



Whiteley Cat Tales

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Frank C. Whiteley PTA newsletter

2007 Illinois PTA Newsletter Award of Excellence

PTA President's message

Hello Whiteley families. Can you believe it's already February and we are almost half way done with our school year? The year is sure moving quickly.

Did you have a chance to go to the Orbit Skating party? As a benefit of being a Whiteley PTA member, members and their families were able to skate for free that night. Some of the other benefits that PTA members receive are free popcorn at certain school events, free ice cream at Open House in April and a discount on presale tickets for school events. So if you like to receive any of these benefits, consider joining our PTA in the fall.

Room Parents have been busy planning classroom Valentine's Day parties. The parties will take place on February 14th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Room Parents – please be sure to contact those individuals who have signed up to bring something for the party as soon as possible.

Our next PTA sponsored event will be our Fun Fair on March 14th. Kris Constantino has been planning this event for the past couple of months. It takes many volunteers to make our Fun Fair successful. Please consider signing up to help with this event. If you haven't completed your hours for "Three for PTA", here's your chance to complete them. Kris is looking for a wide range of volunteers from chairing a sub-committee to working a booth the day of the event. Without everyone's help, we would not be able to hold such a fun event.

Even though it's only February, we are already looking for some new volunteers to be a part of our PTA Board next year. A Board member is someone who chairs or co-chairs a committee. A Board member will chair the same committee for two years (except for the Kindergym Coordinator who chairs the committee for one year). Our PTA has approximately 28 committees. Some of the committees have two people who co-chair the committee and some only have one person. We would love to get new volunteers who are willing to co-chair a committee with a current committee chair. That way the current chair could mentor the new chair for a year before their term is up.

Currently we have the following positions open starting in the fall of 2008: Book Fair, Feature Creature, Fun Fair, Health and Safety Co-Chair, Kindergym, Multicultural, Reading Program (Six Flags), Room Representative Co-Chair, 6th Grade Activities, School Pictures & Yearbook, SPARK, Spiritwear, Student Recognition, Teacher Appreciation and Volunteer Coordinator. If there is a committee that you may be interested in and do not see it listed above OR if you would like to know more information about a certain committee, please let me know. We welcome everyone.

Thanks for our continued support of our PTA.

- Jennifer Nemeč
PTA President

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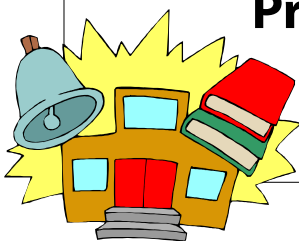
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Calendar of Events

- 1/30—MANNA Orders Due
Market Day pickup
5 p.m.—6:15 p.m.
- 1/31—Box Top contest ends
- 2/1—Kindergarten Report
Cards Issued
Spirit Day—
Blackhawks & Wolves
- 2/5—VOTE
- 2/13—BOE meeting—7 p.m.
Sundling JH, Palatine
- 2/14—Valentines Day parties
- 2/18—Presidents Day
NO SCHOOL
- 2/19—NO SCHOOL
- 2/21—PTA meeting—7 p.m.
Newsletter Deadline
- 2/22—AR ends
- 2/25—SPARK Summer Fair
Jump Rope for Heart
- 2/26—Waste Free Lunch
- 2/28—3rd/4th Musical
- 2/29—Wear Your Clothes
Backwards Day

Proposed Three-Tier Bell Schedule

See pages 7 and 16 for more details.



Whiteley
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]

From the Principal's desk

Dear Parents,

This year, the weather has been unusually cold and accompanied by more snow early in the winter season. These factors have contributed to an increased number of cars and longer lines to enter the front circle in the morning. This in turn has created some unsafe situations such as cars stopping in the crosswalk and having a student exit to cross the street. This is dangerous for student safety as well as some near car accidents.

If you do not want to wait to enter the front circle, you should pull into the cul-du-sac where your child can exit safely and cross with the crossing guard. When traffic is stopped in front of the school, please do not stop in the crosswalk. The crossing guard is only allowed to cross students when the crosswalk is free of cars.

Once in the front circle please pull as far forward as possible. Drivers are stopping near the front door, which does not allow for an additional five to six cars to enter and drop off students. This greatly contributes to student stress and parent frustration. I would greatly appreciate your assistance with the morning drop off procedures.

The staff is very excited about our upcoming Walk-A-Thon in Spring 2008 and the possibility of purchasing the latest technology - Smart Boards for each classroom. This is a very expensive undertaking...\$3000.00 per classroom for the Smart Board plus the \$15,000.00 wiring cost for the building which totals to be a significant amount of money. I am in the planning stages of arranging a Smart Board Demonstration in the evening with details to follow in a flyer. I am looking for businesses or corporations that might be interested in making a donation to assist us in this huge endeavor. Please contact me if your business or corporation might be interested in the Smart Board Project at (847) 963-7200 or szuchm@ccsd15.net

Important Dates

February 4-8 Cog AT Testing for Grades 2, 4, & 6
February 14 Valentine's Day Party 2:15 p.m.—3 p.m. Thanks to Room Parents for coordinating this!
February 18 No School President's Day
February 19 No School Student Nonattendance Day
February 25-27 Jump Rope for Heart with Mr. Harris during PE
February 28 Grade 3 & 4 Musical 7 p.m.
March 3-20 ISAT/IMAGE Testing Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6
March 24-28 Spring Break
March 31 School Reopens

Thank you for your support!
Mrs. Mary Szuch, Principal

To find out more about Smart Boards, go to: <http://education.smarttech.com/ste/en-us/>



Six hour reading club in progress

Just a reminder that Frank C Whiteley is participating, once again, in an exciting program that encourages your child to read for fun. The forms were sent home with your child the week after winter break. Every student who completes six hours of recreational reading by **Monday, February 11th** will earn a *free* admission ticket valid at participating Six Flags theme parks. We hope that you and your child enjoy participating in this free program and spend time reading together. Happy Reading.



- Kathy Ahlgrim, PTA Literacy Coordinator

Jump Rope for Heart campaign—February 25th

During the week of February 25th, students will jump into the fight against heart disease and stroke with Jump Rope for Heart. This event takes place in other schools all over the country. Students jump rope and collect donations from family and friends. Jump Rope for Heart is a school fitness and education program. It teaches the value of cardiovascular fitness while raising money for research into heart disease and stroke. These diseases are our nation's number one and number three killers.

Donation sheets will be distributed to students the week prior to the event and will be due back with donations in early March.

Volunteers are always needed to help count the number of jumps for our students. Many parents like to volunteer for their child's classroom. This is a fun and easy way to get involved with your child's school activities.

If you haven't yet volunteered and would like to, please email Candy Borst at borstfamily@comcast.net

- Candy Borst and Sue Priebe
PTA Health and Safety Committee

PTA meetings are open to all parents/guardians

Please remember that all parents and guardians of Whiteley students are welcome to attend the monthly PTA meetings. They are held on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. in the teachers' lounge.

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us for an update on what is happening in the PTA as well as the school and individual grade levels. (Sometimes we even have treats!)

The next few PTA meeting dates are: **February 21st, March 20th and April 24th**

We hope to see you soon.

- Frank C. Whiteley PTA Board

Don't forget to sign up for the PTA e-News Bulletin and e-Newsletter on our Web site at
www.fcwpta.org

Authors are "OK" with Whiteley students

Thursday, January 17th was an "OK" day for Whiteley students. Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld, the author and illustrator of the *OK Book*, spent an entire day at Whiteley School. These two accomplished authors presented three 45-minute assemblies where they shared some of their books aloud, showed current works in progress and discussed the finer points of becoming a published author. Students also had an opportunity to visit with the authors in a smaller setting. Several classes visited the Resource Center where they had a chance to ask questions and have personal copies of the books signed.

A big thank you goes out to the PTA for providing such an opportunity to the students and staff of Whiteley School.

Other books written by Amy Krouse Rosenthal include:

One of Those Days, *Cookies* and *Little Pea*.

Additional books by Tom Lichtenheld include:

Everything I Know About Pirates, *Everything I Know About Cars*, *What Are You So Grumpy About?* and *What's With This Room?*



- Mrs. Julie Saez, LRC Teacher

Birthdays = More books for everyone

Mrs. Langston and Mrs. Saez would like to thank all the students who participated in the Birthday Book Club this month. Some wonderful titles have been added that will help students reach their AR goal, complete series and enhance units of study. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Thejasvi D	<i>Look-Alikes</i>
Bradley H	<i>Captain Underpants</i> book
Allison K	<i>The Name of this Book is a Secret</i>
Bhargavi D	<i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</i>
Hirotsugu C	<i>Night of the New Magicians</i>
Madeline Z	<i>Madison Finn</i>
Yugan S	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i>
Pragya M	<i>Being a Good Citizen</i>
Andy K	<i>The Dragon's Eye</i>
David F	<i>There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy</i>
Mara A	<i>The Talented Clementine</i>
Kaelan C	<i>A Dog Needs a Bone</i>
Jessica K	<i>Taking a Bath With a Dog</i>
Ann H	<i>The Missing Manatee</i>
Brian R	<i>Smash Crash</i>
Elizabeth T	<i>Diary of a Fly</i>
Nicole S	<i>The Flag We Love</i>
Melissa K	<i>Fairest</i>
Varun P	<i>Triss</i>
Nathan D	<i>Snakehead</i>



Get ready for all of your Fun Fair favorites

Classroom baskets, arcade games, face painting and the ever popular Cake Walk—they are all back at this year's Fun Fair scheduled for Friday, March 14th from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. In order to make the fair a true school event, we need many volunteers to help in big and small ways. This is one of our largest events and one that children and families really enjoy.

Please consider helping in any of the following areas—

- Chair a Committee (food, Cake Walk, Book Walk)
- Games (supervise a game)
- Ticket sales (preparing advance tickets, selling at fair)
- Cake Walk (coordinate the walkers, bakers)
- Book Walk (coordinate the walkers, books donated)
- Food (take tickets, serve food)
- Redemption (help children redeem their tickets for prizes)
- Donate baked goods (for the cake walk)
- Classroom Gift Baskets (supervise, decorate, donate)
- Face Painting (you know what this means)
- Set up the fun fair (3 p.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Clean up the fun fair (8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.)
- And the ever popular - "What do you need? I'll be there!"



Remember - you will have time to have fun with your family. We only need your help for one shift so you can enjoy the fair.

Let us know what shift you would like to take—

- 1st shift (5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
- 2nd shift (6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)
- 3rd shift (7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

A flyer will be sent home in early February with remaining volunteer opportunities. (Be sure to volunteer early and often.)

Ticket sales will begin February 22nd and order forms must be returned by March 3rd to take advantage of the "early bird" discount. Tickets will also be available for sale the night of the Fun Fair.

Classroom basket themes will be decided soon and a letter will be sent out to everyone with their classroom's theme. Basket donations will need to be turned in by March 5th so our coordinator can organize, wrap and label them. As was done in the past, the baskets will be on display in the library a day or two prior to the Fun Fair.

Will you be a part of this exciting event? Please contact Kris Constantino at constantino14@comcast.net or by phone at 847-358-6310 as soon as possible if you have any questions about any of the positions.

As always, everyone is invited to help - **parents, teachers, staff, former Whiteley students and high school students.** Remember, your volunteering at the Fun Fair counts towards your three hours for "Three for PTA".

- Kris Constantino
PTA Fun Fair Coordinator

Wellness Policies celebrate first anniversary

September marked the first anniversary since districts in Illinois were required by law to have wellness policies in place and to be working toward a healthier school environment. Many schools and districts are working hard to make either subtle or wholesale changes in their cafeteria and vending operations, nutrition curricula and physical education programs. Unfortunately some have adopted policies with little thought as to what should happen next.

In August 2006, Action for Healthy Kids collected a national sample and reported that just 54% of the 112 local wellness policies examined met all of the minimum requirements of the federal policy guidelines. One concern was that wellness policies that were adopted were general policies with little or no input from staff, parents and children. The second concern was that the policies adopted have done little or no work on administrative procedures that would allow implementation of these policies.

The Governor's wellness policy task force's first report highlighted several barriers as impeding implementation. These barriers either involved time or money. Other barriers were a lack of coordinated team approach, resources such as staff and a general lack of awareness of the issue. Additional studies are being conducted.

When the results of these surveys are collected, Illinois should have a better picture of where schools are with wellness policy implementation. If these policies are fully implemented, they have a potential to help create a lasting culture of wellness in every school building and in every classroom.

- Terry Christianson, Illinois PTA
Health & Environmental Concerns
terry1962@sbcglobal.net

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National PTA—Legislative Positions

All National PTA legislative resources are available at www.pta.org in the “PTA and Washington” area of the website.

This Week in Washington—National PTA publishes a free online newsletter providing regular updates on top legislative issues affecting children, notices of special events attended by PTA officers and members, and Supreme Court decisions. Current and past issues are posted online.

Legislative Program—National PTA's Legislative Program is the primary authority for action taken by National PTA on federal legislation and regulations. The Legislative Program includes the Legislative Directives, which are the organization's current legislative priorities, as well as policy statements, positions statements, and resolutions.

Washington Update—Summarizes the major bills and proposed regulations on which National PTA has taken a position. This document is updated weekly online.

Background Briefs—National PTA provides background material, including issue briefs, letters to policy makers, and links to other organizations on over 20 issues, from after-school programs to vouchers. This material can be found online and is organized according to issue.

Reference: www.pta.org



Sleep in Childhood

Sleep is essential to your child's health. The quantity and quality of sleep should be assessed separately. Most school-aged children require at least 10 hours per night through puberty. After puberty and through high school, 8-9 hours are usually necessary. Once a child stops growing, sleep requirements may decrease somewhat, though this is not always the case. It is important for your child to maintain a regular sleep/wake cycle, keeping bedtime and wake time as consistent as possible. Because of their activity schedules, teenagers in particular often develop a delay in their sleep/wake cycle, which can result in insomnia and daytime sleepiness.

Sleep quality is just as important as quantity. Snoring, frequent awakenings, abnormal movements during sleep, or frequent nightmares or sleep terrors may erode the benefits of sleep. Children with insufficient or poor quality sleep may develop symptoms of irritability, hyperactivity, daytime sleepiness, or difficulty maintaining focus. They may act out inappropriately or be viewed as disruptive, and school performance may suffer. Some are labeled as having ADD or ADHD, others as having cognitive or learning disabilities.

Published studies have looked at academic achievement and school performance as it relates to the adequacy of sleep. There is widespread agreement that insufficient or poor sleep quality result in a decrease in grades and standardized test scores.

If you are concerned about your child's sleep, pediatric sleep specialists are available to assist in the evaluation of these potential problems. Ask your pediatrician or contact your local hospital for further information.

- Dr. Jonathan Warren
Northwest Community Hospital Sleep Clinic

Information provided by the NWSC PTA Health and Safety Committee

Proposed Three-Tier Bell Schedule—2008/2009*

"The administration is recommending a three tier busing system next year with starting times of 7:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 8:55 a.m. in order to shorten bus routes, reduce the number of students on each route and allow for flexibility. **Software simulated bus routes will be created for the proposed plan in order to compare when students are getting on the buses now vs. the three-tier system, prior to final Board approval.** Some Board members are concerned about the bell time for the first tier and whether the routes will be short enough to account for the earlier start time. Other members believe that the current system isn't efficient, costs to retain additional buses/drivers are too high and three tiers would provide better service and safety. The Board is **expected to vote on the plan at the February 13th Board meeting** so that routes can begin to be rescheduled."

- "Spotlight on the Board" notes for the January 9th, 2008 Board of Education meeting



How will these changes affect Whiteley students? Whiteley School has been slotted into the 3rd tier with a starting time of 8:55 a.m. and an end time of 3:25 p.m. This is a change of 10 minutes later in the morning and afternoon. Current sixth graders will be attending Plum Grove Junior High with a proposed start time of 7:30 a.m. which is 25 minutes earlier than the current start time of 7:55 a.m. Junior highs will dismiss students at 2 p.m. with most students arriving home by 2:30 p.m. due to anticipated shorter bus routes.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments about these proposed changes, contact the Board of Education members directly. Their email addresses can be found on the district's Web site at: www.ccsd15.net

*As presented at the January 9th Board of Education meeting by the District 15 Business and Transportation Departments.

"Published studies have looked at academic achievement and school performance as it relates to the adequacy of sleep."

There is widespread agreement that insufficient or poor sleep quality result in a decrease in grades and standardized test scores."

Thriving in rd Grade

Whiteley's third grade teachers include veterans Toni Ehrhardt, Julie Miller, Amber Danielczyk and newcomer, Kelly Stevens.

What are the students currently working on in Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies and Writing?

Reading: We are completing Theme 2 in our anthology. We continue to work on reading comprehension strategies, extended response, and grammar.

Math: Students have been learning their multiplication and division facts and we have been doing some mini lessons on Geometry.

Science: All classes are learning about the Solar System. We begin by learning about the Sun and then move on to planets, the moon, constellations, and comets/asteroids.

Social Studies: This entire year focuses around the concept of communities. We began the year by completing a community frieze in the classrooms and talking about the different types of communities.

Writing: We focus on the Six Traits for our writing curriculum. We began with Ideas and moved to Organization and we are currently learning about Word Choice.

What is your classrooms favorite subject, time of day, or activity?

All third grade classes share the same favorites. All students love going to PE twice a week. Mr. Harris makes it fun for them and they all look forward to it. Third graders also enjoy learning cursive. They are very eager to participate in a very grown up activity. Last, they all love the weekly auction we all hold. Students can use classroom cash earned throughout the week to purchase items on Friday afternoons. It's a fun way to reward positive behavior and good choices.

What are some things parents and students can do at home to make each school day more productive or run smoother?

All of us do newsletters and weekly evaluations on each student. This is one way we communicate with families on a regular basis. It's helpful if parents read through those and go through their child's folder to see their work from the week. This is a great way for parents to monitor their child's progress. Also, third graders learn all their multiplication and division facts, which are applied for the rest of the year in other math concepts. It is really helpful for kids to be practicing those, as well as addition and subtraction facts, on a nightly basis. We really appreciate all the support parents give us from home.

What is the "Six Traits Writing Teacher Resources" which was recently awarded to Mrs. Miller from the District 15 Foundation and how will it affect the 3rd grade classes?

We are using the Six Traits writing curriculum and each trait lesson comes with suggested books to use to give strong examples of that trait. We now have a library of those suggested books at our disposal to use to demonstrate to students how published authors incorporate the Six Traits into their writing.

Whiteley's third grade teaching team proudly display their chosen university's school colors.
From left to right: Toni Ehrhardt, Julie Miller, Amber Danielczyk and Kelly Stevens.

About the Teachers day—

What is your favorite subject, time of day or activity? What is the most unusual thing about your classes this year? What made you decide to become a teacher? What's the one thing your students may not know about you that you would like to share?

Mrs. Toni Ehrhardt: My favorite activity is teaching the novel unit Hundred Dresses. The most unusual thing about class this year is all the learning that is happening regarding our university. I decided to become a teacher because each day is different as well as each year. There is always a beginning and an end. Something people wouldn't know about me is that I was an All-American Gymnast. I started gymnastics when I was in third grade.

Mrs. Amber Danielczyk: My favorite activity is doing the Community Frieze that goes with our social studies curriculum. I also enjoy playing Mission Impossible in PE with my students. This year, the most unusual thing about my class is the size. It's the smallest class I have ever had. I became a teacher because I love that each day is different. Something people may not know about me is that I can milk a cow and barrel hug a turkey. I love loud rock music and go to many concerts.

Miss Kelly Stevens: The activity I enjoy most is math. I became a teacher because I really enjoy working with kids. Something people don't know about me is that when I was in school I played piano and was on a dance ensemble.

Mrs. Julie Miller: My favorite activity to do with the kids is read aloud. I really enjoy picking books with fun characters or a great plot to share with the kids. The most unusual thing about my class this year is its size. I have only had one class that has been smaller. I became a teacher because of my love for kids. Something people might not know about me is that I really like to cook and I would rather read a cookbook than anything else.

We all feel strongly that third grade is a transitional year between primary and intermediate grades. Students in kindergarten, first and second grade are learning to read. Students in third grade read to learn. Third grade is a year we really see tremendous growth in students from the beginning of the year to the end.

- Interviewed by Marnie Bushmole, Whiteley Cat Tales staff reporter



**Dance
April 18th**

Save the date!

SPARK Summer Vendor Fair— Monday, February 25th

Have you started planning for the summer?
Well SPARK has and we will have a lot of ideas for you all in one place.

SPARK's mission is to give families of children with disabilities information on their options of recreational, therapeutic, and educational activities for the summer. We know summer can bring its challenges and we want to help.

Over 30 vendors will be on hand to help you make great decisions in order for your child to not only have a safe, structured and productive summer, but to have a lot of fun, as well. Who wouldn't want that?

The Summer Vendor Fair is being held Monday, February 25th from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the Winston Campus cafeteria, 900 E. Palatine Road in Palatine.

SPARK—Special Education Parents Accessing Resources and Knowledge is a Northwest Suburban Council PTA committee.

Any questions, please contact Lisa Traina, NWSC PTA SPARK Coordinator at Ltaina@hotmail.com or (847) 358-7828



Congratulations to all PTA Reflections participants

Thank you to all our Whiteley participants who submitted entries for the PTA Reflections program, *I Can Make A Difference By*. Our students submitted outstanding projects this year. Over 700 projects were turned in throughout our school district. Unfortunately none of our projects advanced onto the next level. But you can view all the projects submitted at the annual Reflections Showcase on February 25th at Carl Sandburg Junior High. Hope to see many of you there.

The PTA thanks all our participants for sharing their fine work with all of us. We are very proud of you.

- Roberta Del Giudice, PTA Reflections Coordinator

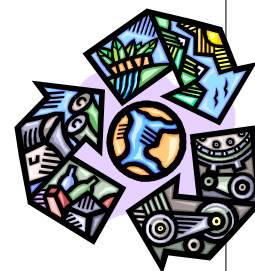
Happy "Green" Year from your Environmental Education Committee

Have you made any resolutions for the year?

Have you thought about adding recycling more or buying recycled items to that list of resolutions?

In a lifetime the average American will throw away more than 600 times his adult weight in garbage. This means everyone leaves a legacy of over 100,000 pounds of trash for his or her children. Recycling helps us more than most people realize and it is not that hard. There is more than throwing papers and plastic into that big, green bin. Recycling helps preserve the world, and keeps it cleaner and healthier.

An important part of recycling is the 3 R's. They stand for reduce, reuse and recycle. These are usually represented by three arrows that make a loopy triangle. The first arrow is for collection. You collect items to be recycled, and put them in the recycling bin. The truck will pick them up, and bring those things to the factory. The second arrow is for when the items get turned into new recycled things. Finally, the third arrow is *our* job. We should buy things made out of recycled products, or things that can be recycled. They can be recognized by the recycling sign.



Well, what can you do to help? The next time you go to the store, buy recycled items (recycled paper), or things that can be recycled. Remember, every little thing you recycle will help the Earth in a big way. The future of our earth is in your hands.

Did you know?

- * For every ink or laser toner cartridge that is recycled two quarts of oil are kept out of the landfills.
- * The number of ink jet and toner cartridges thrown away in one year is enough to circle the world.
- * It takes 1,000 years for an ink jet or toner cartridge to decompose in a landfill.
- * Recycling ink jet and toner cartridges reduces the amount of toxic chemicals absorbed into the earth.

Whiteley Recycles

Cell phones: We need 60 more before we can turn them in for cash. Spread the news.

Cartridges: We have turned in 86 eligible cartridges for \$3 each and have recycled over 200 more.

Shoes: We have collected 40 pairs.

Keep those cell phones, ink jet cartridges, toners, athletic shoes, glasses and rechargeable batteries coming.

*- Marlisa W and Grace Y
PTA Environmental Education Committee members*

P.S. Our next waste free lunch is February 26th



College fever infects Whiteley students

At Whiteley School, No Excuses University has taken a firm hold. You can see it in the hallways with the display of banners, posters, and students proudly wearing the colors of “their” university. You can hear it as you pass by a classroom singing their fight song, giving a cheer, or a child saying, “When I go to college...” You can feel the excitement when students get a package from their university or as they rip open their latest pen pal letter from their college buddy. All of these things add up to an extra dose of spirit these days at Whiteley. Several of the classes have even had people from their university visit them here. Mrs. Zeivel’s class has been adopted by the University of Iowa. They have pen pals from the university and the pen pals came to visit bringing along a very special visitor, the mascot Herky Hawkeye. The Iowa students showed a video on Iowa, answered the kids’ questions about college, brought a goodie bag for each student, and played Iowa bingo with them. Herky signed autographs and was full of spirit and mischief, even going over to the 6th grade Michigan class and writing “Go Hawks” on their board. At the end of the day, one of the kids said, “This was my best day ever!”

Mrs. Zeman’s Loyola Ramblers had a visitor from Loyola. Justin Sorensen, Mrs. Sorensen’s son, came to talk and do a presentation for the 5th graders. He told the students that the time to prepare for college was right now. He explained how being organized and giving your full effort were things that they were learning now and would be necessary for them to succeed in college. He explained how majors worked and gave them a picture of life on the campus of Loyola.

Mrs. Hyla’s class had a visit from two people connected with the University of Indiana. One, who came all decked in red, was Mrs. Hyla’s dad who is an Indiana alum. He taught the fight song to the students and left a lasting impression— after all these years he still has strong allegiance to the university (and he remembers the fight song.) He told the students how college got him a good job and some of the differences between college today and college 50 years ago. They also had a visit from former Whiteley student and current Indiana student, Hailey Hartman. Hailey brought a Whiteley connection to the kids because she was once sitting exactly where they are now. Hailey told the kids about the importance of grades and being involved in clubs and sports. She shared with them what life is like on the IU campus.

C

Herky Hawkeye, the University of Iowa mascot poses with Mrs. Zeivel and her fifth graders.

Mrs. Zeman's Loyola Ramblers welcomed Assistant Principal Debbie Sorensen's son, Justin to their class last month.

Mrs. Bolger's second grade class got a visit from Mrs. Bolger's son, Michael. He is a student at Auburn University. The second graders had many questions for him about college, and he shared with them his personal college experiences.

The 6th grade Illini Nation got a visit from Mrs. Slavicek's son, Dan. Because he grew up in District 15 and went to Fremd, he knows exactly the path our students will take to college. He discussed things that he experienced (and they will) at all levels and how this leads to success in college.

Miss Grupe's brother, a student at Winona State, came in as well. Her students got to interact with a real, live college student as he read to them. The knowledge that college students have taken the time to come and visit makes our Whiteley students feel very special. "We're going to college!"

- Mrs. Cindy Zeivel, 5th Grade Teacher

What is "No Excuses University"?

No Excuses University is a network of K-8 schools that share this common pledge:

"We are committed to creating a school that knows no limits to the academic success of each student."

No Excuses University schools are part of an elite network of schools that aggressively promotes college readiness for every student. They do this by embracing cultures of universal achievement and creating exceptional systems. Educators at No Excuses Universities believe they have the power to influence every student to be academically successful, even those who are most at risk. This is a radical concept, but No Excuses Universities are making it a reality every day.

Every No Excuses University has a well-defined process for identifying and creating exceptional systems. The following core exceptional systems are in place or in process at every No Excuses University school: **collaboration focused on academic proficiency for all students; curriculum aligned to academic standards; assessment that is meaningful to teachers; data that is readily accessible and interventions** (academic and social).

Reference: www.turnaroundschools.com



[Science is] a great game. It is inspiring and refreshing. The playing field is the universe itself.

- Isidor Isaac Rabi (1898-1988)
U.S. physicist. Nobel prize 1944.

[Science is] an imaginative adventure of the mind seeking truth in a world of mystery.

- Sir Cyril Herman Hinshelwood (1897-1967)
English chemist. Nobel prize 1956.

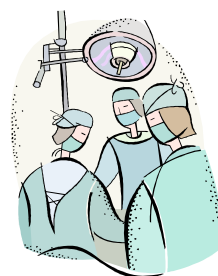
Fun interactive Science Web sites

BATTLE THE VIRUSES

In the **NanoSurgeon Game**, students assume the role of a doctor who has been selected to take part in a revolutionary technique for healing at the microscopic level. Are they up to the challenge?

Web: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/staticfiles/NGS/NGKids/Game/GameFiles/NanoSurgeon/>

Note to e-newsletter subscribers: The above link may not work, please type in the URL manually to access the game.

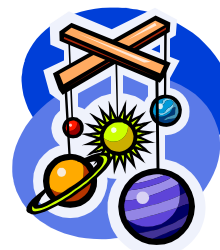


FUN WITH THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Solar System Trading Cards is a simple Web-based **interactive game** in which students answer factual questions about the Solar System and collect "Solar System trading cards".

A fun way to review concepts.

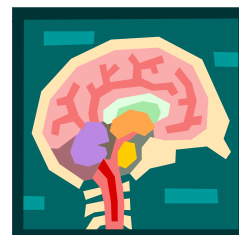
Web: <http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/trading/directions.html>



A REMARKABLE MACHINE

Stimulate the brain and find out how this fantastically complex organ is the body's primary control system. Feed the body different foods and find out how the digestive system is the body's fuel factory. Watch how aging and stresses like cuts and sunlight can affect the body's largest organ—the skin. Explore these and other workings of the human body on this **National Geographic** site.

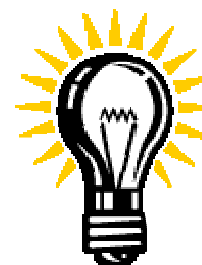
Web: www.nationalgeographic.com/guides/science/humanbody/index.html



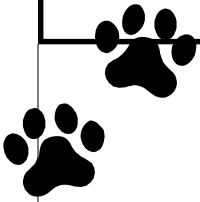
"SHOCKING" DISCOVERIES

Thomas Alva Edison changed our world. His genius gave us electric lights in our home and an entire system that produced and delivered electrical power. He was the first to record sound, and he also started the recording industry. Edison developed the first movie camera and produced the first movies. Learn more about this creative genius and his inventions with the "**Edison Invents**" online interactive. You'll be "shocked" at what you discover!

Web: <http://invention.smithsonian.org/centerpieces/edison/>



Reference: Saddleback Solutions, January 2008 newsletter



A Wildcat thank you goes to ...

Clarissa Pawlikowski— who has joined us as a volunteer for Market Day.

- Judi Offord and Barb Downing, Market Day Coordinators

Teachers **Julie Saez and Cindy Zeivel**—for contributing articles and pictures to our PTA newsletter this month. It truly demonstrates that we have a **Parent Teacher Association** newsletter here at Whiteley.

Marnie Bushmole—for our teacher interviews and “polishing up” the newsletter pictures.

- Jennifer Mondy, editor

Mary Beth Warner and Mary-Frances Conway—for coordinating the Holiday Gift Program at Whiteley for Palatine Township children. Job well done.

Mary Whiteside—for our second MANNA order. I can’t wait to order more gift cards.

Judi Offord and Barb Downing—for keeping Market Day at Whiteley. You have it “under control”.

Jennifer Mondy—for your continued work on the newsletter, Web site and for notes from the Board of Education meetings. You definitely keep everyone well informed.

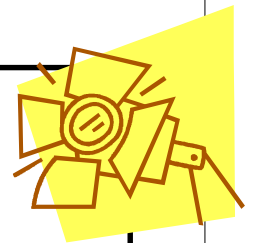
Terri Pullara—for arranging the Orbit Skate Night. Looks like the kids had fun.

Julie Saez—for introducing our children to Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld, the authors of “the OK book”. I heard great things about the assembly and the kids all seemed to really enjoy it.

Dorothy Naumowicz—for arranging the Chicago Storm game at the Sears Centre. I appreciate you offering to coordinate the event.

- Jennifer Nemeec, PTA President

***Spotlight on the Board* notes for the January 24th Special Board meeting**



Superintendent Selection Process

Board discussion revolved around the process that was taken last week of narrowing down the candidate pool after first interviews were conducted. Some Board members wanted a full discussion of each candidate’s pros and cons before voting so that everyone’s viewpoints could be expressed.

Process to Select New Superintendent

The Board unanimously agreed to discuss the candidates prior to determining which ones would be invited back for a second interview.

Full detailed *Spotlight on the Board* notes for this meeting can be found at www.fcwpta.org/board_notes.htm



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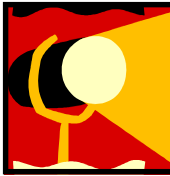
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2007 IL PTA Web site Award of Merit
2007 IL PTA Newsletter Award of Excellence
2006 IL PTA Newsletter Honorable Mention



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 January 9th Regular Board meeting

Options: 2008-2009 Transportation Plan

The administration is recommending a three tier busing system next year with starting times of 7:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 8:55 a.m. in order to shorten bus routes, reduce the number of students on each route and allow for flexibility. Software simulated bus routes will be created for the proposed plan in order to compare when students are getting on the buses now vs. the three-tier system, prior to final Board approval. Some Board members are concerned about the bell time for the first tier and whether the routes will be short enough to account for the earlier start time. Other members believe that the current system isn't efficient, costs to retain additional buses/drivers are too high and three tiers would provide better service and safety. The Board is expected to vote on the plan at the February 13th Board meeting so that routes can begin to be rescheduled.

Proposed Policy –

Operational Services: Fiscal and Business Management

A recommendation by the Finance Committee to set a reserve guideline was challenged by several Board members. They argued that the committee was not given the authority to review/create policy and financial parameters need to be established by the full Board. The policy was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Finance Committee Report—Several Board members questioned the original charge of the committee and its recent meeting minutes that indicated it discussed items not directed by the entire Board. Committee members outlined how it had been operating with administrators bringing issues forward for feedback and discussion while working on next year's budget presentation.

Bus Bids including Purchase or Lease for Remainder of 2007/08

The Board was split over the decision to purchase or lease fourteen buses to replace the expiring Laidlaw contract and to allow for spares. Arguments in favor of a purchase or lease/purchase included upgrading the current fleet and selling older buses with increased maintenance costs. Those preferring a one-year lease cited the recent purchase of twenty buses this past year and if a three tier system is approved, additional buses will not be needed.

Motion to approve the lease of 14 buses on a one-year basis. Approved 4:3 (Yes: Millar, Quinn, Rowden, Keenan; No: Carlson, Chapman, Ekeberg)

Full detailed *Spotlight on the Board* notes for this meeting can be found at www.fcwpta.org/board_notes.htm The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 13th**, 7 p.m. at Sundling Jr. High in Palatine.

Proposed Three-tier Transportation System 2008/2009*

Whiteley School—Tier 3

Start time 8:55 a.m.

End time 3:25 p.m.

Plum Grove JH—Tier 1

Start time 7:30 a.m.

End time 2:00 p.m.

Two-tier Proposal*

Whiteley School—Tier 2

8:50 a.m.—3:20 p.m.

Plum Grove JH—Tier 1

7:50 a.m.—2:20 p.m.

*As presented at the January 9th, 2008 Regular Board of Education meeting.