



Whiteley Cat Tales

A PTA Publication
Illinois PTA, District 37

Volume 21, Issue 1
August/September 2009

Frank C. Whiteley PTA newsletter

Illinois PTA Newsletter Award Winner since 2006

PTA President's message

Welcome back Whiteley families! During the summer PTA was busy completing our audit, preparing a budget and planning events for the school year.

This is our first newsletter for the year and this will be the only "printed" newsletter you will receive. Our PTA is "going green" and all newsletters will be available online. All our flyers and forms will also be posted on our website. One of our primary communication tools that we use is our eNews bulletin.

Please sign up for our Whiteley PTA eNews at www.fcwpta.org. There is a box where you can enter your email address, press GO and then click SUBMIT after verifying your information. It is that simple. You can enter more than one email address if you would like both parents to receive the eNews or have it sent to both work and home. When the latest issue of the *Whiteley Cat Tales* is available online, an eNews bulletin will be sent to let you know.

All families should have received a calendar. This year we added something new to the calendar. At the top half of the calendar is a "Schedule of Events" sheet. This is a summary of all the PTA and School events that are happening each month. We hope that you like this quick glance at the month. Another thing I would like to highlight are the spirit days. **Every Monday** is "Whiteley Spirit Day"; **every Friday** is "University Day"; **2nd Wednesday** of each month is a "Sporting or Fun Spirit Day; and the **3rd Wednesday** of each month is "Whiteley Green Day". Thank you to Aimee Flies for joining our PTA Board and creating our calendar.

Speaking of our Board, while most of our committees are filled, we still do not have someone to chair our Multi-Cultural Event. If you are interested in chairing this event, please email Anne Morel at atmorel@comcast.net. This event is scheduled for November 13th so if we don't get someone to volunteer to chair it by mid-September, it will be cancelled.

We are hosting an Open House/General Membership meeting on September 17th at 7 pm. in the Multi-purpose room. Light snacks and dessert will be served. Please join us to meet some of the PTA Board members and to be part of our general membership meeting.

On September 18th, all Whiteley families are invited to a free family night at the YMCA. The theme for that night is "Go Bears! Family Sports Night". They're planning a punt, pass and kick event, cheerleading competition (by family), a "Cubs vs. Sox" kickball game, Baggio, arts and crafts, Spot Shot basketball and a pool activity. The Family Adventure Center with it's play maze, climbing wall, Sport Wall, DDR and other games will also be open. Families are encouraged to wear sports team apparel. This event will run from 6:30 p.m to 8 p.m. The YMCA is looking for 10 to 12 Whiteley parents to help that evening. YMCA staff will run each activity. Whiteley parents would help with controlling the lines, helping out with the activity and/or participating in the activity. If you are interested, please email me. Further information will be sent out at a later date.

Here's to a great school year!

- Jennifer Nemeč, Whiteley PTA President

Welcome Back Wildcats!

Calendar of Events

- 8/25—Meet the Teacher
1:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m.
- 8/26—First Day 1st—6th
8:50 a.m.—3:20 p.m.
- 8/27—Kindergarten Begins

- 9/2—Parent Orientation
4—6th 6:30 p.m.
K—3rd 7:30 p.m.
- 9/3—Fundraiser Begins
Entertainment Books
- 9/7—NO SCHOOL
- 9/9—Sox/Cubs Spirit Day
BOE Meeting—7 p.m.
- 9/10—Manna Orders Due
Recreation Night
- 9/16—Green Wednesday
- 9/17—PTA Open House &
General Membership
Meeting—7 p.m.
- 9/18—Picture Day
Manna Delivered
Membership Deadline
Yankee Candle
Fundraiser Begins
YMCA Family Night
- 9/23—Room Parent Tea
Market Day Pickup
- 9/25—Spiritwear & Yankee
Candle Orders Due
- 9/30—Box Top Sheets Due

Whiteley
PTA

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From the Principal's desk

Dear Parents,

I want to welcome everyone to the 2009-10 school year. I hope that you found the summer relaxing and were able to enjoy time with your family.

Staff members have been busy this summer attending workshops, taking classes, researching best practices, and completing summer writing projects for Frank C. Whiteley students. This year each grade level will have a **designated literacy block of time** to be able to utilize building resources to its full potential. Students in grades 2 through 6 will have a math block of time from 2:10 p.m. to 3:10 pm. every day. This will provide the opportunity for students to be placed in out-of-level math groups during one common time. I ask when you are scheduling appointments for your child to please try to avoid the math block of time. This is our first year trying this format, and I am looking for your feedback during the course of the year. The Frank C. Whiteley Staff is committed to working together so that all students meet their academic potential.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at szuchm@ccsd15.net during the course of the school year.

Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Mary Szuch, Principal

Dear Parent/Guardians:

Each District 15 school has a full-time Reading Consultant Specialist that serves as an integral part of the school staff. This individual provides the school with a variety of services related to the District Literacy Programs.

Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting the best practices in reading instruction*
- Providing individual and group instruction to students needing additional reading support*
- Modeling reading strategies in the classroom*
- Instructing students in both small group and whole class settings*
- Assessing and diagnosing individual reading needs*
- Consulting with teachers and parents*
- Conducting workshops and in-services for both teachers and parents about language arts issues*
- Providing knowledge and suggestions about the latest in children's literature*
- Fostering a rich literary environment within the school community*

I look forward to working with the students in our school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Blindt, Reading Consultant/Specialist



www.fcwpta.org *Your PTA world delivered*

*Sign up today to receive our PTA eNews bulletins in order to find out when the **Whiteley Cat Tales** is online, get reminders for PTA events, deadlines and other VIP alerts.*

Entertainment Books Now on Sale

Every child will have an Entertainment Book on their desk at Meet the Teacher day, Tuesday, August 25th to bring home. Each book sells for \$20. Order forms for additional books will also be available.

This is the first of only two PTA fundraisers this year. The sale dates are from September 3rd until September 14th. Please consider purchasing a book for yourself and offering the opportunity to your family and friends.

If you choose not to participate, have your child return the book to their classroom teacher.

Our second fundraiser is a repeat of one of our most successful from last year—Yankee Candles. Information about that program will be sent at a later date.

- Dorothy Naumowicz and Priscilla Sorrentino
PTA Ways and Means Committee

PTA Reflections Program 2009/2010

The theme this year is—Beauty is . . .



For 40 years, the National PTA Reflections Program has encouraged students across the nation to explore their artistic talents. We are encouraging all students to participate by creating works of art in the areas of film production, literature, musical composition, dance choreography, photography and the visual arts. Deadline for entries is: October 15th.

Entry forms and details will be sent home at the beginning of September and can also be found on our PTA Web site.

- Marnie Bushmole, PTA Reflections Coordinator

Kindergym Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun and help your kindergartner once a week during his or her gym class. Volunteers are needed from October through April. We will be having an orientation at the end of September. Anyone who is interested or has questions may contact Clarissa at jimandclarissa96@sbcglobal.net or call 847-934-5945.



For those of you who already signed up at the end of last year, I will be contacting you with information in September once we know the days and times for Kindergym.

- Clarissa Pawlikowski, Kindergym Coordinator

Picture Day is September 18th

Get their smiles ready! But . . . Just in case . . . Retake Day is October 23rd. Remember this is the picture that will be used for the class composite and placed in the yearbook.



Room Parent Sign Up

Would you like to be your child's room parent this year?
Do you know how to be selected and what is involved if you are selected?

The Room Representative Coordinators will select two volunteers for each classroom from the sign up list. Sign up sheets will be available in the classrooms at Meet the Teacher day—Tuesday, August 25th and during Parent Orientation night September 2nd. If more than two volunteers sign up, then a random drawing will be held. Please note that you cannot be a room parent for the same child for two years in a row unless there are no other volunteers. Room parents must also be members of the Whiteley PTA. Room parents are responsible for coordinating and facilitating the Halloween and Valentines' Day parties. There will also be sign up sheets for various donations for each party event.

Once Room Parents have been selected, a Room Parent Tea (orientation) will be held September 23rd after school so that volunteers can meet, get information packets and have their questions answered.

We are looking forward to a fun year!

- Natasha Marean and Kathy Ahlgrim, Room Representative Coordinators



New Spiritwear Design and Samples on Display

Welcome back, Wildcats!! Did you know that **every Monday** is Whiteley Sprit Day?
How will you show your Wildcat Pride this year?
How about sporting a new and improved Wildcat t-shirt or sweatshirt?

Check out our sample items and **brand new** Wildcat logos at Meet the Teacher on August 25th and Parent Orientation on September 2nd. Order forms will be in each classroom on Meet the Teacher day.

Orders are due by Friday, September 25th.

If you have any questions regarding Spirit wear, Contact Carrie Schalk at 847-991-3656

- Carrie Schalk, Spiritwear Coordinator

Support Globally, Donate Locally

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed for a new year of learning and having fun. This year for Outreach we would like to use our renewed energy to expand our generosity and kindness to not only our neighbors but to the special men and women who are serving our country abroad.

Through the "Support the Troops" drive, we would like to collect items including letters and drawings that our troops could use to help make their days more pleasant and put a smile on their face. A more detailed list of items will be sent home as we get closer to the drive dates (October 19th through 23rd). Donated items will be going through "Operation Support Our Troops – Illinois, Inc." for distribution. You can visit their website at: <http://www.osotil.org/>.



I look forward to supporting our troops abroad with you this fall.

- Mary Beth Warner, Outreach Chairperson

Back by popular demand . . . Whiteley's Green Wednesdays

The first Whiteley Green Day of the year will be Wednesday, September 16. Start the day by **walking to school or riding your bike with friends**. There will be a “**walking school bus**” to pick up any walking students along Westbury Drive beginning at Olmstead and Westbury at 8 a.m. **Wear green** on Whiteley Green Days to show your support for everyone's effort to “go green!” And don't forget to pack a **Waste-free lunch** in a reusable lunch box using reusable plastic containers, cloth napkins and a thermos. Leave your baggies at home and join us in going green at our school on Whiteley Green Days all year.

— Anne Morel & Priscilla Sorrentino, Environmental Education Committee

8 Ways to “Green” Back to School

Back to school is the perfect time not only for digging out that alarm clock, but also for adopting some greener habits you and your whole family can practice all year long. Below are eight tips worthy of a gold—or green—star.

Don't Overbuy—Before shopping for school supplies, check what you already have in stock. Did your child really use all 500 sheets of paper you bought last year? Is every single pencil worn down to the nub? Did the scissors spontaneously break? Only buy what you really need for the year and the amount of “stuff” you don't bring home will be astonishing.

Purchase Recycled—It's unavoidable: You will have to buy some things for the upcoming school year. Instead of a regular backpack, how about one from TerraCycle made out of juice drink pouches? Or recycled pencils made from old denim or newsprint?

Opt for Used—If you're looking to reduce your waste—and the total at the bottom of your receipts—seriously consider buying used, opting for online or renting.

Swap and Sell—A new wardrobe doesn't automatically have to mean a shopping spree at the mall. Organize a clothing swap among your friends.

The Wheels on the Bus—Do you drive your children to school every day? Do you carpool? Or do they walk, ride their bikes or take the bus? To help reduce air pollution, investigate whether you live on or close to the school bus route. If the bus isn't an option, set up a carpool with your neighbors or arrange a “walkpool,” chaperoning a group on foot to and from school. You'll save on gas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, get some exercise and maybe make some new friends in the process.

Lunchtime—Lunch is everyone's favorite subject. But if your child is taking a brown paper bag filled with baggies or pre-packaged snacks to school every day, that adds up to a lot of trash. Invest in a lunchbox free of lead and, if they don't already come with it, reusable plastic containers, cloth napkins and a thermos.

Do Your Part—Teach your kids to recycle when you're not around. Inquire if your school has a recycling program, and if the answer is yes, explain to your children how to use it.

Monitor Electronics—Computers, graphing calculators, printers—it seems like a lot of school supplies nowadays plug in or run on batteries. Even if your child has mastered turning the lights out when they leave a room, there are two more ways to conserve energy even when their gadgets are off. Purchase rechargeable batteries instead of new, and invest in a Smart Power Strip.



A Special Cloud in Heaven

When assigning clouds in heaven, a special one I'm sure
 Will be set aside for all of you who no doubt did endure
 Long meetings, countless planning sessions and endless explanations
 To enrich the educational experiences of our youngest generations.

When the call went out to meet and greet and join the PTA
 You juggled schedules, took on more and came without delay.
 To say that your talents were needed is just too simply stated
 And the positive impact that you have is too often underrated.

Yet you come back each and every year and strive to do even more
 Like planning already for next year before we even close this year's door.
 Giving a lot and taking so little in return seems to come as no surprise
 You seem happy to get your just rewards from the gratitude in all our eyes.
 In case you ever wondered when feeling frustrated or just plain tired
 If all this time and work is worth the effort that is required
 Coming from a fellow parent, a thankful administrator and friend,
 Our heartfelt gratitude and admiration comes without an end.

For in the eyes of those who can hardly wait to see what you'll do next
 You often hold the key to the solution that had us so perplexed.
 And even when it seems that everyone's not playing on the same side
 You work with student interest at heart and push forward with pride.
 So how do we honor and thank you for all you continue to do
 For that never ending sense of loyalty that is instilled in each of you.
 We pledge our cooperation to make your job seem less like a task
 And vow to value all you do, which is usually more than we should ask.

So that special cloud in heaven better sit among the best
 For that PTA parent who always gives more than all the rest.
 The years they pass so quickly and in no time you will hear
 These very words coming from those you hold most dear.
 Hey mom, Hey dad, the kids came home from school to say
 They said we need some volunteers to save our fun fair day.
 I had an instant flashback to me swinging in your door
 And saying these same words that have been said many times before.

So if I didn't say it then, I hope it means just as much now
 When I think of all you did for me, I think of one word, HOW?
 Not just for me, but my whole school, was better for all you gave
 It was many an assembly, field trip, field day and fun fair you helped to save.
 And it's because of parents like you that this tradition still lives on
 So now it's me that the legislative committee works hard on to con.
 I hope you somehow know that without people like you around
 That school would be just another building set upon the ground.

So while we certainly don't want anyone getting their cloud set just yet
 We consider each and everyone of you among the finest we have met.



everychild.one voice.

*Numerous studies show that,
 regardless of the economic,
 ethnic, or
 cultural background
 of the family,
 parent involvement
 in a child's education
 is a major factor
 in determining
 the child's success in school.*

- National PTA Web site

Who's Who and What Do They Do at School

Over the past four years, many Whiteley teachers and staff members have been interviewed for our PTA newsletter.

Listed below are the newsletter issues and name of the staff member (or grade level) that was featured that month.

If you are reading this newsletter online, just click the link. If you are reading this newsletter in paper form, please join our email list so all future *Whiteley Cat Tales* newsletter will be sent to you electronically. The sign up box can be found on our PTA Web site at www.fcwpta.org

Newsletters from the 2005/06 school year to present can be found at www.fcwpta.org/whiteley_cat_tales.htm

Whiteley Cat Tales—2005/2006 Issues www.fcwpta.org/2005-2006_issues.htm

October 2005	Bob Harris , Physical Education
November 2005	Wynnvan Holleran , Music
December 2005	Diane Neumann , Kindergarten
January 2006	Allison Bartnicke , 6th grade
February 2006	Kathy Weber , Building Secretary
March 2006	Cindy Zeivel , 5th grade

Whiteley Cat Tales—2006/2007 Issues www.fcwpta.org/2006-2007_Issues

September 2006	Julie Saez , LRC
October 2006	Greg Armanmentos , 3/4 Gifted
January 2007	Linda Sullivan , Band
February 2007	Susan VanSlyke , Yuko Nakagawa , ESL

Whiteley Cat Tales—2007/2008 Issues www.fcwpta.org/2007-08_issues.htm

March 2007	Pat Mulhern , Nurse
November 2007	Second grade teachers
December 2007	Fourth grade teachers
February 2008	Third grade teachers
March 2008	Fifth grade teachers
May 2008	First grade teachers

November 2008 **Senior Volunteers**
www.fcwpta.org/pdf/fcwnews_nov_08_WR.pdf

WHOSE CHILD IS THIS?

"Whose child is this?" I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play

"Mine", said the parent with a tender smile
"Mine to keep a little while
To bathe his hands and comb his hair
To tell him what he is to wear
To prepare him that he may always be good
And each day do the things he should."

"Whose child is this?" I asked again
As the door opened and someone came in

"Mine", said the teacher with the same tender smile.
"Mine, to keep just for a little while
To teach him how to be gentle and kind
To train and direct his dear little mind
To help him live by every rule
And get the best he can from school."

"Whose child is this?" I asked once more
Just as the little one entered the door

"Ours" said the parent and the teacher as they smiled
And each took the hand of the little child
"Ours to love and train together
Ours this blessed task forever."

— Author Unknown



Market Day—Back by Popular Demand

Just a friendly reminder that we are excited to be offering Market Day again this year.

For those of you who might not be familiar with Market Day, a flyer will come home in your child's backpack once a month offering different foods available for purchase. We highly recommend placing your order online. There are often sales that are only available online, and it also gives you the chance to confirm your order. Once your order has been completed, you will need to mark your calendar with the pick up date. It is usually the third Wednesday of the month from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. in the multipurpose room. On that date, pick up your order and enjoy.

Breakfast in a jiffy, easy lunch with prepackaged snacks and dinner ready in minutes! Your Market Day purchases help support various activities for the children at Frank C. Whiteley School.

Feel free to call 847-359-2179 or email Denise Pitcher (successb440@aol.com) or Nancy Edwards (jamesandnancyytres@comcast.net) with any questions.

Manna

The Manna program is a fundraising opportunity that can't be missed! Manna gives the Whiteley PTA a discount for gift cards/certificates. You pay face value for the cards and you get **exactly** what you pay for while the PTA makes money. The gift cards/certificates you receive are the same ones you would receive if you drove around town to buy them on your own. Purchase through Manna and help Whiteley and your gas tank.

Order forms will be sent home with your child or you can visit the PTA Web site at www.fcwpta.org. Click on "Support Your PTA" to print a copy of the order form and find out more about the Manna program.

Mark the Manna dates for this school year on your calendar now—

Manna order due at school

September 10th
December 3rd
March 4th
May 13th

Manna orders sent home with your child

September 18th
December 11th
March 12th
May 21st



If you have any questions, contact Holly Pfister at hpfister@comcast.net or 847-934-8336 or Asiya Syed at Asiya_syed@hotmail.com

Dominick's 10% goes Back to School Promotion

Whiteley can earn 10% of purchases when our families buy participating products at stores **August 12th through September 15th**. It's easy. Look for participating products marked with the yellow school bus at the store. Over 2,000 participating products to choose from in this fabulous promotion: from beverages, breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items, to household/cleaning, personal care and pet care products! Be sure supporters' use their Club Card when they make purchases. If a family is already registered with eScrip, a 10% contribution will be automatically donated to your school.

If the family is not registered with eScrip, they can still participate and will receive a receipt tape from September 18th through October 9th, with a redemption code.

Simply send in your receipt tapes to your child's class by October 10th, and PTA will enter these redemption codes. All codes must be redeemed by **October 13th** in order for our school to receive the earnings.

Besides this current promotion you can sign-up at www.escrip.com and register your Dominick's card for future promotions. At registration it will ask you for the group name and group number. Our group name is Frank C Whiteley and our Group ID number is 500013114. This program is similar to Box Tops for Education, and there is no cost for you to sign-up and participate in this program.

- Jennifer Nemeč, PTA President

Box Tops for Education



Have you been saving your box tops this summer? I hope you have. For every box top that you submit, our school earns 10 cents. It's that simple. For those of you who are new to the program, I have provided some FAQs for you about the program.

Clip—You can clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top coupon is **worth 10¢** for our school. You can get a complete list of the products from their website www.btfe.com. Click the “all about box tops” tab to see the list and to answer any further questions. Occasionally, some products will have bonus box tops. Bonus box tops vary but usually they are worth 50 cents - \$1.00.

Shop—At the Box Tops Marketplace, you can shop at over 70 online stores like **Oriental Trading Co., JCPenney** and **Lands' End**. A percentage of purchases goes back to our school! To see a complete list of stores, click the “marketplace” tab.

As you can see, one of the easiest ways for our school to earn money is through the “clip” program. As a thank you for sending your box tops to school, we will be offering three quarterly contests. Please read the questions and answers to learn more about the submission process and about our contests at our school:

How do I submit my box tops? - Box tops should be submitted on a collection worksheet or bundled in groups of 50 in a Ziploc bag. Collection sheets can be found at school on the magazine rack in the front lobby or you can download one from our website – www.fcwpta.org

Do I have to submit my box tops on a collection worksheet? - No, it is not mandatory. You can also tape them on blank piece of paper. Regardless of what sheet you use, please be sure to only place ten on a sheet.

Are you still having contests this year? - Yes, for every ten box tops submitted, a student will receive one raffle ticket. It is extremely important to put the student's name on the bottom on the worksheet or on the outside of a baggie so they can receive a raffle ticket(s).

Are there a maximum number of raffle tickets that a student can receive?

No, there isn't. However, if you want to save some of your worksheets for the next drawing you can do so.

When do turn in my worksheets? - Worksheets can be turned in at anytime.

However, there is a cut-off dates for quarterly contests:

First Quarter – Worksheets need to be submitted by Wednesday, September 30th

Second Quarter – Friday, January 29th and Third Quarter—Friday, May 21st

Any worksheets received after these dates will be held for the next drawing.

When are the drawings? - Fridays—October 16th, February 19th and June 4th

What are the prizes? - Each quarter we will have different prizes. We will list the prizes in the newsletter one month before the drawing. Be sure to look in the next newsletter for the list of prizes for our November drawing.

How will you draw for the raffle prizes? - The students will receive their raffle ticket(s) 3 days prior to the drawing.

During their lunch period 2 days prior to the drawing, students will come to the Resource Center and put their raffle ticket(s) in a bucket that corresponds to the prize which they want to win. Kindergartners will be also be able to participate.

(The procedure is very similar to how we raffle the gift baskets for our Fun Fair.) On the morning of the drawing, Mrs. Saez will pull a raffle ticket from each container and announce the winners will be announced on Monday's morning announcements. We will also print the names of the winners in the newsletter following the drawing.

- Jennifer Nemeč, Box Top Coordinator



***Spotlight on the Board*— Notes from the District 15 School Board meetings**

Highlights from the May 27th Committee of the Whole meeting

Citizens Address the Board

Two Paddock School parents expressed their concerns over the length of lunch periods. A petition signed by 138 parents requesting longer lunch times had been previously submitted to the Board.

Reductions of Expenditures Plan

Over the past several months, the district's leadership team has been formulating recommendations of modifications to the 2010/2011 budget. Incoming revenues will be decreased significantly when the CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 0.1% takes affect. Discussions will begin in June and continue through December so that the Board can implement changes for the 2010/2011 school year.

Summer Opportunities

Administrators outlined the various summer academic, remedial and enrichment opportunities currently taking place in the district. Several Board members supported the idea of additional fee-based enrichment programs. It was noted that Carl Sandburg and Winston Campus Junior Highs will now offer summer school for targeted incoming 7th and 8th graders.

Highlights from the June 8th Special meeting

Ratification of Classroom Teachers' Council Professional Agreement – 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12

By a vote of 5:2, the Board approved an 11.4% three year teachers' contract. Base salaries will be increased by 0.75% the first year, 1.19% in year two and 1.45% in the final year. Step increases are also in effect and average 2.77%. Incoming revenues to the district amount to less than 5% over the life of the contract.

Highlights from the June 10th Regular meeting

Public Hearing – 2009/2010 Budget

Two citizens expressed their views on the recent teachers' contract, the district's deficit spending and comments made during the Board of Education candidate forum held in March.

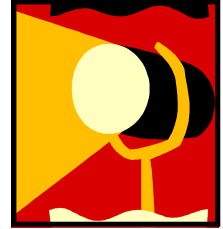
District Lunch Periods

In response to parent concerns, the district evaluated lunch times at all of its schools. It was determined that 20 minutes was an appropriate amount of time and any additional time tends to result in discipline issues. Based on the results of the study, Hunting Ridge and Jane Addams will shorten their lunch times to 20 minutes. Paddock's current 20/20/20 schedule will be extended over a two hour period in order to reduce the number of students each period.

Summer Construction Projects

Construction on the walls of three schools is scheduled to begin in July. Hunting Ridge and Winston Campus are expected to be completed before school resumes in August. However, the Lake Louise project is more extensive and will not be finished until October. Plans have been made to rotate two classrooms at a time to the school's mobile units as the work takes place.

Continued on the next page



Student Assignment Update

Sections and the number of students assigned to those classrooms have been determined for each school based upon the district’s class size averages. Enrollment will be monitored over the summer. If necessary, the administration will request additional staffing in August.

Citizens Address the Board

Four adults and one child addressed the Board regarding the needs of gifted students, the amount of time children need for lunch, unfunded government mandates and full day Transitional Kindergarten.

Highlights from the June 24th Committee of the Whole meeting

TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Update

Palatine’s Village Manager reported that it has reconsidered early retirement of the Dundee/Rand Road TIF district due to the current state of the economy. Keeping the TIF in place allows the Village to remain competitive in keeping and attracting new business development. Instead, a surplus may be declared in 2011 and monies distributed to the taxing bodies at that time.

5-Year Financial Plan

The plan was updated with the CTC contract percentages agreed to for the next three years and extended for another two years using a base salary increase of 2.13%. An alternate section was added to the plan that would allow for a reduced base increase of 1.45% and its affect on the district’s reserves. Long-term projections now show reserves declining to 14.85% in 2012, 7.66% in 2013 and 3.8% in 2014.

Expenditure Reduction Discussion

In order for the district to maintain 25% of its income in reserves, \$2M needs to be reduced from the budget each year beginning with the 2010/2011 school year. Discussions will be taking place this summer and into the fall. Specific recommendations will be made as early as October.

Preliminary Student Achievement Results

Initial results from the 2009 ISAT tests show that 17 of the district’s 19 schools made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in both Reading and Math. Subgroups of students in two schools did not meet the 70% benchmark of meeting state standards. Several Board members complimented the Department of Instruction for the turnaround from 2008 when eight schools did not make AYP.

FCW Classroom Numbers as of August 17th

Neumann	K-AM	21	Williams	4th	28
Verisario	K-AM	20	Mc Avoy-Shepard	4th	27
Neumann	K-PM	16			
Stanis	1st	19	Zeivel	5th	23
Cocanig	1st	19	Zeman	5th	22
Abbott	1st	19	Hyla	5th	23
Croak	2nd	33	Armamentos	3rd/4th	23
Bolger	2nd	32	Cochrane	5th/6th	30
Ehrhardt	3rd	23	Quinn	6th	28
Miller	3rd	23	Bartnicke	6th	29
Danielczyk	3rd	24	Tomczyk	6th	23





Frank C. Whiteley School
4335 Haman Avenue
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60192

Web site: www.fcwpta.org

PTA President:

Jennifer Nemeć nnemecfamily@sbcglobal.net

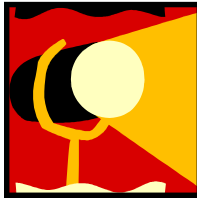
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2009 IL PTA Newsletter Honorable Mention
2008 IL PTA Outstanding Newsletter Award
2007 IL PTA Newsletter Award of Excellence
2006 IL PTA Newsletter Honorable Mention



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 August 12th Regular meeting

Student Achievement Results Update

2009 ISAT results show that two of the district's elementary schools, Jane Addams (JA) and Virginia Lake (VL), did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the second year in a row. The subgroups where at least 70% of the students did not meet standards were Hispanic, Limited English Proficient (LEP) and Free and Reduced Lunch.

Supplemental Education Services (SES) and Public School Choice Option

In accordance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB), schools operating a federally funded program are required to offer public school choice if they do not make AYP for two consecutive years. However, District 15 was approved to participate in a program to provide supplemental education services to low-income students in JA and VL this year instead of providing school choice. Services are expected to begin in October.

Curtain Wall Installation Schedule Update – Winston Campus and Lake Louise

Construction is expected to continue through October at Winston Campus. The Lake Louise project has been delayed and will not begin until late September. Work will cease in November and restart in the spring. While some Board members expressed dissatisfaction with the delay and the disruption it would cause for both students and teachers, other members felt that the construction should begin and not be postponed until next summer.

Transportation Updates

Two-way radios and GPS systems were installed in the district's 22 new school buses. There are 145 planned bus routes which continue to be fine-tuned to improve efficiencies. Although some changes have been made, the majority of children reside within 600 ft. of their bus stop.

Student Enrollment Update

Enrollment continues to decline in the district and there may be a few hundred less students than last year. A report on the number of students registered by the 6th day of school will be presented at the September Board meeting. Full-day Bilingual and Transitional Kindergarten classes are now offered in the district and are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (federal stimulus) for the next two years.

Full detailed notes for this meeting can be found at
www.spotlightontheboard.org/d15_spotlight.htm

Board of Education Meeting Schedule

September 9th

Agenda will include:
6th Day Enrollment Report/
Final Student Assignment Plan

October 14th
November 11th

Time: 7 p.m.

Location

Sundling Junior High
Smith Road, Palatine