



# WILSON NEWS

January 2008

## AP Night Coming Soon

On Wednesday, February 13, parents and students are invited to AP Night, immediately preceding and continuing into the PTSA meeting in the Library.

The AP classes are a very valuable part of a Wilson education, yet many students who have the potential to do well in the AP classes never even give them a try. Why? Often it's because their friends aren't doing it, and they do not want to face a potentially difficult class without a friend. Maybe they don't sign up because they and their parents don't know about the benefits – better college success, and an opportunity to save time and money in college by taking some college courses in high school. And of course APs look great on a high school transcript.

Come to AP Night and find out what your child could be taking next year (course selection time starts March 1).

6 – 6:15 pm Brief introduction to the AP program

6:15 – 7 pm Visit tables and meet AP teachers representing each department offering APs. Ask current or former AP students about their experience.

Look at the text books and course syllabi. Find out about the homework load and the AP exams.

7 pm PTSA meeting starts. AP teachers may leave, but there will be time to ask administrators and College Board coach Shauna Leung more about the APs.

Materials and translation will be provided in Spanish.

## Phonathon Follow-through!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to those parents who responded to our phonathon calls with pledges of financial support! The next step is to be sure to send in your pledge when you receive the confirmation letter!

Those parents who were not at home when we called will also have an opportunity to contribute to this important fundraiser. You will receive a letter in the mail along with an envelope in which to submit your contribution.

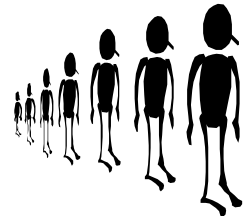
As the PTSA's biggest fundraiser, the phonathon ensures that we are able to provide a wide range of support for Wilson. Phonathon and PTSA funds support everything from teacher grants, to drama and debate, to essential communication efforts such as this newsletter and the directory.

Many parents prefer the phonathon approach to fundraising as compared with other more time-consuming approaches such as auctions. We hope you will help us maintain this tradition by giving generously.



Thank you for your contributions!

## SGA Volunteer Opportunity



The Student Government Association (SGA) will be volunteering at So Others May Eat (SOME) every third Saturday of the month. SOME exists to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital. It meets the immediate daily needs of the homeless with food, clothing and healthcare. SOME is helping to break the cycle of homelessness by offering services such as affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment and counseling to the poor, the elderly and individuals with mental illness. If you or anyone you know is interested in making a difference in the community and serving breakfast to the homeless, please see Ms. Gibson in room 219. Remember that Community Service hours are being offered! We meet at 71 O Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Thus far, it has been a rewarding experience and I hope that everyone will consider coming out to help. I look forward to seeing you there.

Angelica Gregory, SGA President

## About the PSAT

The Preliminary SAT is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and the [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](#).

PSAT stands for Preliminary SAT. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™. The PSAT measures: critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills

You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes. The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are: 1. to receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice. 2. to see how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college. 2. to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11). to help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.

## Information on the Score Report

PSAT/NMSQT scores are reported on a scale of 20 to 80. In 2006, the average score for eleventh graders was about 48 in Critical Reading, 49 in Mathematics, and 46 in Writing Skills. The average score for tenth graders was about 43 in Critical Reading, 44 in Mathematics, and 41 in Writing Skills.

Also listed on your score report is the Selection Index, which is used to determine eligibility in National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs (NMSC). It is the sum of the three scores in each test section (CR + M + W). The Selection Index ranges from 60 to 240. The average Selection Index for students in eleventh grade is about 147. Note: Only students in eleventh grade are eligible to enter NMSC scholarship programs.

Finally, score reports include national percentiles, which allow you to compare your scores with other students in your grade level who have taken the PSAT/NMSQT. If you take the PSAT/NMSQT in the eleventh grade, you receive junior percentiles. If you take the PSAT/NMSQT in tenth grade or younger, you will receive sophomore percentiles. For example, a student in eleventh grade with a percentile of 55 has earned a score better than 55 percent of all eleventh graders. Another way to understand percentiles is to imagine 100 students lined up from the lowest (or 1st) percentile at the end of the line to the highest (or 99th) percentile at the front of the line. If you are at the 55th percentile, you would be the 56th person in line, ahead of 55 people in the line and behind 44.

## PTSA Seeking an Auditor

The Wilson PTSA is seeking assistance in conducting a financial audit. Having a completed audit would be beneficial to Wilson in several ways.

- First, it would allow the PTSA to apply to participate in the United Way/Combined Federal Campaign Donation programs. While the PTSA has participated in this program in the past, last year the program instituted a requirement that participating organizations must conduct an annual financial audit.
- Second, this would make it easier for the PTSA to seek funds from certain grant and foundation programs that require audits of applicants.

Because of the relatively small size of the Wilson PTSA budget and because an audit normally incurs the cost of a professional fee, the Wilson PTSA has not conducted an audit in the recent past. At its last meeting the Executive Board agreed that the PTSA should seek parents or other friends of Wilson who might be willing to volunteer their professional services and time.

Please contact one of the co-presidents or treasurers (e-mail contacts below) if you are able to provide assistance or have questions. Thanks!

Katharine Abraham, Co-Treasurer ([kgahome@gmail.com](mailto:kgahome@gmail.com)) Jude Landis, Co-Treasurer ([jude\\_landis@fanniema.com](mailto:jude_landis@fanniema.com)) Mary Giffin, Co-President ([giffinm@gao.gov](mailto:giffinm@gao.gov)) Columbus Spruell, Co-President ([dbsm.cdsm.spru@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dbsm.cdsm.spru@worldnet.att.net))



## Restructuring Think Tank Update

To date the Wilson Think Tank has conducted numerous large and small group meetings to explore restructuring options. The Think Tank Groups have sought to identify: key problems faced at Wilson; what research can tell us; what Wilson's strengths and weaknesses are with regard to these problems; and proposals for addressing key problems. Think Tank ideas continue to be worked on in anticipation of submitting a report to Chancellor Rhee as she considers restructuring options for Wilson. For further information about the Think Tank process and how you can get involved, check out [www.wilsonhs.org](http://www.wilsonhs.org) and look under 'restructuring' on the lower left side of the main page.

Below are some of the ideas that have been talked about by the three work groups of the Wilson Think Tank in the following areas: 1) Teaching and Learning, 2) Safe and Effective Learning Environments, and 3) Parent and Community Involvement.

### Teaching and Learning

- \* All students in Academies, small learning communities.
- \* Team teaching (English, math, science, history) in both 9th and 10th grades.
- \* Revised curriculum sequence incorporating more intensive approaches to math and English (e.g., 8-period day, double period math and English); Curriculum development planning from February through August.
- \* Pre- 9th and 10th grade summer school based on prior year's testing.
- \* \*Advisories\* \* home room with curriculum content related to academic advice, general counseling, information sharing and student planning.
- \* GED options for students who cannot graduate before reaching age 18.

### Safe and Effective Learning Environment

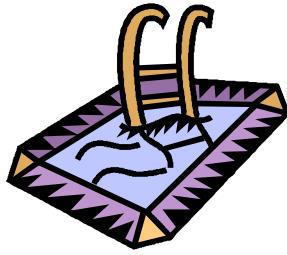
- \* Attendance: Establish team with accountability for and resources to address causes of chronic absenteeism; key responsibility includes connecting those students to needed supports.
- \* Tardiness: Intensive focus on addressing tardiness in first 30 days of school; Establish team to focus on chronic latecomers and provide intervention and support services.
- \* Sense of Belonging: All students in an academy (smaller learning group); team teaching and smaller class sizes in 9th grade.
- \* Clean and Safe Environment: establish accountability for coordination across Crisis Intervention Team, Student Support Team, Counselors and Main Office; Dedicated staff to monitor hallways during class and transition periods; sufficient custodial staff.
- \* Clear and High Expectations: communicate expectations early and often; Combine with strong support from faculty and counselors for low performing students.
- \* Strong and Supportive Relationships: Respect shown to everyone by everyone; positive educational outcomes are a shared priority; facilitate opportunities for individual interactions across diverse groups at Wilson.

### Parent and Community Involvement

- \* Environment for parents: Establish a warm and welcoming environment at Wilson for parents
- \* Structure: Clearly establish responsibility and accountability among school staff for engaging parents in their student's education, e.g. restructure key functions into a \*Student and Family Support Division\* including guidance, college/career support, crisis support, attendance and discipline, parent education and outreach and health.
- \* Orientation: All students and parents should participate in small-group, comprehensive orientations before enrollment, including meeting key staff.
- \* Information: Wilson should establish a range of effective approaches to providing key information to parents including: basic signage and maps inside and outside the school; guidance on academic planning, course options, testing, and honors opportunities; co-curricular activities; policies on attendance, tardiness and discipline; the guidance function and college and career planning, the role of parents in a student's education, and support resources. Modes of information dissemination should include: small group orientations (see above) printed and web-based information, videos, periodic individual or small group meetings with students and their families; special parent education programs.
- \* Technical Support: adequate resources for staff including phones, computers, web-based software for class-specific communication with home.

## New Pool Gets Under-way

Construction of the new Wilson Aquatic Center's foundation will begin next month (after permit approvals) according to Allen Lew from the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM). Mr. Lew, his OPEFM team members, Hughes Group Architects and representatives from SIGAL construction were on hand at the January 9th Aquatic Center Update hosted by Mary Cheh in the Wilson Library. SIGAL Construction has been selected as the Design-Builder for construction. A finished pool is expected in late



## Principal Search Update

The principal search committee continues to meet at least monthly, including meetings with DCPS principal recruitment staff. Most recently John Davis from DCPS met with the committee to discuss the number and nature of resumes being submitted to DCPS in response to its national advertising campaign as well as in response to Wilson's advertising. In an effort to increase the visibility of the search among potential regional candidates, the committee plans to send letters to high school principals and others in the region about Wilson's search. Wilson students and families are encouraged to get the word out and contact potential sources of names of candidates. If you would like to contact parent, faculty or students members of the search committee go to [www.wilsonhs.org](http://www.wilsonhs.org).



### WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL WASHINGTON, DC

#### OPEN HOUSES

For  
**PROSPECTIVE PARENTS & STUDENTS  
2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

ON THE FOLLOWING FRIDAYS

October 19, November 2 & 16, December 7 & 21, 2007  
January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22, March 7 & 14, April 4 & 18, 2008

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Room 124  
3950 Chesapeake Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
(Tenleytown Metro Stop– Red Line)

#### ACADEMY APPLICATIONS

For  
Wilson International Studies Program (WISP), Academy of Finance,  
SciMaTech Academy, Humanities, Arts & Media (HAM) Academy,  
Academic & Athletic Achievement Academy

Available January 9, 2008  
On-line at [wilsonhs.org](http://wilsonhs.org)  
Or in Room 124

Applications Due February 29, 2008

Interviews in March 2008

Acceptances Announced April 4, 2008

For more information, contact:  
Main Office  
Wilson Senior High School  
202-282-0120

## Dates To Remember

2/1	Report Cards issued
2/1	Principal Tea
2/6	9th Grade Parents' meeting
2/7-2/9	Wilson Players One-Act Plays
2/8	Open House
2/11	3rd Advisory Progress Reports
2/13	Wilson Male Initiative
2/13	PTSA Mtg.
2/18	President's Day
2/29	Parent Teacher Conference Day
2/14-2/16	Wilson Players One Act Plays
2/18	President's Day
2/20	Mid Advisory
2/22	Open House
2/22	African American Play
2/29	Parent Teacher Conferences

### Upcoming Dates

3/1	SAT Testing
3/7	Principal Tea
3/7	Open House

## Join us for the February 13th PTSA Meeting, 7 pm in the Library

Agenda items will include the principal's report and updates on a number of issues ranging from restructuring, the principal selection process, the Wilson Management Corporation, selection of an architect for facility planning, and the pool. Spanish interpretation and light refreshments will be provided.

Wilson Senior High School  
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