sisterhood where you are part of a community,"

explained Mr. Johnson when asked what makes Spelman special.

When asked about UGA, Mr. Johnson, a Georgia Tech graduate, responded with a sigh, saying, "I guess we do have to talk about UGA."

Mr. Johnson had served as a recruiter for Georgia Tech before coming to Westlake and was in the particularly strange position of recruiting for Tech around Athens, the city where UGA is located.

"I was nervous because that section of Georgia was my territory. I had Clark, Evans, Augusta, so I was going into enemy territory, but they were super nice and helpful. Rivalries are fun and engaging, but it was good to see that amazing people rise above rivalries," said Mr. Johnson.

When imagining how it will be to host a UGA event, Mr. Johnson promised to behave.

"I will leave the UGA recruiter alone for a little bit, but I might try to get a quip in. There are so many UGA fans at this school. I don't want to get in a situation where everyone gangs up on me," rationalized Johnson.

Other in-state schools to visit Westlake in the near future include Georgia Tech, Kennesaw State University, and Georgia State University.

PTSA URGES STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO GET INVOLVED

BY JOEL ATHY
ATLANTA - Hello everyone,

We have some exciting things plan for this year and we will need your help.

If you are inspired to help in any capacity with the following committees, please let us know.

Fund-raising, Reaching out to Business Partners, Volunteer, Membership, Communication or Legislation.

Please reach out to the committee chairs which are located on the PTSA website.

This year, the budget was approved to raise funds for the PBL (Project Based Learning) tool.

This tool will educate and train teachers with other various methods to provide an edge for our students to compete.

We are working to get the short video clip of the PBL tool on the PTSA website.

We need your support to raise the funds to achieve our goals.

The first step is to join the PTSA, which you can also do on the Westlake PTSA website, and then second by supporting the fund-raising activities coming up.

If you have any questions, the website should be your first resource, but if you can not find the information you are

seeking, please fill free to send and email to PTSA.

Remember, don't focus on what you can't do nut focus on what you can do.

PTSA Leadership

Darryl Hudson
(Treasurer)

Kimberly Robinson
(Secretary 1)

Samala Carrington
(Secretary 2)

Kym Dove
(Parliamentary)

Joel Athy
(President)

SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK APPROACHES; STUDENTS EXCITED

BY STAFF

ATLANTA - Westlake students, be sure to dust off the camos, break out the college wear, and unleash the nerd.

This week, students will be challenged to come up with the most creative school-appropriate outfits to show their spirit.

In the past years, their have been great showings, especially on nerd day, so be prepared to show out.

For example, Naomi Gordon models successful camo day attire.

Remember to keep it school appropriate!



MEMORIES FROM PERU #2: THE SCENERY

Students receive a trip of a lifetime when they visit the South American country of Peru for sight-seeing, service learning projects, and culture that you cannot find anywhere else in the world. This week, we will discuss the scenery of Peru.



BY STAFF

ATLANTA - This summer, 18 Westlake students visited the country of Peru to help women in a rural village establish a business of their own.

These adventurous students became our own ambassadors to South America as they travelled the country for eight days.

Along the way, students travelled by plane and train, seeing some of the most beautiful mountains and countryside that the world has to offer.

This week, we are spotlighting a few of those places to showcase the immense beauty that

our students witness.

According to trip sponsor Kathryn Brannen, the beauty of Peruvian sites like the famed mountain city of Machu Picchu was particularly overwhelming.

"I teared up. There's no description. You have to go," urged Brannen.

If you have never seen pictures of Machu Picchu, make sure to look at the pictures above, which show the steep mountain peaks, terraced hillsides that are carved to create steps in a mesmerizing feat of engineering, and stone buildings that trickle down the hill side in all directions.

Brannen explained

that neither words nor pictures could do the scenery justice, especially when it comes to a city widely recognized as one of the greatest wonders of the world.

"I learned about Machu Picchu when I was in seventh grade, and that has been on my bucket list ever since then," said Ms. Brannen.

The mountainous regions are not just beautiful, however. They can also be dangerous, as one student discovered when he took a wrong step.

"After we reached the top of Sungate Trail, which is the top of the Andes Mountain, we were going down a steep

part of the stairs," explained William Ward.

"I stepped on a rock, and it slipped out of place, and I started slipping down the mountain," said William.

William slid nearly fifteen feet down the mountainside before becoming caught on a large rock that was in the right place at the right time.

When asked what went through his mind while falling, William said, "That I was about to die."

At first, that sounds funny, but William said if he had not been caught on the rock, he could have fallen over a thousand foot drop.

"Some of my friends were screaming my name, and Ms. B's mouth was wide open. She said she almost had a heart attack."

William had no injuries, and of course, he did not want to tell his mother about his close call.

The chaperones of the trip knew better and called Ms. Ward, but she declined to know the details until he was back in the States, happy with the knowledge that William was safe.

Ironically, when William returned to the States and worked up the courage to tell his mother, she did not believe him at first.

To her, it seemed far too dramatic, and until the chaperones corroborated the story, she was doubtful.

"The important thing is that he is safe," said Ms. Ward.

After his adventure on the mountainside, William definitely took a different approach to walking down the mountain.

"I was walking carefully, and Ms. B made me stand next to her," admitted William.

This goes to show all the adventurous travelers at Westlake that the world is beautiful and ready to be explored--- just carefully!

MEDIA CENTER'S CORNER

STUDENTS HAVE ONLINE ACCESS TO MEDIA CENTER

BY STAFF

ATLANTA - If you have ever had a hard time finding a book in the Media Center, then Westlake has a solution.

Ms. Forrest, Westlake's Media Center Specialist would first like to familiarize incoming freshmen with the Media Center and teach them research techniques that will help them throughout their academic career.

To do this, Ms. Forrest will host a series of

freshmen orientations for the next few weeks.

For students who are not freshmen, Ms. Forrest plans to help introduce students to the Media Center by promoting digital searches that will increase access to reading materials.

The Media Center currently pushes two digital information systems: **Destiny** and **MackinVIA**.

Destiny, an online catalog of what the Media Center holds can be

Media Center Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
7:45AM-5:00PM
Wednesday & Friday
7:45AM-3:30PM

accessed from home or on a mobile device.

Each Fulton County School is hooked up to a Destiny account, so Westlake's can be found through the common Fulton County website listed below.

MackinVIA brings students to Media Center's plentiful resources of e-Books, audiobooks, and

databases of research articles.

This 21st century service gives students the ability to use their devices to read great books instead of having to physically check out books from the Media Center.

Ms. Forrest encourages all students to familiarize themselves with these wonderful re-

Destiny

To access our on-line catalog and search books from home

Type: <http://fcsdestiny.fultonschools.org>

Locate: High Schools

Select: Westlake High School

Click: CATALOG and begin your search

MackinVIA

For access to WHS's eBook, audio, and database collection

Type: <https://mackinvia.com>

Enter: Westlake High School

Username: Student ID

Password: MMDDYYYY

Freshmen Media Center Orientation Schedule**TUESDAY 9/8**

Ms. Hall's 1st
Ms. Nichols's 5th
Mr. Mall's 7th

WEDNESDAY 9/9

Mr. Nichols's 4th
Ms. Hall's 8th

THURSDAY 9/10

Ms. Nichols's 1st

FRIDAY 9/11

Ms. Nichols's 8th

MONDAY 9/14

Mr. Billup's 1st

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

MS. COOK EXPLAINS SCHOOL PROCEDURES

BY ESTELLA COOK

ATLANTA - Thank you for wonderful first weeks of school! Here are a few reminders and updates:

1. Doors open at 7:45 AM for students. Please do not drop students off before this time, as there is no staff supervision until that time.

2. Upon arrival, students will report to either the Cafeteria or Main Gymnasium until 8:05 AM.

3. After 8:05 AM, students may visit their lockers and report to their first class of the day. Students who report after 8:20 AM will be marked Tardy to school.

4. As schedule changes are made, an updated schedule will be delivered to students in their class. Students are to follow their schedule as printed.

5. This week, students will have class meetings during school to address academic and behavioural expectations and other information pertinent to their grade level.

6. Dismissal is at 3:30 PM. All students should either ride their respective buses or leave school via personal automobile no later than 4:00 PM.

7. Students who drive to school must have a Parking Pass or risk having their vehicle towed.

MR. ROBINSON DISCUSSES TARDY POLICY

BY JAMAR ROBINSON

ATLANTA -At the beginning of the school year, all students could use a review of the tardy policy. Here is what you need to know.

SUMMARY

All students are expected to be in class on time. All hallways and student areas will be swept once the bell rings to ensure that students are in class on time.

Once the bell rings, a student who is not in the classroom is tardy. Tardy students will be allowed into class after being marked tardy by their teacher.

Students who do not report to class within the first ten minutes will be considered skipping.

Teachers will not accept students into the classroom after ten minutes.

Instead, students ten or more minutes late will report to room 307 to receive an immediate discipline consequence.

CONSEQUENCES

Frequent tardies will result in progressive discipline per the tardy guidelines outlined in the student handbook.

1-3 Tardies = Warning. Teacher will contact parent.

4 Tardies = Tuesday Detention. Teacher/Administrator will contact parent.

6 Tardies = Tuesday and Thursday Detention. Teacher / Administrator will contact parent.

8 Tardies = Saturday Detention. Teacher / Administrator will contact parent. Saturday Detention will be assigned and a tardy contract implemented with parent

10+ Tardies = Administration will review / revise the tardy contract and ISS will be assigned.

EXPECTATIONS

Students will attend all classes on time.

Students will follow the tardy protocol implemented in each classroom.

Students will report to 307 and then to class in a timely fashion.

Students will report to and accept all discipline consequences as assigned.

Students will reduce the number of tardy infractions per 9 week period.

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

BY ESTELLA COOK

ATLANTA - Below you will find the must-read stories of the week.

1. New Phone Numbers

(470) 254-6400 (MAIN)

(470) 254-6410 (FAX)

All Fulton schools will have the same area code. Our old number will reroute you to the new number until August 30, 2015.

2. School Office Hours

Normal school office hours resumed on August 4, 2015. The Main Office and Student Services are open Monday - Friday, 7:45 AM - 4:15 PM.

3. After-School Activities

There are no sweep buses this week. Students staying after school for athletic practices must provide their own transportation and must leave campus when practice is over. Coaches will remain with student athletes until picked up, and will address instances of students being picked up late.

4. Communication Guide

Please see the Communication Guide on the school website to assist you with connecting with the proper staff members to meet your needs and answer questions: <http://school.fultonschools.org/hs/westlake/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>

5. Fulton County Schools 2015-2016 Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook

Please review and save the updated 2015-2016 Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook: <http://www.fultonschools.org/en/divisions/acd/supportserv/Pages/StudentDiscipline.aspx>

It is important that you review and discuss the content of the Code of Conduct with your child(ren). Teachers reviewed the Code of Conduct with students during Homeroom last week. Students also took a Discipline Test to ensure they understood the content of the handbook.

Please click the link below to review and submit the required Acknowledgement of Electronic Receipt Form: English Handbook: <https://www3.fultonschools.org/codeconduct>
Spanish Handbook: <https://www3.fultonschools.org/codeconduct/home/indexspa>

6. Access to Home Access Center (HAC)

If you have had difficulty getting in to Home Access Center, please note the following:

- The @ fcs.org extension is no longer needed; You just need to enter your parent ID.
- All schools have HAC turned on.
- The HAC page is here: <http://www.fultonschools.org/en/sp/Pages/default.aspx>
- There is a Password Reset utility on the page above along with instructions, if needed.

7. Westlake HS PTSA: Facebook and Online Membership

Be sure to check out the new Facebook page of Westlake HS PTSA! Stay abreast of upcoming events, ways to be involved, and opportunities for supporting the students and staff of your child's school: <https://www.facebook.com/westlakehsptsa>

You can now join PTSA and pay your membership online: <http://school.fultonschools.org/hs/westlake/Pages/PTSA.aspx>

TESTING CORNER

STUDENTS CAN TEST-OUT
OF COURSES WITH END-OF-
COURSE TESTS

Ms. Oliver discusses the pros and cons of this opportunity.

BY TOSHA OLIVER

ATLANTA - Greetings, Again this school year, students will have the opportunity to "test-out" of any course for which there is an associated End-of-Course (EOC) test and earn credit for that course.

Eligible students may participate in the administration of an EOC prior to enrolling in and taking the course, and if he or she scores at the "Distinguished Learner" level on the EOC, he or she will be awarded credit for that course.

Students must have a "B" average in their current course related to the EOC they will take to "test-out;" a counselor's signature of verification of this information is needed on the application.

There is a \$50 fee associated with each EOC test for which a student desires to "test-out," and a student may only "test-out" of up to three EOC subjects.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria and score in the Distinguished Learner range will receive a reimbursement of the fee.

Students who earn course credit by testing out and scoring in the "Distinguished Learner" range on the EOC will not have the opportunity

to take the course or the retake EOC to improve their course grade at a future time.

The EOC score will be recorded on the transcript as the final course grade.

This may impact class ranking and HOPE calculations.

If the student attempts the EOC and does not score at the Exceeds performance level, the student must take the course within their regular course of study.

This student would again take the EOC at the conclusion of that course experience regardless of their score during their attempt to test-out.

Test-Out applications are available in the front office and the deadline for submission of complete applications is Friday, September 4th.

The EOC Test-Out administration dates are September 21-23, 2015.

Another Test-Out opportunity is offered in the Spring semester during the month of March.

Thank you for your support and dedication to our students as we move into the new EOCT era!

I look forward to working together to help our students achieve success.

Sincerely,
Tosha Oliver

COUNSELING PROGRAMS

9th Grade Programs

- 9th Grade Parent Night (September)
- Fall Freshman Classroom Guidance: High School 101 (October)
- 9th Grade BRIDGE Law Benchmark Activity: Career Interest Inventory (October - November)
- Suicide Prevention Classroom Guidance: Signs of Suicide (November)

10th Grade Programs

- 10th Grade Parent Night (September)
- Sophomore Classroom Guidance: Understanding the PSAT/Online Tools & Resources for Test Prep & College Search (September)
- 10th Grade BRIDGE Law Benchmark Activity: Dual Enrollment and College Credit Now Opportunities (November)

11th Grade Programs

- Parent Night (September)
- Fall Junior Classroom Guidance: What Colleges Consider in Admissions (November)
- 11th Grade BRIDGE Law Benchmark Activity: Virtual College Search (November)

12th Grade Programs

- Graduation Status Check (August/September)
- Senior Parent Night (September)
- Senior Classroom Guidance Fall: College and Career readiness Components (September)

Counseling Programs Reaching 11th - 12th.....

- College and Career Center
- College Representatives at WHS (Grades 11-12)

Counseling Programs Reaching 9th-12th

- New Student Enrollments
- Academic Advisement
- Post-Secondary Planning and Advising
- Dual Enrollment Information
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Summer School Information
- Community Agency Referrals
- Collaboration with Teachers, Administrators, School Social Worker, and School Psychologist
- Care Team Referrals
- SAT and ACT Information
- Crisis Intervention
- Career Guidance and Exploration
- Transcribing Student Records

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MORE TEACHERS FOR WHS

ATLANTA - Thank you for your patience during the schedule change request process.

The window to request schedule changes ended August 21st.

There will be some schedule adjustments in the upcoming weeks to level class size to the district/state mandated class size limit.

As you are aware, we have welcomed well over 250 new Westlake Lions.

Due to the inflow of new students, Westlake will receive additional teachers to accommodate our new student population, and this means schedule changes.

To ensure that classes are in compliance with district and state mandates, a random selection will be made to remove students from classes that are overcrowded and need to be balanced.

We apologize in advance for the inconvenience this will cause; schedule changes cannot be reversed.

We appreciate your understanding while Westlake adheres to district and state mandates to ensure smaller class sizes for optimal classroom instruction for our students.

SIGN UP FOR REMIND 101

ATLANTA- Join our distribution list to receive texts and/or emails with information on upcoming college representative visits and scholarship updates.

Both students and parents are encouraged to register by using the website provided below.

Don't be left out of the loop—join today!

Please type the following url into your computer to sign up for Remind 101: Class of 2016.

CHECKING SENIOR STATUS

ATLANTA- On May 20, 2016, senior students will be closing this chapter on their high school career.

Congratulations to all the senior students and parents of senior students who have almost made it to the graduation milestone.

Counselors will begin senior status checks immediately following the schedule change window so we can inform you of your student's specific status.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

CONTACTING COUNSELORS

ATLANTA- As the year advances, you may find yourself in need of contacting one of Westlake's counselors.

When that happens, we want to make sure that you know the correct number and can quickly get in touch with the person who can best help your student.

Below, you will find a list of useful contacts for

the counselors.

If you need to set up a parent-teacher conference, we can set up a conference with all your student's teachers if you contact the Student Services office.

Please either call the school at (404) 346-6400 and request Student Services or email Jeanine Griswold at the email address posted below.

9th Grade (A - Z): Antonio Grissom, grissom@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46429

10th - 12th (A - E): Anthony Decosta, decosta@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46434

10th - 12th (E - K): Beatrice Ford, fordb@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46482

10th - 12th (L - Q): Shelia Reese-Jackson (Head), reeses@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46433

10th - 12th (R - Z): Dawn Perry, perrydb@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46432

Professional Assistant: Jeanine Griswold, griswoldj@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400

STUDENT SERVICES' CORNER

CONTACTING STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF

Please use the following numbers to contact the school in times of need.

Student Services Administration

Curriculum Assistant Principal: Cecelia Johnson, johnsonc5@fultonschools.org

Administrative Assistant: Candice Hickman, hickmanc@fultonschools.org

Student Support Staff

College and Career Advisor: Steven Johnson, johnsons16@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46462

504 Coordinator and

Graduation Coach: Twanda Harrison, harrison1@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46428

Instructional Support Teacher: Jennifer Swint, swint@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46444

SEC Department Chair: Andrea Freeman, freemana1@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46444

Data Specialist: Jan McLemore, mclemorej@fultonschools.org

Back Up Data Specialist: Mesi Spencer, spencerm@fultonschools.org

Records Clerk: Jenna Earwood, bannister@fultonschools.org

Professional Assistant: Jeanine Griswold, griswoldj@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400

School Social Worker: Willette Stephens, stephensw@fultonschools.org or 470-346-6400 x46483

School Psychologist: Judith Perkins, perkinsj@fultonschools.org

School Psychologist: Elizabeth Scott, scottea@fultonschools.org

CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

Softball Fundraiser / Dance..... 9/11

DATE: Friday 9/11**PLACE:** Auditorium @ 4:00pm - 7:00pmMagnet College Admissions9/12, 9/19, 9/26Essay Writing Boot Camp**DATE:** Saturday 9/12, Saturday 9/19, Saturday 9/26**PLACE:** Westlake High School @ 9am to 1pm**INFO:** This is a series of free workshops to assist 12th grade Magnet students with crafting a winning admissions essay. Students will receive guidance from the initial brainstorm to the final draft.

Magnet/IB Breakfast Talk #1..... 9/16

DATE: Wednesday 9/16**PLACE:** Auditorium @ 7:30am - 8:15am

Senior Portraits..... 9/17 - 9/18

DATE: Thursday 9/17 - Friday 9/18**PLACE:** Auditorium

Science National Honor Society 9/21

Fall Induction**DATE:** Monday 9/21**PLACE:** Auditorium @ 6pm to 7pm

Underclass Portraits..... 9/22 - 9/23

DATE: Tuesday 9/22 - Wednesday 9/23**PLACE:** Auditorium

Westlake Gospel Explosion..... 9/24

DATE: Thursday 9/24**PLACE:** Auditorium @ 7:00pm - 10:30pm

Westlake's Gospel Choir performs. This is a must see event in the Westlake social calendar.

Dance Competition..... 10/1

DATE: Thursday 10/1**PLACE:** Westlake Auditorium (All Day)PSAT/NMSQT Administration.....10/14**DATE:** Wednesday 10/14**PLACE:** Westlake High School (During School)**INFO:** Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Free test prep is available through Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org). For the new version of this test, which goes into effect with the October 2015 administration, choose "New SAT" (starting March 2016) from the test prep tab.Professional Development.....10/30, 11/30, 1/6**DATE:** Friday 10/30, Monday 11/30, Wednesday 1/6**PLACE:** (Students Do Not Report to School)Westlake High School Graduation.....5/20**DATE:** Friday 5/20**PLACE:** Georgia Dome @ 7:00pm

STUDENT BODY

STUDENTS OF THE DAY

MONDAY 9/7 Kharie Campbell stood out in the cafeteria by taking a few extra minutes to help clean up. She did not know anyone was watching her, so she could have left a mess, but instead she went out of her way to be helpful. (Nominated by Mr. Adams)**TUESDAY 9/8** Emmanuel Griggs traveled to Venice, Italy, where he spent a week in the preliminary rounds of the World Poetry Competition. His bracket competition, which included young poets from such far-flung countries as Canada, Mexico, Russia, Spain, China, and Japan, showcased 300 - 400 competitors. Eventually, through the course of a week, the judges reduced the bracket to one winner. That winner? Well, it just happened to be our very own Emmanuel. Emmanuel then competed in the finals over the summer in South Korea. Congratulations! (Nominated by Mr. Gossett)**WEDNESDAY 9/9** Bahari Halls created a rap using vocabulary words and definitions that called out other students in the class. He increased participation in class, got his classmates excited about learning, and increased quiz scores through his innovation, creativity, and excitement. (Nominated by Ms. Griffin)**THURSDAY 9/10** Destiny Shropshire showed initiative and kindness by helping another student with a class assignment when he was having trouble. Destiny was able to explain the assignment thoroughly and helped him complete his work. (Nominated by Mr. Gordon)**FRIDAY 9/11** Thank you to Ms. E's French 4 students for being amazing students every class. Ms. E gives you a special thank you for "making me smile and laugh" and for your "dedication to the French language and culture." Students include Cameron Austin, Ariana Culver, Maya Dawson, Alexis Grier, Tomaney Hendricks, Ah'Jahnae Hillsman, Lamia Huff, Kiaura Huff, Alexis Mpezo, Mia Nikosi, Adaisyer North, Nigel Powell, Myles Sims, and Karimah Stigler. (Nominated by Ms. Ettzevoğlu)

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

MATH 9/7 to 9/13- Festus Ojo is a great student always eager to learn something new. (Nominated by Ms. Saffo)**SCIENCE 9/7 to 9/13** - No Student of the Week was submitted at time of print.**ENGLISH 9/7 to 9/13** - Emmanuel Griggs traveled to Venice, Italy, where he spent a week in the preliminary rounds of the World Poetry Competition, where he won first place. Emmanuel then competed in the finals over the summer in South Korea. Congratulations! (Nominated by Mr. Gossett)**SOCIAL STUDIES 9/7 to 9/13** - No Student of the Week was submitted at time of print.**WORLD LANGUAGES 9/7 to 9/13** - No Student of the Week was submitted at time of print.**FINE ARTS 9/7 to 9/13** - No Student of the Week was submitted at time of print.**JROTC 9/7 to 9/13** - Porsha Jones is one most dedicated cadets in the Westlake High School JROTC Program. She continuously volunteers her personal time to make the lives of others better and to improve the JROTC program. (Nominated by Sergeant Elder)**CTAE 9/7 to 9/13** - No Student of the Week was submitted at time of print.**PE 9/7 to 9/13** - Jamison Weatherspoon has a 100 average in Physical Education she has exhibited leadership, integrity and dedication in class (Nominated by Coach Rogers)SCHOOL GOVERNANCE
COUNCIL ANNOUNCED**Representatives****3 Parents:**Chris Lennon
Keisha Minter,
Christel Jackson**2 Teachers:**Yoshana Jones,
OPEN**2 Community:**Suzanne Wilborn,
Rhonda Hudson**2 School Employees:**Chantrise Holliman,
Estella B. Cook**FY16 SGC****Meeting Calendar****Location:**Westlake High School
Media Center**Time:**

Tues. 4:30-5:30 PM

Dates:9/15/15
10/27/15
12/01/15
1/26/15
2/23/15
3/22/15
5/10/15WESTLAKE CELEBRATES ITS
SENIOR BIRTHDAYS**Saturday 9/5**Bryce McByers
Edima Ubom**Sunday 9/6**

Shannon Williams

Monday 9/7Gabrielle Lord
Jerrold Thompson**Tuesday 9/8**

Nateisha Wingfield

Thursday 9/10

Ramon Laster

Friday 9/11

Elijah Wheat

Saturday 9/12Nakiyah Shelley
Nyhiim Spivey**Sunday 9/13**Kimani Alexander
Autumn Harris
Jordan Mattox

UPDATES ON SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

**ROBOTICS CLUB
GEARS UP FOR NEW
SCHOOL YEAR
BY STAFF**

Westlake's Robotics Club is looking for members for its 2015 - 2016 competition team.

Competitors will build a working robot and take it to compete in feats such as throwing a frisbee or shooting baskets.

Please stop by Room 432 for more information to sign up.

**SHIRT DESIGNS
BY STAFF**

Students who are fashion designers will have a great opportunity to win \$100.

SkillsUSA is hosting a t-shirt design competition, and the winning design will be entered into the t-shirt design competition at Champion Rally. \$100 cash prize goes to the winner at Champion Rally.

To submit your design, please visit Ms. Thorton in Room 272 by September 15th.

**MAGNET DUES
BY STAFF**

Westlake's Magnet Program is now collecting dues for the upcoming school year.

All freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors need to pay their \$90 dues.

The Magnet Program has great activities planned for the year, and all students will need to continue their commitment and support to make these plans happen.

**MAGNET PREPARES
FOR ESSAY BOOTCAMP
BY STAFF**

Magnet juniors and seniors, join the Magnet Program for a series of free college admission essay writing bootcamps in September.

This is a great opportunity to learn strategies on how to begin the essay writing process.

Attend these sessions and hear from admissions officers on how to effectively craft a winning essay.

**FBLA DUES
BY STAFF**

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is now accepting new members for the upcoming school year.

The cost to join FBLA is \$30.

Please see Ms. Carter in Room 232 to pay your dues and become a part of this organization.

**SENIOR PICTURES
AT SCHOOL
BY STAFF**

The deadline to take your senior portraits for the yearbook is approaching quickly.

All seniors must sign up online to take their pictures with Cady Studios by Oct. 8th.

Cady Studios will be at the school on Sept. 17th and 18th.

See Ms. Woods in Room 218 to pick up portrait information.

CALENDAR OF SPORTING EVENTS

<u>Cross Country @ Langston Hughes</u>	9/8
<i>DATE:</i> Tuesday 9/8	
<i>PLACE:</i> Langston Hughes High School @ 5:30pm	
<u>Softball vs. East Coweta</u>	9/8
<i>DATE:</i> Tuesday 9/8	
<i>PLACE:</i> East Coweta High School @ 5:30pm	
<u>Softball vs. Campbell</u>	9/10
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/10	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Softball Field @ 5:30pm	
<u>Varsity Volleyball vs. Langston</u>	9/10
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/10	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Gym @ 5:30pm	
<u>Freshman Football vs. Tucker</u>	9/10
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/10	
<i>PLACE:</i> Tucker High School @ 5:30pm	
<u>JV Football vs. Carver</u>	9/10
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/10	
<i>PLACE:</i> Carver High School @ 5:15pm	
<u>Varsity Football vs. Newton</u>	9/11
<i>DATE:</i> Friday 9/11	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Stadium @ 7:30pm	
<u>Softball vs. Rockdale JV</u>	9/14
<i>DATE:</i> Monday 9/14	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Softball Field @ 5:45pm	
<u>Cross Country @ Creekside</u>	9/15
<i>DATE:</i> Tuesday 9/15	
<i>PLACE:</i> Creekside High School @ 5:30pm	
<u>Softball vs. Pebblebrook</u>	9/15
<i>DATE:</i> Tuesday 9/15	
<i>PLACE:</i> Pebblebrooke High School @ 5:30pm	
<u>Varsity Volleyball vs. East Coweta</u>	9/15
<i>DATE:</i> Tuesday 9/15	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Gym @ 5:30pm	
<u>Varsity Volleyball vs. Centennial</u>	9/17
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/17	
<i>PLACE:</i> Centennial High School @ 5:00pm	
<u>Softball vs. Newnan</u>	9/17
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/17	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Softball Field @ 5:30pm	
<u>Freshman Football vs. Banneker</u>	9/17
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/17	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Stadium @ 5:30pm	
<u>Varsity Volleyball NF Tourney</u>	9/19
<i>DATE:</i> Saturday 9/19	
<i>PLACE:</i> Roswell High School @ 5:00pm	
<u>Cross Country County Championship</u>	9/19
<i>DATE:</i> Saturday 9/19	
<i>PLACE:</i> Milton High School @ 8:00am	
<u>Varsity Volleyball vs. North Springs and Chamblee</u>	9/21
<i>DATE:</i> Monday 9/21	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Gym @ 5:30pm, 7:30pm	
<u>Softball vs. South Cobb</u>	9/22
<i>DATE:</i> Tuesday 9/22	
<i>PLACE:</i> South Cobb High School @ 5:50pm	
<u>Cross Country @ Westlake</u>	9/22
<i>DATE:</i> Tuesday 9/22	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Stadium @ 5:30pm	
<u>Softball vs. Douglas</u>	9/24
<i>DATE:</i> Thursday 9/24	
<i>PLACE:</i> Westlake Softball Field @ 5:30pm	

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY PLACES FIRST

BY STAFF

ATLANTA - Westlake Cross Country competed at two meets in one week, including the Westlake Invitational, where the team drew praise and accolades, including top prizes.

Ten schools competed at the Westlake Invitational, but Westlake bested them all, finishing first in both girls and boys teams, adding yet another success to the illustrious program.

A particularly strong run came from Zyaira Dewater, who finished second in her event, the three mile run, a fact that surprised even her.

"I thought it was going to be harder than it was because I had never done it before, and I didn't know how it was

going to be. I did track last year, but this is my first year in cross country. It's different because there is a difference in how you have to run," explained Zyaira, who at first battled nerves.

"When I got there, I was nervous. I just told myself that I was going to do good and gave myself motivation," explained Zyaira.

The motivation must have worked, because Zyaira finished the three miles in 22 minutes, which averages to 7 minutes and 20 seconds per mile, a stunning accomplishment.

For the boys team, Marcus Abdul equaled Zyaira's success by also winning second place in the three mile run.

Marcus finished in a

time of 16 minutes and 34 seconds, which average to about 5 minutes and 30 seconds per mile.

"I want to try and go down to a 15 later in the season," said Marcus, who has set ambitious goals to push himself.

The Saturday invitational at Starrs Mill was even bigger, featuring nearly fifty teams and several state ranked runners.

"The meet was a big meet, and I would like to run in more like that," said Marcus.

Despite Marcus's enthusiasm, the Starrs Mill meet did pose an obstacle that affected him as he tried to cut time.

"The course was more difficult because it was grass. On grass, you have to lift your legs more.

We're used to running on a hard course, so next time, when we go to a meet like that, it should be better," said Marcus, who had already come up with a game plan.

"At practice, instead of running on the road, I'm going to try and run on the grass and the hills," explained Marcus.

Marcus also said he would ask Coach Cage and Coach Wilson coaches for advice.

"When I first started, I didn't know nothing about cross country. They taught me about the sport and what I needed to do to be good. They both know what they're talking about, and every runner who runs at Westlake is good because of them," said Marcus.

Our thoughts exactly!

VOLLEYBALL TEAM NETS BIG WIN

BY JEZREEL YOUNG, ALEXUS ECHOLS, SHALLIEJAH EVANS

ATLANTA - Thursday evening, Westlake's volleyball team beat the Creekside Seminoles, securing a victory to kick off regional play.

The ferocious Lady Lions went to the net in a best-of-five match and won without dropping a single set.

After winning the first two sets handily, Westlake secured the final set by a lopsided score of 25 to 14.

"The team was determined to execute the transitions that we talked about," explained Coach Reddick, who was proud of her girls for getting into the win column.

During the preseason, Westlake had played tournaments and matches, but this was only the second home game of the season for the Lady

Lions, who have been "slowly inching our way into the season," according to player Jezreel Young.

"We didn't know exactly what to expect from Creekside, and we were ready to fight and prove that we could hold the den down," explained Jezreel.

To open the game, Morenike Ibidapo served a rocket-fast serve to get the girls off on a great foot. Morenike set up an expectation of strong serves that other players followed.

"If we ever lost a serve, our defence was fierce and ready to pounce. We would pass the ball to the setter to get a good kill. That's how we won the first and second set, through teamwork and defence" explained player Alexis Echols.

Westlake also had a secret weapon in the re-

turn of Maya Dawson, who had been injured with an ACL and meniscus tear and had only recently been cleared to play.

"Maya was a little hesitant to get out there, but she showed up and showed out by scoring the final point in the third set to clinch the victory," said Coach Reddick.

In the third set, Westlake had looked like they were in trouble when Creekside gained six points suddenly, but Kay-

lah House rose to the occasion served roughly seven straight points, setting up Maya for the final serve.

Throughout the game, the volleyball team proved much. Morenike proved she can start a game off right, Kaylah proved she can set the tone of a game, and Maya proved that she can make a huge impact returning from an injury.

Congratulations, Westlake Volleyball on the big win!



ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL CONTINUES STREAKS - SCORING AND SCORELESS

BY STAFF

ATLANTA - Westlake Football did it again in its second game of the season, shutting out Shiloh High School 35 to 0.

This was a particularly sweet victory for Westlake, who had lost to Shiloh in a low scoring nail-biter last year.

This year's matchup, however, was all Westlake, and there were

highlights galore for both the offense and defence.

"This is quite a statement. It's so wonderful to see the boys go out and prove that Return to Glory Phase III is in full swing," commented Boyd Gossett, a teacher at Westlake.

Quarterback Josh Jones led Westlake's high octane offense, which has scored over 100

points in their first two games of the season, but much of school's strength comes from its linesmen.

"The defensive line worked really hard, and the offensive line blocked and set up the run really well. Every week, we work hard to make it happen on Friday," said Christian Abercrombie, who was all business when interviewed.

"Our goals for defence were ten tackles and maintaining a shutout," disclosed Christian, who was quick to downplay the fumble he forced and instead focus on the success of his teammates.

Christian specifically mentioned standout plays on the defensive side of the field, including two deflections by Jarrett Cornelius at corner,

as well as three forced turnovers, including an interception by Ronnie Blackmon.

It is difficult to maintain shutouts, but Westlake has played eight quarters of shutout football so far and has no interest in stopping now.

"I believe we can maintain the shutouts if we work hard on weekdays," said Christian.

All the hard work is certainly showing on both sides of the football. Congratulations, Lions!

The next football game will be on Friday, September 11th against Newton High School.

This will be a special game because it is the first home game of the season for Westlake, as well as an opportunity to continue its scoring and scoreless streaks!

RAIDERS BUILD TEAMWORK THROUGH ROPE COURSE

BY STAFF

ATLANTA -A group of resourceful JROTC cadets recently turned the school's parking lot into a ropes course to give new cadets a chance to try out for the JROTC Raiders Team.

They tied a rope, which spanned 45 feet, between two tree trunks and used a harness belt to safely attach the cadets. The cadets dangled upside down until they heard, "Go!" which was the signal to begin pulling themselves across.

"Doing the rope is so much fun and is the one of the biggest reasons people join Raiders, but it takes balance and concentration," said veteran Raiders Team member Marissa Lymon.

At its most basic, Raiders Team is an eight member sports team that attends competitions based on training activities that the army commonly uses, such as push-ups, sit-ups, one mile runs, and climbing high walls.

The brilliance of a Raiders competition, however, is that it also includes more exotic activities from the Modified Army Physical Fitness Test, including building rope bridges, pulling vehicles, flipping car tires, and running with heavy army gear.

Even though pulling vehicles or flipping car tires might sound straight from a strong man competition, Raiders Team focuses more on team building, group work, and perseverance than individual strength.

"This is my third year with the Raider's Team," explained Shakir Aquil, who extolled the Raiders Team's focus on teamwork.

"I love all the cadets here, and I love feeling

like we're all together as a team. Sometimes the emotions kick up and kick in, but my emotions are for everyone here, and that's what Raiders is about," beamed Shakir.

Never was it more apparent that teamwork mattered than when the young cadets, exhilarated, scurried across the ropes as older cadets called out a series of commands for go, stop, unhook the harness, and clear the line.

All voices worked together impressively as a cohesive unit, and the new cadets looked adept at crossing the rope bridge.

"We have probably the best team I have seen in three years," explained Raiders Team Commander Zachary Simmons.

"There are a lot of young cadets. A lot of new people, young faces. We're going to have a pretty good team this year," continued Zachary.

"A pretty great team," corrected Shakir, enthusiastically.

Overseeing the entire activity was Westlake's Battalion Commander Desintee Marbley, the top ranking JROTC member at Westlake.

"It's really fun actually to be in command, knowing that you have everyone's attention and knowing that you're the reason why they're learning and they're prospering," explained Destinee.

Destinee took time to detail the benefits of leadership for not just new Raiders cadets but also for herself.

"JROTC is building me with integrity and respect. Everything that this program is about has birthed my personality. The leadership position that I am in and how I run it is all



about the respect. I'm not in it to say I run him and her. It's about saying that I'm the reason that they can prosper," said Destinee.

Destinee also wanted to make it clear that Raiders could be a solution for new students who were feeling lost and could not find clubs or activities to join, a problem familiar to Destinee.

"I hung with the wrong crowd and got suspended my first year, but then I found JROTC. Being in the JROTC program, you have a family, and they all motivate you to do the same thing they are doing. To be better and be wiser. My personality came out," admitted Destinee.

For Destinee, activities in JROTC like building rope bridges have shown her her future career.

"I now know what I want to do in the future. I know who I want to be. Who I want to lead. What I want to do. There's a lot I've learned about myself being in program like

JROTC and Raiders," said Destinee.

The Raiders competitions are held at different locations, such as Creekside HS, which has a permanent Raiders course.

According to second year team member Breanna Magee, the competition can be grueling.

"My first competition was hard. We had to run six ammo cans to the other side of the football field, and we carried two ammo cans in our hands at a time," said Breanna.

The ammo cans each weigh 40 to 50 pounds, and the total distance of the race is 600 yards, so completing this event is no small feat.

What could have possessed Breanna, a freshman at the time, to undertake such a daunting task?

"I wanted to join Raiders when I found out about the cool uniforms. I feel so official. We got to wear them around the school on Fridays, and I think they're so cool," explained Breanna.

"Now I do all the com-

petitions. The cross country run, the rope bridge, the tire flip, mile run, team run. I look forward to the cross country run most because we're running through the woods with our rucksacks," said Breanna, who hopes to soon become part of the Raiders Team leadership.

"I like being a younger competitor because soon I am going to become a commander, and I'm learning all the I can. The major thing I have learned is that we get serious when it's time to get serious," said Breanna.

When at competition, cadet safety is always a top concern, so Raiders has named a manager to take care of all the safety elements. It is no surprise, then, when he used terms reserved for family, just like all his fellow cadets.

"I am essentially the team father. I make sure they have everything when they go on runs. I make sure their ropes are all set and that they have water. I do whatever I can to help them the

best," said Perry McCrae with pride.

Raiders Commander Zachary Simmons took a bit of a different approach to the new cadets, as a commander must.

"They are anonymous cadets until they make the team. There is a two week tryout and then there are time trials," reminded Zachary.

Time trials set high expectations for the new cadets. Men must run a mile in under 6 minutes and 45 seconds to be considered, and women must run a mile in under 7 minutes and 45 seconds.

"We run a mile every day to train, keep the heart rate up, and keep everyone in shape," explained Zachary.

Between our Battalion Commander, Raiders Commander, and Team Dad, we can rest assured that our new cadets will be well-trained and ready for their first competition.

The first competition is September 12th at Creekside. Go Lions!

JUNIOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPTIONAL JUNIOR CLASS DUES ARE SET AT \$100

BY STAFF

ATLANTA - All juniors are encouraged to pay OPTIONAL junior dues, which are set at \$100 and includes many perks. The deadline for dues is December 4, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact your junior class sponsor, Ms. Wilson at wilsontl@fultonschools.org.

WHAT DO DUES INCLUDE?

Dues include the following:
 1 Prom Ticket
 1 Jr. Class Spring Activity (Main Event)
 Pride Package Includes:
 2 Class of 2017 t-shirts, backpack, water bottle

WHEN DO I PAY DUES?

All dues can be paid via www.mypaymentsplus.com
 Between September 4 - December 4, 2015
 **Payment is non-refundable
 ***Prom tickets are non-transferable

SENIOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINE FOR SENIOR PICTURES IS FAST APPROACHING

BY STAFF

ATLANTA - If seniors have not already gotten yearbook pictures taken, then they will need to immediately get them taken. Below, you can find answers to the most frequently asked questions about yearbook photos. If you have any additional questions you can contact Ms. Woods at woods@fultonschools.org, or you can check out our Seniors FAQ page.

WHO IS CADY STUDIOS?

We are your schools official senior photographer! We hold a Junior Meeting at every school before our studios open to meet with the rising seniors to talk about the Cady Studios senior portrait experience. Cady Studios must photograph each student in order to appear in the yearbook.

HOW DO I BOOK MY SESSION?

You can book your session online at <http://session.cadystudios.com/> or call our Customer Experience Team:
 678.951.0102 | Local
 800.547.6237 | Toll Free

WHEN SHOULD I BOOK MY SESSION?

Now! Most students take their senior portraits the summer between their junior and senior year, but book as soon as possible, because appointments fill up fast. You can schedule your session online or call our Customer Experience Team at 800.547.6237.

WHERE DO I GO TAKE MY PICTURES?

You have 2 options: Studio or at School *both locations you MUST BOOK A SESSION TIME

We have two amazing studio locations . The addresses of our studios are:

ALPHARETTA, GA STUDIO
 44 MILTON AVENUE, ALPHARETTA, GA 30009

ACWORTH, GA STUDIO
 3979 S. MAIN STREET, ACWORTH, GA 30101

WHAT IS A SESSION?

"Session" simply refers to your photo shoot at Cady Studios. Each session is a scheduled appointment time to be photographed on your chosen scenes. All sessions include yearbook, cap and gown, and a casual scene.

HOW DOES CADY STUDIOS CONTACT THE CLASS OF 2016

We email out booking reminders and send out all-inclusive informational pieces to students' homes.

HOW MUCH ARE THE SESSION FEES?

Sessions start at \$25, which includes your yearbook and cap and gown portraits, and one additional indoor scene of your choice. Elite Sessions range in price and can include an all-out private photography experience including twelve locations and hair and makeup styling. Then, of course, there

WHEN DO I GO TAKE MY PICTURES?

School Date and Times
 September 17th - 3:00-8:00pm
 September 18th - 3:00-8:00pm
 MUST BOOK A SESSION TIME online at cadystudios.com or by calling 800.547.6237

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR YEARBOOK?

The last day to be photographed to select your yearbook photo is August 30th. You must be photographed by October 8th to appear in your yearbook. You will not be able to select your yearbook photo if photographed after August 30th.