



# WILSON NEWS

April 2008

## Rhee Receives Restructuring Proposals from Wilson and Other High Schools

Wilson's administrative staff has submitted the school's proposal for restructuring to Chancellor Rhee. The proposal grew out of months of meetings of the "Think Tank" as well as additional input from faculty, staff and the LSRT. The complete restructuring proposal can be found at [www.wilsonhs.org](http://www.wilsonhs.org). In addition, a summary of the proposal, also provided to Rhee, is included in this newsletter.

Chancellor Rhee met briefly with representatives from each restructuring high school on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Wilson's administration, LSRT, PTSA and other Wilson parents summarized the proposal for Rhee and answered questions that she had. In addition, Wilson representatives attended additional meetings held by the Chancellor for anyone who wanted to provide input *Continued on page 2*

## May 14 PTSA Meeting Will Feature Election, End-of-year Reports, and Planning for Next Year

Please be sure to join us for the final PTSA meeting of this school year, on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Parents will have an opportunity to elect next year's PTSA officers as well as parent representatives to the Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT), which is an important advisory body to the Principal. In addition, updates will be provided on other key developments related to the Principal search, modernization planning, and restructuring. We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize staff and graduating parents who have worked hard this year to support Wilson. Be sure to join us for refreshments and company from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the library. Spanish interpretation will be provided.

## Exciting Possibilities Shared by Wilson's Architects: Goals for Wilson's Facility Modernization Unveiled at April PTSA Meeting

At the April PTSA meeting, a representative from Grimm+Parker Architects provided parents with a glimpse of the exciting possibilities that are likely to result from the first phase of modernization planning this spring and summer. A slide show of the company's work on other high schools vividly illustrated how a modernized facility can create new opportunities at Wilson for improved academic resources, a more positive environment for students, and more effective and less intrusive safety and security.

Grimm+Parker was contracted in January by the Woodrow Wilson High School Management (WMC) Corporation to provide design services for Phase I of the planned modernization of Woodrow Wilson High School. Their work this spring and summer includes: review of the existing building and site conditions; a traffic study; interviews, surveys and/or site visits to other schools with staff, students and parents; architectural concept development for the master site and building plans for the school; and development of phasing plans and cost estimates. Completion of Phase I work is scheduled for August, 2008. Following Phase I completion, a separate contract is to be established for Phase II work, which would include preparation of the design documents for construction. Note: A status report of the architecture firm's activities will be posted at WMC's link on the Wilson website at [www.wilsonhs.org](http://www.wilsonhs.org).

## "Thank You's" Sent to PTSA

Because of limited space in the newsletter, it is not possible to copy the "thank you's" that some faculty and staff have sent to the PTSA for recent book donations by parents through the Politics and Prose Book Sale and also through other solicitations. For example, one English as-a-second-language class got together and each student penned a brief note of thanks on a large card delivered to the PTSA mailbox. *Parents, your donations are greatly appreciated!!*



## Community Meeting on Modernization Planning Scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>!

For those who are interested in learning more and providing input into the exciting plans for Wilson's modernization, Grimm Parker is *planning a broad Community Meeting (Staff, Faculty, Students, Parents, etc.) on May 21st in the evening*. More detail are forthcoming!

## PTSA/LSRT elections May 14

See page 2 for PTSA nominee bios.

See page 3 for LSRT nominee bios.



## Interviews of Principal Candidates Anticipated in May, or early June

Although a date has not yet been set, DCPS has indicated that interviews of principal candidates by Wilson as well as other DC High Schools may take place during the month of May. Members of the Principal selection panel have been alerted about possible dates for meeting with DCPS staff to prepare for the interviews as well as possible dates for the interviews themselves.



2007-2008 Total  
**\$1,238.64**  
**THANK YOU!**

## PTSA Elections in May

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following nominees for PTSA Executive Board Officers for the 2008-2009 School Year as of April 23, 2007. The election will take place at the next PTSA scheduled for May 14, at 7pm in the Library.

**Susan Carter** (Co-President) – Susan will have two 10th graders and one 11th grader at Wilson next year. She served as VP of Membership at Wilson this past year. Her efforts resulted in increased minority participation in the PTSA and school related activities. She was Co-president of the Powell PTA and an active member of the West PTA. She was also actively involved in numerous activities at Alice Deal, including creating the program for International Night 2006 and serving as a judge for the National History Day competitions. Susan was also the keynote speaker for Deal's 2000 graduating class. Susan graduated from Deal (1980) and Wilson (1982).

**Mary Giffin** (Co-President) – This past year Mary served as a co-president of the PTSA. In the past Mary served as PTA co-president at Alice Deal. She is a Deal graduate (1970) and Wilson graduate (1973). Mary's daughter Sarah will be a senior next year.

**Marcio Duffles** (VP, Fundraising) – Marcio will have a senior at Wilson next year. He previously served as the President of the Hardy MS PTA. As Wilson's VP for Fundraising this past year, Marcio has been successful in helping Wilson seek out and obtain grant funding from private sources for special projects.

**Toni Hughes** (Corresponding Secretary) - Toni's daughter, Erin Young will be a senior at Wilson next year. Toni has been editing the Wilson PTSA newsletter for the past two years and for Bunker Hill for the past year. She has a background in communications. Previously Toni served three years as PTA president at Bunker Hill, and as the secretary of the Bunker Hill LSRT. She also serves as the cheer mom for the Bunker Hill Cheerleaders.

**Andrea Vincent** (Recording Secretary) -- Andrea is the mother of Alejandro Salcedo who will be an 11th grader in HAM and a daughter, Natali Salcedo, who will be a 9th grader in WISP next year. Andrea teaches in PG County and previously taught in DCPS. She also coordinated a writing project for ESOL teachers through the Network of Educators on Central America, now Teaching for Change. For the past two years she has coordinated International Night at Deal JHS. Andrea has been a member of Oyster's PTA and helped run elections there for several years.

**Katharine Abraham** (Co-Treasurer) – Katharine's son Ben Horkley will be an 11th grader next year, and her older son graduated from Wilson in the class of 2007. She has served as co-treasurer for the Wilson PTSA this past year. Previously she served four years as co-treasurer of the Lafayette HSA and four years as co-treasurer of the Deal PTA during her sons' years at those schools.

**Jude Landis** (Co-Treasurer) - Jude's son Jake will be a 10th grader next year. Jude has served as Co-Treasurer at Wilson this past year, and previously served as Co-Treasurer at Deal and VP of Outreach at Lafayette Elementary.

**Beth Perry** (Co-VP, Outreach – 12th grade) – Beth has been active in a number of activities with the Wilson PTSA and LSRT subcommittees. She served as VP for outreach for the past two years. She will have a senior at Wilson next year, and has a Wilson graduate entering her 3rd year of college.

**Mack James**: (Co-VP Outreach - 9th Grade) -- Mack is a D.C. / Columbia Heights native, and next year he will be the proud father of three Wilson students Breanna (11th grade), Jasmine (10th grade), and Blair James (9th grade). Mack served as the PTA president for 5 years at Raymond Elementary, and served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) for 18 years. He is currently Vice Chair of Development Corporation of Columbia Heights (DCCH).

**Daria Shumaker** (Co-VP, Outreach – 11th grade) is the mother of Catherine, Wilson class of 2008, and Paul, class of 2010. Daria is a Nurse Manager at Georgetown University Hospital (GUH). Daria has been a PTSA member at Janney Elementary, Alice Deal Junior High School and Wilson. In activities at these schools Daria has seen how successful programs can be when effective collaboration occurs between students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators. She has served as a room mother, volunteer and fundraiser at various times since her family moved to DC in 1997. She feels that the 2008-2009 school year at Wilson is a pivotal opportunity to promote all of the attributes of this great school.



**Visit the Wilson HS PTSA listserve for updates on other nominations that may come in before May 4.**

*Rhee continued from page 1*

about the restructuring process. In these meetings with the Chancellor, some misperceptions about restructuring were clarified. Recent reports in the press suggest that all high schools will be required to participate in a "partnership" with an external organization which would have significant control over schools, including such things as hiring the principal. However, Chancellor Rhee has clearly indicated that each school will have an individual plan. The partnership option is not the only option for high schools in restructuring – rather it is being considered as a good option for the most challenged schools.

At the same time, any school in restructuring may seek a less intensive partnering to help in a specific area. For example, a school that might want to partner with a local university to provide professional development in a particular area. Wilson's proposal asked for an organizational consultant to help implement its specific restructuring plans. Another possibility would be to get the assistance of a curriculum specialist to help ensure effective implementation of the possible double math, English and science periods for the lower performing students. If anyone has an organization with which they are familiar that might be useful in this regard, please provide the contact information to the LSRT, via Mary Froning at [maryfroning@compuserve.com](mailto:maryfroning@compuserve.com).

## KENYA RELIEF FUND

### UHURU KENYA: BRINGING KENYA TOGETHER

Here at Wilson we pride ourselves on our different cultures and backgrounds. As a Kenyan- American and a Kenyan-South African, Diah Mangoela and I, Catherine Mithika, am among the many Africans here at Wilson who feel that we must do something about the political situation in Kenya. It is at an impasse, persistent insecurity threatens to plunge the country into a deeper humanitarian and economic crisis. What has taken more than 40 years to build in terms of independence has been wiped out in Kenya within days. There is an urgent need to respond to this crisis. The post-election violence has killed over 800 people, and uprooted over half a million others, and yet the situation is getting worse with water, sanitation and shelter among the most pressing needs. One big problem is communication. Also, the displaced communities spend their nights in the camps and need the necessities of life. In camps, shelter, water and sanitation and protection are the most pressing needs. The displaced families need food, clothing, blankets, medical professionals and medical supplies, etc.

We propose to fundraise through bake sales, donations, and a school wide coin collection for at least one month, or for as long as we can to reach our target of \$4000 which is equivalent to 200,000 Kenyan shillings. With the support of the SGA, we will be placing containers in classrooms and asking for loose change which will be collected at the end of every week. We are also asking the PTA to give a small generous donation. Thank you for helping us with this urgent humanitarian effort.

## On May 31<sup>st</sup> "Take Yourself Out to A Ballgame" of District High Schools at National Stadium!

On Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> (with June 1 as a rain date), the City will gather at the new Nationals Ballpark for a first-ever event to collectively celebrate high school baseball, outstanding student achievement and the outstanding accomplishments of DC area schools.

The Congressional Bank Baseball Classic will include four games being played between area schools. The day will begin with a game between the DC Interscholastic Athletic Association (DCIAA) East and West Division Champions, which will be followed by a game between the two top private school teams, followed by an All-Star game featuring players from across the region. The tournament will end with the DC High School Baseball Classic, where the DCIAA and private/parochial game winners will face off.

The tournament will be preceded by pre-game clinics and hitting demonstrations, ending with an evening celebration to award the champion the Classic Cup, as well as announce each team's Most Valuable Player. The All-Star Game and the championship game will be broadcast on Comcast SportsNet.

## LSRT Parent Elections

Elections for the four parent representatives to the LSRT, whose terms will begin on June 1, 2008, will occur at the next PTSA meeting (Wednesday, May 14 – 7 to 9 p.m. in the Library). The LSRT nominees will be on the joint PTSA/LSRT ballot which will be distributed at that meeting. Also, the candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves at the meeting. As we move into restructuring, the LSRT will be key to its success, particularly given that we will be making recommendations to a principal who may not be familiar with either Wilson or even DCPS. Luckily, we have a wonderful group of parents who have the expertise and understanding to be great members. Their bios are listed below.

### Margot Berkey

Child(ren) at Wilson: I have a rising 10th grader in the WISP Academy at Wilson.

Relevant Experience: I have served on the LSRTs at John Eaton and Alice Deal for several years and understand the work that LSRTs are expected to do. I serve as Director of Parents United for the DC Public Schools and have been involved in citywide education issues including policy development, advocacy, and DCPS task forces for the last 7 years. I am a member of the State Education Office Technical Working Group that evaluates and makes recommendations regarding per pupil funding of public education in DC. I have been a member of the Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators for about 3 years—attending nearly all monthly meetings of the group and learning about the issues that impact high schools in our city. I believe that these experiences and my deep engagement in education issues would be an asset to Wilson's LSRT.

Why I want to serve on the LSRT: This year I was very involved in the work we did at Wilson on restructuring. It was a process that taught me a great deal about Wilson's strengths and weaknesses, and the dynamics of our community. My daughter's experience in the 9th grade has shown me some of the joys of what it means to be a Wilson student and parent, but also some of the disappointments. I believe that the LSRT has some real work to do on issues such as strengthening the 9th grade academy, improving communications between the school and parents, addressing our multicultural population with respect and appreciation for all, and last but not least—reducing the achievement gaps that have landed our school in restructuring under NCLB. I look forward to working with a new, strong administration and tackling these issues with a solid Local School Plan and monitoring of the plan.

### Carmen Carrera

Child(ren) at Wilson: Parent of a graduating senior in the HAM Academy and rising 9th grader who will be going in the WISP Academy

Relevant Experience: I participated in the Draft Committee of the LSRT and am in my second year as a member of the Wilson LSRT, serving as the ESL liaison on the Academic Committee. I am also active in the Latino community, volunteering at the Multicultural Community Service Center. I also served on the board of the Home School Association at Murch Elementary School.

Why I want to serve on the LSRT: As part of the restructuring process, I would like assist with whatever is necessary to improve *Continued on next page*

## Kudos to our Students

March and April were good news months for Wilson. Examples (in no particular order, and no, this is not a comprehensive list) include:

- Wilson's boys varsity baseball team is currently undefeated in league play (Note: see article on May 31<sup>st</sup> Baseball Classic at Nationals Ballpark)
- Wilson's girls varsity softball team is currently undefeated in league play.
- Cheri Gantt and Elora Powell were voted to the DCPS West AllStar Basketball Team.
- Callie Fosburgh (9<sup>th</sup> grade) was voted outstanding swimmer among all District Schools, quite an honor for a freshman.
- Wilson's girls lacrosse team now has 26 members, making it the 4<sup>th</sup> largest squad at Wilson. Eddie Saah sends out a thanks to Martha Katz, John Mooney and Mitch Gore for all of their time and effort to revive the girl's lacrosse program and for engaging so many 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Madeleine Joseph and Grace Tiedemann were selected as National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists.
- Tenth-grader Ben Horkley received the highest score among students in D.C. on the American Mathematics Competition AMC 10 test, qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination, and was among just 500 high school students nationwide selected on the basis of their scores on those two tests to compete in the 2008 United States of America Mathematical Olympiad. Ben is the top scorer in all of DC and the only DC qualifier!



the academic performance for students of color, and to help the school as a whole progress with regard to security, school climate, etc.

### **Verna Clayborne**

**Child(ren) at Wilson:** I have daughter who is a rising 10th grader at Wilson. I also have a 15-year old daughter.

**Relevant Experience:** Most recently I have served on Wilson's AP Parent Advisory Committee and I am an active member of the Wilson Minority Parents Alliance. I am the Chief of the Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program for the Department of Public Works and my program sponsors one of the only collaborative partnerships between DCPS and a District government agency where high school students work under the direction of my Inspectors to gain community service hours. Their work with organizations such as Casey Trees, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, ANC's and City Council members is helping them to gain an appreciation of their responsibilities to the environment by properly disposing of solid waste, educating their peers about solid waste laws and promoting recycling throughout their schools and neighborhoods. Several of our students have won internships with these organizations and we recently spearheaded the award of a \$100,000.00 grant to McKinley High for the SWEEP Jr. Cadet Project. The program started 3 years ago with 35 students and we now have over 300 registered cadets from 14 public high schools, charter schools and Kingsbury Day School. I have held numerous positions in the District government over the past 20 years i.e. Director of the Office of Labor Management Programs in the Anthony Williams Administration, Acting Deputy Director of Operations for the Department of Human Services, Chief of the Office of Investigations and Compliance and an EEO Program Manager. I also have held numerous positions when I was in the Federal Government, having been a Minority Program Manager under now, Senator John Warner, White House Liaison for Black Colleges and Universities under Earnest Green, when he was Secretary of Labor, and a Program Analyst in the congressionally mandated National Commission for Employment Policy. I have a BA degree in Secondary Education (major English) and briefly taught school in Little Rock, Arkansas before moving to Washington D.C. I am a certified Motivational Achievement Trainer and a Certified Mediator.

**Why I want to serve on the LSRT:** I believe that I could bring a vast knowledge of policy and program experience to the LSRT as well as my unflinching commitment to ensure that the best interests of our students are served by providing them with quality educational programs and services along with state of the art facilities and access to technology.

### **Leigh Dingerson**

**Child(ren) at Wilson:** My daughter is a rising 10<sup>th</sup> grader

**Relevant Experience:** I served for two years on the Oyster Elementary School LSRT. During the second of those years, I was a co-chair for the group, and deeply involved in Oyster's difficult and time-consuming negotiations with DCPS around the school's expansion to a preK-8, two campus school. It was a huge learning experience. Professionally, I work with low-income community groups around the country (not in DC) that are fighting to win a seat at the table, and meaningful reform in their public schools. In that role, I have learned a great deal about school restructuring strategies, and the importance of both community and staff voice in the operations of public schools.

**Why I want to serve on the LSRT:** I have been anxious to engage more directly at Wilson, as I'm likely to be a Tiger parent for the next five years (I also have a daughter at Alice Deal). I know that the next several years--with our restructuring plan taking root, and a new principal coming in--will be particularly challenging, and hopefully, particularly gratifying. I'd like to ensure that the Wilson community continues to play a major role in, and lifts up a representative voice on issues concerning the direction of the school.

### **Mary L. Froning**

**Child(ren) at Wilson:** My daughter is a rising 12<sup>th</sup> grader

**Relevant Experience:** I served on the Deal LSRT for two years (both as Chair) and the Wilson LSRT for two years (this year as Chair). As we enter into our restructuring year, with a new principal, the job of the LSRT couldn't be more important. As the driving force behind the Wilson Thinktank on Restructuring, I have been instrumental in shepherding our restructuring proposal forward to the Chancellor. I have also served as a founding Board member of the Wilson Management Corporation, acting as the LSRT liaison and a member of the Executive Committee.

**What I want to serve on the LSRT:** I want to help to implement our restructuring proposal in its first year. There are so many wonderful proposals that the Wilson community developed in this difficult year of planning. However, unless there is appropriate, well-informed oversight to implement the ideas, it will have been for naught. I also am looking forward to using the knowledge gained over my years on LSRT's to ensure that our team provides the new principal with the best possible recommendations, so that s/he has as smooth and effective a transition as possible. One of my priorities would be to continue and improve active, two-way communication between the LSRT and the greater Wilson community.

### **Lisa Jensen**

**Child(ren) at Wilson:** Allie Jensen, a rising 10th grader

**Relevant Experience:** I teach at Lafayette Elementary School and am familiar with the LSRT there. As a DCPS teacher, I am familiar with the school system as a whole. I was an attorney before I chose to teach.

**Why I want to serve on the LSRT:** My daughter is the first of four children that I plan to send to Wilson High School. I have always been involved in my children's education and want to remain so as they go through high school. I work well with others and feel that I have good ideas about education. Wilson is a great school and I want to help it continue to be great through a transitional time. Thank you.

### **Lisa Tabaku**

**Child(ren) at Wilson:** I have a son who graduated from Wilson and is now a sophomore at Syracuse U, a daughter in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Wilson, and another daughter in the seventh grade at Deal MS.

**Relevant Experience:** I work for the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) as the Associate Manager of CAL Services. My work involves providing support to school districts and state education offices across the country in serving English language learner students so that they excel linguistically and academically. Just prior to coming to CAL, I served as the Language Access Director at the newly-established D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Holding an M.A.T. in Bilingual Education from Georgetown University, I spent over two decades of public service in the area of serving English language learners (ELLs) in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). My roles in DCPS have included Director of Civil Rights and Multicultural Affairs, Executive Director of the Office of Bilingual Education (OBE), professional developer, grant writer, program coordinator for a series of Title VII/III federal grant projects and ESL teacher. While serving in the role of director of OBE, I oversaw the initial implementation of the *No Child Left Behind* Title I and Title III legislation as it applies to the teaching and learning of ELL students on both the state and local levels in the District of Columbia.

**Why I want to serve on the LSRT:** I would like to serve not only to ensure the best academic services for my own children at Wilson, but to use my professional experience and expertise to help guarantee the linguistic and academic success of English language learners at Wilson.

## Recommendation for Restructuring Option from Woodrow Wilson SHS

See front-page article for an update on the status of Wilson's restructuring proposal. The following text is taken from the abbreviated 2-page summary of the restructuring proposal submitted by Wilson to DCPS.

***Wilson has chosen to change the governance structure of the school in a significant manner.***

**Recommendation 1.** Bring in a permanent principal with a background of strong educational leadership who is committed to restructuring. Wilson (along with DCPS) has identified several candidates that they would like to interview for the position. The new principal should have the authority to making certain necessary staff and curricula changes, including the opportunity to select his/her team of administrators and other selected positions that are key to the proposed changes and recommendations (e.g., assistant principals, counseling and attendance staff). The rationale for this recommendation is that the school needs a principal who is well-rounded, committed to change, and has at least limited authority to make staffing and curricula changes so that s/he can be truly effective in moving the school forward.

**Recommendation 2.** Develop small learning communities for each grade level. This would include continuing the 9th grade teams and expanding that concept into the 10th grade. Note: we would continue the successful Academy structure, with the option of enhancing it in the future. Each grade level will consist of a Vice-Principal, a counselor, and an attendance officer that will follow the students through the four-year period. The rationale is that students need to have consistency throughout their high school experience. Students in each small learning community would have available at least three adults who would get to know them over a four-year period. The move to 10th grade teams for the four core subjects will help continue our focus on underperforming students and given this is the grade when DC CAS testing is done.

**Recommendation 3.** Develop and implement strategic interventions for struggling students. This would include such interventions as double periods of English/Math/Science (supported by a change of schedule to a A/B Block, 8-credit schedule), with Read 180 supporting students two or more years behind in English and students deficient in pre-Algebra skills receiving instruction in "Critical Foundations of Algebra" (described in the 2008 Report of the National Mathematics Panel). The focus will be to start with the 9th grade. A key recommendation is a robust intervention strategy which tests students in math and English during their 8th grade year and provides a strong summer transition program into the 9th grade. There would also be a special focus on overage students to enable them to graduate on time.

The rationale is to be able to assist those students at Wilson who are not performing on grade level. Providing data on the performance level of students before they enter will help prepare the way; the summer program will help them get remedial help even before the school year starts, as well as provide study skills and other things necessary for educational success. Evidence-based programs in math and English are necessary to help students who are severely behind catch up quickly; simply doubling up with "more of the same" would be ineffective. We think that with extra assistance these students will be able to begin to be academically successful, thus enabling them to move into Honors and AP courses.

**Recommendation 4.** Bring in a permanent dean of students to monitor and improve student behavior and attendance. In addition, there is a need to restart previously successful peer mediation and diversity programs, provide an in-school suspension option, and strengthen student support services. The rationale is to have a position that solely focuses on two issues that are critical to high school students. We have to ensure that our students are coming to school daily and that they are helped by a positive and supportive environment to enable them to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times.

**Recommendation 5.** Strengthen the programs for the Special Education and English Language Learner population by providing significant professional development and allotting ample time for collaborations for the entire faculty. The rationale is making sure that the entire student population has the services they need in order to be successful in the Wilson school program.

**Resources needed:** Wilson is requesting needed funds for the local school budget and support needed from central office.

### Funds for Local School Budget

- Funds to hire a mutually-agreed upon educational consultant to help implement structural and academic changes
- Funding for additional faculty slots to enable remedial courses in reading and math with a 1-10 ratio for students functioning more than 2 grade levels below; 1-15 for students 1-2 grade levels below
- Funding for 1 additional Vice-Principal (4 total) and 3 attendance officers (4 total) to implement the small learning communities governance change
- Funding for a Dean of Students and in-school suspension position to help improve student behavior and attendance
- Funding for a more efficient work environment and better communication with parents such as copiers, telephones and printers

### Supports needed from Central Office

- Provide support for providing data for incoming 9th graders on their 8th grade reading and math levels
- Provide funding for a robust summer transition program into the 9th grade
- For those two or more years behind, continue to support Read 180 and provide a similar evidence-based program in math
- Train Wilson faculty and staff on the usability of STARS to provide efficient access to data
- To increase the effectiveness of the inclusion model for Special Education and ELL program, provide professional development for all Wilson faculty
- Pay for special education coordinator
- For better monitoring of students' progress in classes, turn on the Electronic Grade Book that is a part of STARS that includes Blackboard and provide training for all teachers
- Provide dependable access to translation services for the limited English parents
- Increase pay system-wide for special education aides, to increase their availability and quality and to decrease turnover

Get the latest news and updates as soon via the internet! Log on to [www.wilsonhs.org](http://www.wilsonhs.org) and subscribe to the Wilson PTSA listserv at <http://yahoo.com/group/WilsonPTSAListserv/>

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 Washington, DC 20016  
 Phone: 202 282-0120

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### Need To Coordinate Solicitation of Whole Foods

Due to the large number of requests submitted to Whole Foods for donations by different clubs, committees and groups at Wilson, the Principal has requested that a system for coordinating such requests be established. We will keep you informed about a central contact through which to coordinate requests. Thanks!



### Dates To Remember

#### May

- 3 Free SAT I testing for pre-registered Juniors
- 5-16 AP Exams
- 6 Mid Advisory
- 13 LSRT Meeting
- 14 PTSA/LSRT mtg. and elections; 7pm Library Parent Teacher Conferences; 12-7
- 21 Spring Concert/Talent Show
- 22 LAYC/Wilson After School Program Open House
- 26 Memorial Day Holiday
- 30 Musical Concert 1-3:15pm

#### June

- 2-4 Undergraduate Exams
- 7 Free SAT I testing for pre-registered Juniors
- 10 Graduation Class of 2008; American U.
- 12 Last day of school; 12:15 dismissal

### Wilson Pool Ground Breaking

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Wilson Swimming Pool was held on April 23. Mayor Fenty was on hand for the ceremony. Pool construction is moving forward!



**The Wilson restructuring proposal called for an organizational consultant to help us implement our plan (see the restructuring article on page 1 for more details.) The LSRT will be hosting presentations by several consultants on the afternoons of May 5 and May 9. These meetings will be open to the entire Wilson community. Please check the listserve and website for confirmation times and dates.**



Wilson Senior High School  
 Jacqueline Williams, Interim Principal

PTSA Co-Presidents  
 Mary Giffin Columbus Spruell

Newsletter Editor  
 Toni Hughes  
 Newsletter Translation  
 Vilma Williams  
 Newsletter Distribution  
 Lory Yudin

### Check Out Our Students' Newspaper, *The Beacon*, this Month!

Many parents may not be aware of the regularly published Wilson student newspaper, *The BEACON*. Edited and written by students, the Beacon reports school news and student points of view about the many things going on at school and in students' lives. There is always interesting material to read, ranging from serious reporting, to humor, to editorials. The Beacon also welcomes paid advertising as a means to support publication expenses.



Ask your student to bring home a copy!