



# Whiteley Cat Tales

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Illinois PTA, District 37

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Frank C. Whiteley PTA newsletter

2007 Illinois PTA Newsletter Award of Excellence

## PTA President's message

First of all I want to say a huge thank you to Kris Constantino and ALL the Fun Fair volunteers who helped create a fun night for the kids. It takes a lot of planning to host this event and I really appreciate everyone's time.

At our March 20th PTA Board meeting, our Nominating Committee submitted the following nominations for officers of the Whiteley PTA for the 2008-2009 school year:

President – **Jennifer Nemeč**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President , Programs – **Terri Pullara**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, Ways & Means –

**Dorothy Naumowicz and Priscilla Sorrentino**

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Legislation – **Joann Kaiser**

Secretary – **Debbie Klonder**

Treasurer – **Kris Constantino**

All PTA general members are invited to attend our April 24th meeting to cast their vote.

Have you completed your *Three for PTA* hours and submitted your hours to Dorothy Naumowicz? If so, then you are invited to attend our PTA End of Year Celebration meeting on Thursday, May 15th. You will receive a formal invitation about this night at the beginning of May.

If you haven't completed your hours for *Three for PTA*, it's not too late. We still have these events planned for this year:

**Spring Dance** - Friday, April 18th

**Ice Cream Social and Book Fair at Open House** – Tuesday, April 29th

**Dads & Donuts** – Friday, May 8th

**Moms & Munchies** – Friday, May 23rd

Thank you for your support of our PTA and as always feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

*Jennifer Nemeč, PTA President*

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*- Margaret Mead*

See page five to find out how you can help change our PTA.

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## Calendar of Events

- 4/8—Open Registration for New students
- 4/9—BOE meeting—7 p.m.
- 4/10—Spring Picture Day
- 4/18—Spring Dance  
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
- 4/21—Parent Input Letter due
- 4/22—Earth Day  
Waste Free Lunch
- 4/24—PTA meeting—7 p.m.
- 4/25—Whiteley Spirit Day
- 4/29—Ice Cream Social & Book Fair
- 4/30—Manna orders due  
Market Day pickup
- 5/1-2—NO SCHOOL
- 5/8—Dads & Donuts
- 5/9—Walk-a-Thon  
Newsletter Deadline
- 5/15—PTA Open House
- 5/16—AR Ends
- 5/23—Moms & Munchies

**Whiteley**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

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## From the Principal's desk



Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Spring Break. I have good news to share. Frank C. Whiteley School will be recognized at the April 9th, 2008 District 15 Board of Education meeting as a No Excuses University School. The DVD we created for the application process will be shared. As a staff, we have embraced the No Excuses University philosophy of promoting college readiness for all students. Our goal is to provide students with the skills to build a solid foundation of academic skills and Wise Skills (Respect, Positive Attitude, Responsibility, Personal Goals, Self-Discipline, Conflict Resolution and Citizenship) that will serve them through their many levels of school experiences and career paths.

At this time of the year, **I am looking for your input on your child's learning style and the type of learning environment that is beneficial for your child.** You may compose a short letter that each grade level team and I will be reviewing as we place students into classrooms for the 2008-2009 school year. **Please do not list a specific teacher by name.** I will need your student input letter by **Monday, April 21st, 2008.**

The staff and I would greatly appreciate your support of our **Walk-A-Thon** which will be **Friday, May 9th from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.** Students and family members are invited to participate. Donations raised will go toward purchasing technology to enhance the school environment. Examples are but not limited to: Smartboards, Airliner Wireless Slates, projectors, software, and digital cameras.

**April 8th is Kindergarten and New Student Registration** from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Please make sure to contact your neighbors in our attendance area to register new first graders for next year. We currently will have two sections scheduled for first grade based on our current kindergarten numbers. I know that some of our first graders for next year currently attend other kindergarten centers. I need those students to be registered on April 8th at Frank C. Whiteley School. This would support my request for a third section of first grade. Parents can register a new student after the April 8th Open Registration in the Frank C. Whiteley School office.

The weeks ahead hold many important dates and events:

**Thursday, April 10th**—Spring Pictures – Individual student portraits – great as gifts.

**Thursday, April 17th** – Grade 5 and Chorus Spring Performance 7 p.m.

**Friday, April 18th**—Spring Fling School Dance sponsored by the PTA and fun for the entire family.

Students must be accompanied by an adult to attend.

**Tuesday, April 29th** –Open House – This is your opportunity to enjoy ice cream in the cafeteria which is available from 6:30 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. You may visit your child's classroom from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

**Thursday, May 1st and Friday, May 2nd**—No School—Student Non-Attendance Day

**Tuesday, May 6th** – Beginning Band Spring Concert at Whiteley School 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 7th**– Beginning and Intermediate Spring Concert at Winston Campus 7 p.m.

**Friday, May 9th**— Frank C. Whiteley Walk-A-Thon 4 p.m.—7 p.m.

Families invited to walk and seek donations to benefit our school technology. (See info above)

**Tuesday, May 13th**—Intermediate Band Spring Concert at Whiteley School 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 13th**— New Kindergarten (Fall 2008) and Parent Visit

Last Names A-K at 9:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. and L-Z from 10:15 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

Thank you for your support, time and suggestions,

*Mrs. Mary Szuch, Principal*

## It's not over until the Whiteley PTA decides it is!

### Thursday, April 10th—Spring Picture Day

Here's another opportunity to capture your child's school days. Spring pictures will be taken and the photograph package will be sent home a few weeks later. Purchase one, some, all or none. Return the pictures you do not want and a check for those you wish to keep.

- Debbie Klonder and Priscilla Sorrentino  
PTA Yearbook Committee



### Friday, April 18th—Spring Fling Dance

Save the date. Our favorite DJ will be here to help Whiteley families dance their way into Spring this year. Candy and popcorn will be available for sale and our 6th graders will be selling pop and water in order to raise funds for their end-of-the-year activities. Cub Scout Pack 332 is also planning a bake sale. More information will be sent home next week.

- Terri Pullara, PTA Programs Coordinator

### Tuesday, April 29th—Ice Cream Social ...

The PTA will be serving ice cream from 6:30 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. the night of Open House. PTA Family members will receive four tickets and single members will receive two tickets for free ice cream. Tickets must be presented that evening. Additional Dairy Queen ice cream will be available for purchase by non-members for \$1 and those needing more than their allotted tickets.

- Amy Langston, PTA Membership Coordinator  
Terri Pullara, PTA Programs Coordinator



### and "Buy One Get One Free" Book Fair

Get ready to stock up on summer reading books. We will be having another Book Fair on Tuesday, April 29th which is the day of Open House. Please take advantage of this great sale as all the books will be "buy one, get one free". Look for the Book Fair on the stage of the multi-purpose room after school or as you come to get your ice cream before you visit your child's classroom.



- Paula Riccardo, PTA Book Fair Committee

## Look what is coming up in



### **Week of May 5th—Whiteley Wildcat Spring Food Drive**

We will be collecting non-perishable donations so please send your items with your child to school any day that week. The final collection will take place on Friday, May 9th at the Walk-a-Thon. The PTA will then deliver the food donations to the Palatine Township Food Pantry. The class that donates the most food items will win a pizza party.

*- Mary-Frances Conway and Mary Beth Warner, PTA Outreach Coordinators*

### **Week of May 5th through 9th—Teacher Appreciation Week**

We have planned some special treats for our Whiteley staff. Be sure to “Thank a Teacher” for all they have done for your child this year.

*- Carey Vitosh, PTA Teacher Appreciation Coordinator*

### **Friday, May 9th—Dads & Donuts      Friday, May 23rd—Moms & Muffins**

Mark your calendar for these two important dates. Each event will be a great opportunity for you to mingle with your children’s friends and their parents in the multi-purpose room. The PTA will provide donuts (from Spunky Dunkers) and drinks. . . . Come join us from 8:15 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. each morning, have a treat, meet your neighbors and be on your way before the start of school. We look forward to seeing everyone.

*- Sue Priebe, PTA Parent Activities Coordinator*



## Last SPARK meeting this school year

### **April 28th—Vision Therapy: How Vision Can Affect Behavior and Success at School**

**Location:** Marion Jordan Elementary cafeteria, 100 North Harrison Avenue, Palatine

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Speaker:** Dr. Paul Lederer, nationally renowned for his ability to diagnose and treat complex vision inadequacies that quite often can be mislabeled and ignored. His unique behavioral optometry and vision therapy techniques have earned him the highest honors in his field.

Your child has passed the school vision screening test and/or a vision exam with 20/20 eye sight, but you still think something may be wrong. Well, you may be right. The typical vision exam checks for sharpness of sight, but it is not sensitive to other factors that can compromise school and everyday life visual performance. We are honored to have Dr. Lederer present for SPARK. Dr. Lederer will discuss the signs and symptoms of visual skill dysfunction. Also addressed are the components of vision that affect learning and the consequences of these undiagnosed and untreated problems on your child’s self-confidence and behavior. Children with undiagnosed visual problems are often misdiagnosed with ADD or ADHD. They can get labeled as dumb, lazy, or bored and behavioral avoidance becomes their solution.

If you would like to be contacted by or connected with SPARK, contact SPARK Co-Chairs Dawn Wiebe at 847-221-2313 or Lisa Traina at 847-358-7828 for more information.

## Help keep our PTA going strong

Our PTA consists of 29 committees and 42 committee chairs. In addition, we have a Japanese Liaison, a School Board Liaison and two PTA representatives that attend parent meetings hosted by the District 15 Superintendent, Dr. McKanna.

Each year we have “retiring” PTA members. A retiring PTA member means that this is their last year at Whiteley because their youngest child will be entering junior high. With that being said, we are always looking for new volunteers to join our PTA. To keep our PTA going strong, quite a few of our current board members chair more than one committee.

I understand how overwhelming it seems to even think about chairing a committee. Really it’s not. We give great support to each other and we are willing to help guide anyone that wants to be a volunteer. Most of our committees have a binder with instructions on “what to do”. Some of our committees are more involved than others, some committees go year long and some are smaller commitments. Without volunteers, our PTA wouldn’t be able to provide different events or opportunities to our families.

Currently we have the following committee positions open for next year:

**Book Fair** co-chair, **Feature Creature**, **Fun Fair**  
**Health & Safety** co-chair, **Room Representatives** co-chair, **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities**  
**SPARK**, **Spiritwear** and **Teacher Appreciation**

For a description of these committees, you can check out our website at [www.fcwpta.org](http://www.fcwpta.org), click the Whiteley PTA tab, then Board Committees. If there is another committee you are interested in, please let me know and I’ll connect you with the current committee chair.

In the past, I have asked our Executive Committee what other programs do they think would benefit our children. A couple of committees were discussed. Unfortunately our current Board members all are busy doing their own committees and these committees were never incorporated into our PTA. However, we would love to add these **NEW** committees if we can arrange for new parents to help us.

The two committees are:

**Recreation Gym/Nights** – the committee chair would arrange a gym night once a month.

Gym nights would be divided into different age groups. Mr. Harris would help with the curriculum.

**Mini-Courses** – the committee chair would arrange mini-courses for our students.

(Mini-courses would be offered to our students by parents who have a special skill or talent that would be willing to come in and host a special class.)

Both of these committees would be **NEW** to our school. We do not have a manual or specific guidelines on how to operate these committees. However, other District 15 PTAs have these committees and I know we could contact them for help.

If anyone is interested in chairing either of these two committees or the open committees, let me know. New volunteers also bring in new ideas. We have a great group of PTA volunteers and we welcome everyone.

*Jennifer Nemeč, PTA President*





## PTA Reflections results

As a district, we did not have any pieces go from Northwest Suburban Council PTA to National PTA this year. Only one project in each age group in each category goes on to Nationals. (i.e. in Photography, there is one primary, one intermediate, one middle and one high school project total that proceed, out of hundreds sent to Illinois State PTA).

However, we did have three honorable mentions this year. Only 14 total projects in each category, across all age groups (K through 12) are awarded honorable mention at the state level. The three projects are:

Braden K, Photography, Marion Jordan; Nancy C, Visual Arts, Thomas Jefferson  
Audrey R, Literature, Carl Sandburg

Thank you to all our Whiteley participants who submitted entries for the PTA Reflections program, "I Can Make A Difference By". It's not too early to start thinking ahead. Next year's theme is "WOW!" Watch for details in the back to school newsletter.

*- Roberta DelGuiduce, PTA Reflections Coordinator*

## Pennies for Patients Campaign is "in the pink"

Wow! Whiteley students you rock! We raised a total \$1514.64 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thank you to all of the students, parents and staff who contributed during our campaign. A big thanks to Mr. Harris for encouraging us to raise even more money during the Fun Fair by allowing his hair to be spray painted pink. We raised \$270 in just three hours for that event to happen. Who says men can't wear pink?

Ms. McAvoy's class raised the most money with a total of \$282.23 which was almost \$100 more than any other class. Great job. Mr. A's class was 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Mrs. Muehlfeld's took third place. Ms. McAvoy's class earned a pizza party from the Leukemia Society, but the class wrote a very touching letter asking that money be used towards a donation in her class' name instead of pizza. What an awesome bunch of kids!

*- Korene Palazzo  
Pennies for Patients Coordinator*

Right: Mr. Bob Harris, PE teacher fulfills his promise after Whiteley students raised over \$250 for the Pennies for Patients campaign during the recent Fun Fair.

## News from the Resource Center



Each year the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA) nominates twenty books for the Monarch Award. The Monarch is designed to encourage children to become familiar with a variety of children's books, authors and illustrators. Students in grades K-3 have an opportunity to vote for their favorite book after reading a minimum of five books. Whiteley students voted for their favorite during the last week of February.

The winning book for Whiteley was *If I Built a Car* by Chris Van Dusen. After all the votes were tabulated by ISLMA from all the schools participating, this book was also the winner for Illinois.

The award for grades 4-6 is called the Caudill. Just as the Monarch, twenty books are nominated. Students need to read at least three in order to qualify to vote. Thirty-two students at Whiteley participated this year. The winning book for our school was *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick. This book also received the most votes by students all across the state of Illinois. It looks like Whiteley students know how to pick winners!

- Julie Saez, LRC Teacher

## Another fun filled Fun Fair

The 2008 Fun Fair was a success. It looked like everyone had a good time, the gym was packed with children playing games, many went home with some great baked goods and the kids loved winning the books from the Book Walk. The gift baskets were a big hit again this year and more families went home with a basket.

I would like to thank all the committee heads and volunteers for without their help, we would not be able to have this great event that the kids love. Special thanks goes to **Anne Morel, Amy Langston, Paula Riccardo and Carrie Schalk** for without all the extra help I received from them, things would not have ran so smoothly that night.

This is my last year as the Fun Fair Chairman. This is a great event for the school so please think about getting another friend involved and co-chair this event next year—otherwise there will not be a Fun Fair next year.

Thanks again to all the volunteers.

- Kris Constantino, PTA Fun Fair Chairman



## Happy Earth Day—April 22nd



In the 1960's air and water pollution was rampant. There were no environmental laws, acts or policies in place. The state of the environment was a non- issue in the politics of our country. Gaylord Nelson, a senator from Wisconsin, wanted to change that. He planned the first Earth Day to show the world that there was a need for and support from the public for environmental awareness. The first Earth Day was celebrated across America on April 22, 1970.

Senator Nelson never imagined the overwhelming positive response that would occur that day. Over 20 million Americans participated in Earth Day events on that day in 1970. Since that first Earth Day, several environmental agencies and legislative actions have been born. Some of these include the EPA, the Clean Air Act, OSHA, the Endangered Species Act, the Federal Land Policy Acts and numerous more. Earth Day is now celebrated every April 22 throughout the world.

But why celebrate Earth Day only 1 day of the year? We can make Earth Day, Every Day but a few little changes in our routine. Here are some easy examples:

- Replace 3 frequently used light bulbs with compact florescent bulbs....you will reduce your carbon footprint by 450 pounds a year (while also saving money!)
- Lower your thermostat 1 – 2 degrees in winter
- Run your dishwasher only when full
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use (they still draw energy even when turned off, but still plugged in)
- Use recycled paper
- Buy energy efficient appliances when upgrading
- Carpool when driving kids to and from school
- Use a low flow showerhead
- Turn off what you are not using
- Clean or replace dirty air filters
- Plant a tree
- Recycle or reuse what you can

### Did you know?

- 177 billion dollars were save by US consumers in 2005 because of improvements made in automobile efficiency
- 75 million dollars would be saved in electricity costs if all US companies switched to "Energy Star" exit signs
- 550,000 trees would be saved each Sunday if every one recycled their Sunday paper
- 4281 acres of rainforest are lost every hour worldwide
- Mt. Kilimanjaro's glaciers will be gone by the year 2020
- The Greenland ice sheet will be completely eliminated in 50 years if we continue at the current rate of emissions
- \$30 saved for EACH light bulb replaced with a CFL bulb
- 9% of the world's species face extinction because of global climate change

**One person is required to start a change.....will that person be YOU?**

- Korene Palazzo, PTA Environmental Education Committee

This version of the **Earthday or ECOLOGY Flag** was created by artist and cartoonist **Ron Cobb in 1969** as a result of the environmental movement of the sixties.



### What is the Meaning and Symbolism of the Flag?

According to legend, it was created as a combination of the letters **e** and **o**, from the words **environment** and **organism**. This flag was also based on the Stars and Stripes of the US Flag. Green was substituted in place of blue and red. The colors represent "pure air and green land" and environmental action.

### But I Thought the BLUE Flag was for Earthday?

**There are other flags associated with Earthday** including The BLUE Flag with the BLUE Nasa image of Earth. But they are not official!

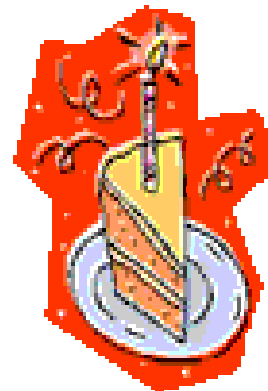
### The History of the BLUE EARTH FLAG:

The BLUE Earth Flag was designed in 1970 by Earth Day founder and pioneer John McConnell, an early leader in the international peace movement. Inspired by the striking first photographs of the whole Earth taken during America's historic Apollo 10 space mission in 1969, This symbolic creation has an association with renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead. Dr. Mead carried what she called "the flag for all people" with her wherever she appeared from 1969 until her death in 1977. **The Earth Flag's global motif message represents unity and peace. Because it was designed by Earthday Founder, it is often associated with Earth Day.** There has been a recent court decision that no one has a copyright or trademark on the design.

## Birthday books fill the Resource Center

When you visit Whiteley during Open House, I hope you have a chance to look at the bulletin board outside the Resource Center. This display honors birthday book club members. It is completely full thanks to the generosity of Whiteley families.

This month we would like to acknowledge and thank the following students for their donations.



<b>Josie W</b>	<i>Fancy Nancy – Bonjour Butterfly</i>
<b>Seung J</b>	<i>First the Egg</i>
<b>Eunice K</b>	<i>Akiko – Journey to Toog</i>
<b>Brandon R</b>	<i>Little Bitty Mousie</i>
<b>Allison N</b>	<i>Woolbur</i>
<b>Rayna C</b>	<i>Earth Day</i>
<b>Ryuto I</b>	<i>Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies</i>
<b>Mrs. M</b>	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Roderick Rules</i>
<b>Corey S</b>	<i>Spiderwick Chronicles – The Field Guide</i> <i>Stink and the Incredible Shrinking Kid</i>
<b>Soyoko N</b>	<i>Miss Suki is Kooky</i>
<b>Kartik K</b>	<i>The Homework Machine</i>
<b>Brady P</b>	<i>Musk Oxen</i>
<b>Connor P</b>	<i>The Great Fuzz Frenzy</i>
<b>Kazushi H</b>	<i>Superhero ABC</i>
<b>Kaitlin W</b>	<i>Not a Box</i> <i>Not a Stick</i>
<b>Maeson N</b>	<i>Biography of Helen Keller</i>
<b>Eunsong S</b>	<i>The Hidden Alphabet</i>
<b>Hailey H</b>	<i>Just Me and 6,000 Rats – A Tale of Conjunctions</i>
<b>Jacob B</b>	<i>Library Mouse</i>

Thank you so much for supporting reading.

- Julie Saez, LRC Teacher

***Be sure to stop near the Resource Center during Open House on Tuesday, April 29th and check out the bulletin board honoring our Birthday Book Club members.***



## Update on Technology

Did you know that the U.S. Department of Education has an entire subsection of their Web site dedicated to the National Education Technology Plan for the U.S. Department of Education? Did you know such a plan even existed? Well, you can find it all at: [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/technology/plan/2004/site/edlite-default.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/technology/plan/2004/site/edlite-default.html)

This elaborate site details the plan and rationale for it. It also includes 7 Action Steps to help states and districts prepare today's students for the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow, which I thought interesting to share.

The set of seven action steps are:

1. Strengthen Leadership
2. Consider Innovative Budgeting
3. Improve Teacher Training
4. Support e-Learning and Virtual Schools
5. Encourage Broadband Access
6. Move Toward Digital Content
7. Integrate Data Systems

**Moving toward digital content** includes: ensuring that teachers and students are adequately trained in the use of online content; encouraging ubiquitous access to computers and connectivity for each student; and considering the costs and benefits of online content, aligned with rigorous state academic standards, as part of a systemic approach to creating resources for students to customize learning to their individual needs.

**Integrating data systems** includes: establishing a plan to integrate data systems so that administrators and educators have the information they need to increase efficiency and improve student learning; using data from both administrative and instructional systems to understand relationships between decisions, allocation of resources and student achievement; ensuring interoperability; and using assessment results to inform and differentiate instruction for every child.

These are some examples of changes you may have been seeing in schools, if not yet, you will probably be seeing them soon. Often times we talk about protecting our children from the new technologies, but it is important to remember that technology used properly will enhance our children's achievement both in school and in their future. Take a look at the Web site to learn more about the Department of Education's plans and recommendations.

- Nicole Fentem, Technology  
PTA District 37

*Reprinted from the Winter 2008 issue of the District 37 Dialogue newsletter*

**Walk to Raise Funds for Additional Technology at Whiteley  
Friday, May 9th 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.**



## Web sites focusing on the future— Health, science and technology

**MyPyramid.gov** offers an **animated tour** of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s recommended “**nutrition pyramid**.” Students can explore the food groups, assess their food intake and physical activity levels, see a **sample menu** of how these nutrition recommendations can be integrated into a weekly menu and use a **tracking worksheet** to improve their eating habits.  
**Web:** <http://www.mypyramid.com>

**Plus:** In the **MyPyramid Blast Off Game**, students can reach Planet Power for fueling their rocket with food and physical activity. “Fuel” tanks for each food group help students keep track of how their choices fit into MyPyramid.  
**Web:** [http://www.mypyramid.gov/kids/kids\\_game.html](http://www.mypyramid.gov/kids/kids_game.html)

“**The Incredible Adventures of the Amazing Food Detective**,” a *free online video game*, offers youngsters 20 minutes of lessons on healthy eating and exercise, and then locks them out and urges them to get moving. Printable **scavenger hunts** help children understand food labels, experiments allow students to calculate sugar in drinks, and other exercises promote healthy eating.  
**Web:** <http://members.kaiserpermanente.org/redirects/landingpages/afd/>

At **FEMA for kids**, students meet Herman, the spokescrab for the site, which teaches them **how to be prepared for disasters** and prevent disaster damage. They also learn what causes disasters, play games, read stories and become a Disaster Action Kid.  
**Web:** <http://www.fema.gov/kids/>

In **My Solar System**, students can build their own system of heavenly bodies and watch the gravitational ballet. With the **orbit simulator**, students can set initial positions, velocities and masses of 2, 3 or 4 bodies and then see them orbit each other.  
**Web:** [http://phet.colorado.edu/new/simulations/sims.php?sim=My\\_Solar\\_System](http://phet.colorado.edu/new/simulations/sims.php?sim=My_Solar_System)

Just how do greenhouse gases change the climate? In **The Greenhouse Effect**, students select the level of atmospheric greenhouse gases during an ice age, in the year 1750, today or some time in the future and see how Earth’s temperature changes. Students can add clouds or panes of glass for an added effect.  
**Web:** [http://phet.colorado.edu/new/simulations/sims.php?sim=The\\_Greenhouse\\_Effect](http://phet.colorado.edu/new/simulations/sims.php?sim=The_Greenhouse_Effect)

The **Interactive Periodic Table** on this site helps students understand this important science tool by going through it piece by piece. Students not only come to understand how it works; they also use it to figure out how and why elements interact to make the world they see around them.  
**Web:** [http://www.learner.org/interactives/periodic/periodic\\_table.html](http://www.learner.org/interactives/periodic/periodic_table.html)

*Reference: The Big Deal Book for Educators of English Language Learners*  
[www.bigdealbook.com/ell](http://www.bigdealbook.com/ell)

## **Assembly incorporates bike safety and college readiness**

To celebrate our second term with our positive behavior program, Whiteley students were treated to a BMX performance last month. There were two performances—one for primary students and one for intermediate students.

BMX pro Matt Wilhelm amazed students and staff with his abilities and stunts. He even involved teachers in the stunt shows by jumping over Miss Williams and Miss Bartnicke with his bike. Both teachers were unharmed during the show, although it was close.

Besides, BMX stunts, Matt did a wonderful job of explaining to students the importance of bike safety. To demonstrate the reason children should walk their bikes across intersections and streets instead of ride, he raced students on foot and on his bike. He easily won the foot race, but the children flew past him while he tried to catch up on his bike. The point was made clear that children have a better chance of running, rather than riding, to safety.

Matt also talked to students about the importance of a quality education and going on to college. He explained to them even though he wanted to be a pro bike performer he knew that the possibility for success in that field was not guaranteed. Therefore, he earned a college degree in order to ensure that he had more opportunities for success.

Matt brought his passion for not only bike riding, but also learning, to the performance and was very informative, entertaining, and inspiring.

*- Allison Bartnicke, 6th grade teacher*

## Musical “scores” with both students and parents

The 3rd and 4th graders presented the musical "The Inside Pitch" on February 28th. They gave two performances that evening. Both audiences were enthusiastic and appreciative of all their children's hard work and dedication to the show. Also it was "standing room only"!

The musical was a tribute to America's favorite pastime, BASEBALL. The students explored the history of baseball, favorite baseball stars and crazy events that have taken place at the ballpark.

Besides singing our most popular baseball song, *Take Me Out To The Ballgame*, classes performed songs about the ump's, the pitchers, grand slams and stars like Lou Gehrig. One class even was dressed as vendors at the ballpark.

The backdrop was Wrigley Field but we covered all the bases by including both the Cubs and White Sox in our line up. I think all the students enjoyed themselves and so did the FANS.

Our next show, which is the 5th grade classes and chorus, will be the musical “Dig It” on April 17th at 7 p.m. “Dig It” is about the history of ancient civilizations. Thank you for your support.

- Mrs. Holleran, Music teacher

Musical director, Mrs. Wynnvan Holleran poses with some of the cast from “The Inside Pitch”.

## Remaining pick up dates

April 30th and May 28th



## Final contest of the year

For the month of March, we had 165 students turn in collection sheets and we collected over 2,000 box tops. With this one collection, our school has earned over \$220. Each student who submitted a sheet will receive a small token for participating.

Our final collection of the year will be a **SCHOOL-WIDE GOAL**. We are targeting to collect 3,000 box tops from April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 30th.

As a thank you for submitting your box tops, we have set-up the following collection levels. If we collect, **2,000** box tops, all students will receive a special box tops collection bag.

**3,000** box tops, all students will receive a special box tops collection bag AND a fruit snack.

**4,000** box tops, all students will receive a special box tops collection bag, a fruit snack AND a popsicle.

So what goal do you think we can achieve? I think we can reach the 4,000 goal. Please keep clipping and saving your box tops. The box tops should be submitted on collection sheets. Attached to the e-newsletter are two collection sheets for you to use. You may also use your shamrock collection sheet. If you need extra copies, please check by the front office in the wooden magazine stand. They can also be found on our Web site at [www.fcwpta.org](http://www.fcwpta.org)

Thank you again for supporting our school by participating in the Box Top Program.

*Jennifer Nemece & Denise Pitcher  
PTA Box Top Coordinators*

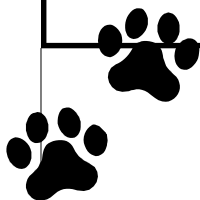
## Manna News

The March Manna order was another success. Thanks to all who ordered. You brought in another \$162.49 for our PTA. Our Manna sales net profit for the year so far is 935.96. We're so close to that \$1,000 goal, and we'll undoubtedly get there with our final order for the year which will be due on April 30th (scrip will be delivered on May 7th). Think about purchasing Manna cards/certificates for your summer fun ahead. Be ready early for summer birthdays and celebrations.

This is our first year using the Manna Program so we'd love your feedback. Send any thoughts about the program to Mary Whiteside at

[mary.whiteside@comcast.net](mailto:mary.whiteside@comcast.net).





## A Wildcat thank you goes to ...

**Denise Pitcher**—for helping update the Manna discount information.

- *Mary Whiteside, PTA Manna Coordinator*

**The following students in the "March Madness" box top collection contest**—Jennifer N, Lauren C, Miu H, Alexia S (Kindergarten); Grace H, Erin F, Kaz H, Hannah M (1st); Nolan C (2nd); Alexa S (3rd); Ema M, Arianne F, Tiffany C, Rosaleen K (4th); Chris F (5th) and Alina P (6th). They are our upcoming future artists, thank you for not only taking the time to collect your 10 box tops but than to do such an awesome job coloring the contest sheet. You Kids Rock!

- *Denise Pitcher, PTA Box Top Coordinator*

**Dorothy Naumowicz and Miriam Nakazawa**—for helping me to collect and count all of those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters during the Pennies for Patients Campaign.

**Mrs. Julie Saez**—for making sure the Pennies for Patients announcements were on daily.

**Mr. Bob Harris**—for being brave enough to have his hair painted pink by three Whiteley kids and wearing it all day long. See, we told you it would wash out...but next year hmmmmmm.....

- *Korene Palazzo, Pennies for Patients Coordinator*

**Corey Hamilton, Julie Saez and Terri Pullara**—for submitting pictures for the newsletter this month.

**Allison Bartnicke**—for contributing an excellent article on the BMX assembly under deadline pressure.

- *Jennifer Mondy, Whiteley Cat Tales editor*

**Tomoko Kinoshita, Clarissa Pawlikowski, Diana Ferrara and Mary Beth Warner**—we really appreciate your help with getting the orders ready for Market Day this month. We know it can be hard work (but fun with all of us together) and thank you all for your help.

- *Judi Offord and Barb Downing, Market Day Coordinators*

**To every student and FCW Staff member**—who donated items to make our gift basket raffle a success.

**Terri Pullara, Jennifer Nemeč, Debbie Klonder, Priscilla Sorrentino, Paula Riccardo, Kris Constantino** and **Anu Buzruk**—for helping put together the gift baskets.

**Mrs. Julie Saez**—for letting us use the library.

**Multiform Fitness, Spa Blue, Amore Mio and Joes Coffeeshouse**—for their generous donations.

- *Amy Langston, Fun Fair Gift Basket Coordinator*

**To all the wonderful bakers**—who baked such wonderful baked goods for the Cake Walk.

- *Sue Delapa and Anne Wisniewski, Cake Walk Coordinators*

**Denise Pitcher**—for thinking of the creative way of collecting box tops and keeping track of all the sheets that were submitted.

**Naoko Ihara, Amy Langston, Anne Morel, Miriam Nakazawa, Korene Palazzo, Denise Pitcher, Terri Pullara, Carrie Schalk and Mary Whiteside**—for helping with Kindergarten/New Student registration.

**Priscilla Sorrentino**—for putting together the Kindergarten treat bags.

**Debbie Klonder**—for ordering SPARK books for our Resource Center

- *Jennifer Nemeč, PTA President*



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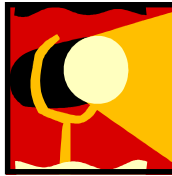
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2007 IL PTA Web site Award of Merit  
2007 IL PTA Newsletter Award of Excellence  
2006 IL PTA Newsletter Honorable Mention



## Spotlight on the Board Notes from the District 15 School Board meetings

*Spotlight on the Board* is a synopsis of notes and recordings taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Frank C. Whiteley PTA's school board liaison, Jennifer Mondy. They are meant to help parents and staff who are unable to attend the Board meetings on a regular basis to keep informed about the issues and plans affecting the district. These Notes are not endorsed by District 15 or the Board of Education.

Highlights from the March 12th Regular meeting—

### 2008-2009 Transportation Plan Approval – 2-Tier Modified

A two-tier modified plan was developed after the administration concluded the revised three-tier plan that was presented in February would not provide enough buses for the afternoon routes. The new proposal addresses the parochial schools' concerns over early start times, high school traffic at various schools, Winston Campus safety and sufficient time for Conyers Learning Academy pickups. After hearing from the public and focus groups, there seemed to be more support for the two-tier vs. the three-tier plan. The Board debated an amendment to the modified plan that would move Marion Jordan's start/end times by 10 minutes and whether it would resolve parents' safety concerns at the school. The amended two-tier modified plan was approved 6:1.

### 10-Year Vehicle Replacement Plan

The vote to establish a bus replacement plan was tabled until November when a determination can be made as to how the two-tier modified system is going to work for the district.

### 2008-2009 Student Fees: Book, Material, Technology and Lunch Fees Pay Rider Transportation Fee

Board members were provided with background information as to the reasoning behind the increases. The fees were approved 5:2. Objections ranged from the pay rider increase being too high to the need to raise both the pay rider and lunch fees to the district's actual costs.

Full detailed notes for this meeting and all past meetings can be found at [www.fcwpta.org/board\\_notes.htm](http://www.fcwpta.org/board_notes.htm)

The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine.

*"Put it before them briefly so they will read it,  
clearly so they will appreciate it,  
picturesquely so they will remember it and,  
above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."*

- Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911)

## 2008/09 Student Fees

### Book and Material

Kindergarten \$ 60  
Grades 1-6 \$120  
Junior High \$130

### Student Lunch

Elementary \$2.00  
Junior High \$2.10

**Milk** 45 cents

### Pay Rider Transportation

(before 8/1/08)

One child \$370  
Two children \$470  
Three or more children \$520

(If paid after 8/1/08, add \$50)