



Whiteley Cat Tales

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FRANK C. WHITELEY PTA NEWSLETTER 2003 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and welcome back to school! My name is Anita Jamnik and I am the new PTA President. Let me take a moment and tell you who I am. I am married to Ed and work part-time. I have a daughter, Elizabeth in 5th grade this year and my son, David started 7th grade at Plum Grove. I've been involved with the PTA since David was in Kindergarten, with Kindergym, Yearbook and Programs and enjoy spending time at school volunteering for the teachers.

Whiteley School is going to look different in some ways this year, due to the budget cuts that have been made following the failed referendum. The PTA is committed to supporting our school and staff in any way

we can. We will be taking over the Moms and Munchies and Dads and Donuts events that the school used to sponsor. We will also help provide funding for in-school field trips for the kids, since off campus field trips have been eliminated this year. You can help us meet these goals by participating in our fall fundraiser.

If every family even bought one item from our fall fundraiser, we would far exceed our fundraising goals.

We still have some openings on the PTA; we are looking for someone to take on Environmental Education, Feature Creature, Reflections and Scholarship. Please be aware that it doesn't take any special talent to head up a

committee, it just takes a parent who cares. Please consider joining our board! Things to look for in the next month: Our major fundraiser —EPI wrapping paper will begin on September 9th and order forms will be due September 30th. Our Fall Festival will be held on October 7th from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., and Dads and Donuts is scheduled for October 14th. Mark your calendars!

If you are interested in joining the PTA, or have questions, please feel free to call me, my number is 847-776-0531 or email me: ajamnik@comcast.net I look forward to a successful school year for our children and staff!
Anita Jamnik
PTA President

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I'd like to introduce myself as the new newsletter editor. My name is Jennifer Mondy and I have two sons - Matthew (5th) and Michael (1st). My husband's name is Pat and he has helped me quite a bit with this newsletter. In the past, I have been a Kindergym volunteer for both my sons, a Room Parent (twice) and last year I volunteered in the

Resource Center. This year, I decided to take the leap and move onto the PTA Board. My goal is to provide not only a newsletter that informs you of PTA and school events, but one that will encourage you to take an active part in your child's education. I hope to accomplish this through reprinting articles of interest from various publications and websites. In addition, I plan to

have a regular Q&A section where you can ask questions and I will find the right person to answer them for you.

If you have any questions or have an article to share with our school community, please send them to me at: fcwnews@comcast.net

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Calendar of Events

- 8/30 Parent Orientation**
6:30 - 8:15 p.m.
- 9/5 Labor Day Holiday**
- 9/9 EPI Fundraiser Begins**
- 9/14 School Board Meeting**
7 p.m. - Sundling Jr. HS
- 9/15 PTA Meeting 7:15 pm**
Room Parent Tea
3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
- 9/16 Newsletter Deadline**
- 9/19 Picture Day**
NWSC PTA Meeting
7 p.m. at Winston Campus Jr. HS
- 9/20 School Store Opens**
- 9/21 Market Day Pickup**
5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
- 9/23 EPI Fundraiser Ends**
- 9/30 EPI Forms Due**
- 10/7 Fall Festival**
- 10/14 Dads and Donuts**



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents:

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer vacation. I am looking forward to the 2005-2006 school year. I know that many of you have had the pleasure of speaking to our new secretary, Mrs. Kathy Weber. Kathy worked in the office of Winston Campus. She is excited to be a part of the Whiteley staff and is looking forward to meeting our families.

In the newsletter, you will also find an introduction of our new Assistant Principal, Ms. Tamara Borck. I look forward to working with Ms. Borck on Wednesdays, Fridays and alternating Mondays.

Mr. Keith McKinnie is our new Head Custodian. Keith worked at Lake Louise School. He also has experience working as the Director of Environmental Services at an area nursing home.

Mr. McKinnie is looking forward to meeting the staff and students. We also have two night custodians who are new to Frank C. Whiteley, but experienced in District 15.

Mr. Dale Hernandez and Mr. Jim Michaels are always willing to assist when needed.

Our new Resource Center Teacher is Mr. Ken Skelnik.

Mr. Skelnik has been a teacher, building assistant and resource center teacher in District 15. Mr. Skelnik will be at Jane Addams and Frank C. Whiteley schools.

It was nice to visit with those of you who stopped by the office during the summer. This year, we will have less office clerical support. Mrs. Weber and I will do our best to answer your phone calls in an expedient manner. We would greatly appreciate your patience as we try to insure that your questions and calls are answered.

I look forward to a great year with our wonderful Whiteley families!

Mrs. Mary Szuch, Principal

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I am thrilled to be a member of District 15 as I assume the position of Assistant Principal for both Frank C. Whiteley and Stuart R.. Paddock elementary schools. Previously, I taught in Schaumburg School District 54 where I focused on sixth, seventh and eighth grade science, language arts, and social studies in a multi-age K-8 building. I recently graduated with honors from Northern Illinois University with a master's degree in Educational Administration. Of personal interest, this Memorial Day I became engaged to the son of a former teaching colleague and wedding plans are in process for next summer. I look forward to serving my respective schools, students and families in the coming years and to an exciting and successful school year.

Ms. Tamara Borck

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

PTA BOARD OPPORTUNITIES - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Remember, we still have some openings on our PTA board!

Take a look at these opportunities for you to get more involved in your child's school, meet more parents, learn first-hand what is happening at our school and the district. And have some fun too!

If you need more information, feel free to contact Anita Jamnik at 847-776-0531 or by email: ajamnik@comcast.net.

SCHOLARSHIP:

This committee applies for lifetime memberships and

state awards offered through the Illinois State PTA. These awards are generally given to retiring teachers or PTA parents who have made a significant impact in the day-to-day lives of our students.

REFLECTIONS:

This committee is responsible for distributing entry forms and submitting the entries for the statewide PTA reflections contest. This is a contest offered to students each year giving them the opportunity to express their thoughts and

feelings on a specific topic in any one of several different formats, such as, writing, art, photography, music or poetry.

ENVIRONMENTAL ED:

Creates awareness of environmental issues through promoting recycling programs, waste-free lunches, etc. Time commitment is ongoing and depends on how much the committee wants to do. Can possibly work on special "green" projects with other groups.

FEATURE CREATURE:

Still have your Fun Fair fish? Do you own a hamster, lizard or snake? Perhaps this board position is for you! Have you ever stopped to see what kind of critter is in the case outside the Resource Center? The children do and they love it! These "critters" are rotated in and out by this committee. The committee is also responsible for caring for the critters and/or arranging for care by others.

BECOME A ROOM PARENT - REWARD YOURSELF

Looking for a way to get to know your child's teacher and classmates better?

Sign up to be a Room Parent during Parent Orientation on Tuesday, August 30th. There will be signup sheets in each classroom.

Two parents are chosen for each class. If more than two parents sign up, we will use a lottery system.

Remember, you cannot be a Room Parent for the same child two years in a row. Room Parents will be notified by September 9th and asked to attend a Room Parent meeting on Thursday, September 15th after school.

As a Room Parent, you are responsible for the emergency call chain when we have a school closing as

well as planning, setting up and running both the Halloween and Valentines Day parties for the classroom. In addition, you are asked to assist the PTA with Membership and Teacher Appreciation tasks.

You may also be asked to work with the teacher on any special projects or field trips they need help with during the school year.

Remember you must be a registered member of the **Whiteley PTA** to be a Room Parent.

Any questions, contact Debbie Klonder at kmjboss@aol.com or Priscilla Sorrentino at theygotus@comcast.net.

KINDERGYM - FUN FOR EVERYONE

Have you signed up to help with Kindergym? It's not too late. We will have a parent orientation at the end of September.

Kindergym will begin in October and will meet once a week until April. We are also looking for parents who are willing to help with the bilingual classes.

For those of you who signed up at Kindergarten registration in April, we will be in contact with you as soon as we know the specific day and times that Kindergym will meet. If you have any questions, feel free to give either one of us a call.

Karen Aranza 358-2587
Jennifer Nemeč 934-8515

Please note that on the yellow PTA volunteer sheet that you received in the mail, BABYSITTING is NOT provided as stated on the sheet. We are sorry for that error.

"Being a Kindergym parent was as much fun for me as it was for the kids. I enjoyed getting to know the children and my son loved having his Mom volunteer at school."

- Anne Morel -
'04-'05
Volunteer

UNITY

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's
mind,
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher:
The tools she used were books and music
and art;
One was a parent
With a guiding hand and gentle loving
heart.

And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had
wrought.
For the things they had worked into the
child
Could never be sold or bought!

And each agreed she would have failed if
she had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher
stood the home!

- By Ray A. Lingenfelter

**Picture Day is
Monday,
September 19th.
Don't forget your
smiles!**

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES— GRADES 1 to 6

Please welcome to our school
community the following families
that are new to Whiteley this
year.

Arai Family: Tomaka - 5th
Borshell Family: Tyler - 1st
Cho Family: Gloria - 6th
Chon Family: Ho - 3rd,
Ben - 3rd, Min - 5th
Egan Family: Michael - 1st
Hirobyashi Family: Aran - 2nd,
Rinki - 3rd, Talju - 6th
Hirokado Family: Atsushi - 1st,
Nami - 3rd
Inoue Family: Satoshi - 6th

Konar Family:
Matthew - 6th .
Lee Family: Jenna - 4th
Liu Family: Emma - 1st
Lu Family: Tony - 2nd
Muppidi Family:
Prakhyath - 4th
Ooka Family: Ken - 1st
Rustomji Family:
Yazmin - 3rd
Sawada Family: Yuki - 2nd
Toyota Family: Rui - 1st
Ryo - 6th grade
Vitosh Family: Carson - K,
Nicholas - 2nd

WELCOME NEW KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

Please welcome our new families
that have Kindergarten children
in Mrs. Neumann's classes this
year.

Alonso Family: Ivy - p.m.
Brandts Family: Thomas - a.m.
Bushmole Family: Emily - p.m.
Cazarez Family: Dorian - a.m.
Chiba Family: Hirotsugu - a.m.
Cioch Family: Zuzanna - a.m.
Claver Family: Autumn - p.m.
Freveletti Family: Anna - a.m.
Grudek Family: Kyle - p.m.
Hanna Family: Julia - a.m.
Hu Family: Stephanie - a.m.
Iannuzzelli Family: Linda - a.m.
Jiang Family: Michelle - p.m.
Kim Family: Alexandria - a.m.
Lee Family: Seong Hee - p.m.
Lui Family: Simon - a.m.
McKernin Family: Morgan - a.m.
Nakata Family: Reina - a.m.
Okazaki Family: Taro - p.m.
Park Family: Matthew - a.m.

Schumacher Family:
Cheyanne - p.m.
Shimizu Family:
Hikari - a.m.
Smiarowska Family:
Julia - a.m.
Subramanian Family:
Kaavya - a.m.
To Family: Faithan - p.m.
Torlakovic Family:
Anida - p.m.
Une Family: Motoi - p.m.
Wu Family: Katherine - a.m.

WELCOME NEW KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES IN MRS. LUNA'S CLASSES

Please welcome these families to Whiteley's Kindergarten bilingual classes.

Morning class

Arroyo Family: Andrea
Brenes Family: John
Carbajal Family: Vincent
Carmona Family: Maria
Diaz Family: Leonel
Estrada Family: Juan
Garcia Family: Pedro
Garcia Family: Valeria
Gorgonio Family: Martin
Juarez Family: Manuel
Maldonado Family:
Brandon
Marban Family: Karina
Marin Cordova Family:
Lesley

Martinez Family: Valeria
Mejia Family: Jonathan
Paz-Flores Family: Luz
Perez Family: Christopher
Perez Family: Fernanda
Pina Family: Alejandro
Rodriguez Family: Adrian
Saravia Tercero Family:
Jason
Silva Family: Felipe
Valentin Family: Maximilian

Afternoon Class

Barcenas Family: Joseph
Camacho Family: Jacqueline
Carbajal Family: Lizabet
Dominguez Family: Fatima
Enciso Family: Anahi
Enriquez Family: Adrian
Gaytan Family: Brian
Gomez Family: Mariela

Gonzalez Family:
Juan Carlo
Hernandez Family: Kelly
Ignacio Family: Alejandro
Martinez Family: Guetzali
Mendoza Family: Brandon
Miranda Family: Oscar
Morales Family: Anayeli
Munoz Family: Kassandra
Obregon Family: Luis

Palmas Family: Mary Leisi
Puntos Family: John
Rojas Family: Deann
Salinas Family: Jesus
Teran Family: Elvis
Valencia Family: Ernesto

WELCOME NEW KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES IN MRS. HARMS' MORNING CLASS

Let us welcome these new Bilingual Kindergarten students and their families to Whiteley this year.

Acevedo Family: Christian
Balderas Family: Luzelena
Bardesi Family: Sergio
Barrera Family: Miguel
Brenes Family: Jilmer
Cardenas Family: Yaritza
Castro Family: Jennifer
Flores Family: Margarita
Gonzalez Family: Noe

Gurrola Family: Anna
Hernandez Family: Miguel
Lorenzo Family: Melissa
Martinez Family: Daniel
Medina Family: Gisselle
Medina Family: Jacqueline
Montes Family: Sebastian
Ocampo Family: Uvaldo
Palma Family: Jose
Torres Family: Daniela
Valencia Family: Kevin

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If children live with hostility,
They learn to fight.
If children live with ridicule,
They learn to be shy.
If children live with tolerance,
They learn to be patient.
If children live with encouragement,
They learn confidence.
If children live with praise,
They learn to appreciate.
If children live with fairness,
They learn justice.
If children live with security,
They learn faith.
If children live with approval,
They learn to like themselves.
If children live with acceptance,
and friendship,
They learn to find love in the world.

— Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

Welcome to Whiteley



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - CLIP & SAVE

Have you seen those Box Tops for Education coupons on some of your food purchases? Well, take a minute or two — cut them out and send them to school with your child. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents.

Remember, all monies received benefit our school and children. Here are the current Box Tops promotions.

BOX TOPS & JEWEL SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL PROMO:

Receive 20 Bonus Box Tops instantly at checkout when you buy **\$10 worth** of par-

ticipating General Mills Box Tops for Education products between 8/24/05 and 9/07/05. Each time you purchase **\$10 worth** of participating products, you will get a 20 Bonus Box Tops register receipt at the checkout. If you receive any of these, please submit them to school as soon as you can because they expire at the end of September.

DOUBLE BOX TOPS:

Beginning in July for a limited time only, over 40 select Box Tops products will carry not just one, but

TWO Box Tops coupons. That **DOUBLES** the regular Box Tops earnings! Clip both of the Box Tops and we earn 20 cents from each of these special packages.

CLIP 3 BOX TOPS WITH BREAKFAST:

For a limited time, you can clip **THREE** Box Tops from Pillsbury Dunkables (Waffle Sticks, Mini Pancakes and French Toast Sticks), Pillsbury Waffles (16 ct.) and Pillsbury Pancakes (12 ct.) . Purchase these products and Whiteley earns 30 cents.

BETTY CROCKER CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE POUCH:

This year, each pouch of cookie mix will carry **TWO** Box Tops Coupons. Whiteley can earn 20 cents with each batch of cookies. Watch for new packages featuring **TWO** Box Tops coupons coming soon to your local store.

For more information, contact Jennifer Nemec
nnemecfamily@msn.com.

LAST YEAR, WHITELEY RECEIVED \$1,954 FROM GENERAL MILLS BY CLIPPING AND SENDING IN BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!

THIS YEAR'S GOAL IS \$2,000 ! WE CAN DO IT !

WHITELEY SPIRIT WEAR

Did you receive your Whiteley Spirit Wear order form in the mail this month? Did you fill it out and send it in? If not, don't worry — Whiteley Spirit Wear will be available for sale during Parent Orientation Night on Tuesday, August 30th. Orders are due Friday, September 9th. Stop by the Spirit Wear table during Parent Orienta-

tion to see all of the items available for sale. Show your school spirit — both you and your child! Please make checks payable to: F.C. Whiteley PTA. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Robinson at 847-359-8217.

JOIN THE PTA TODAY - SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

One of the many ways that you can sponsor your child's school is to become a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Member. **Becoming a member does not mean that you have to serve on a PTA committee or donate time!** However, in order to join, you must submit \$8 per family or \$4 per single parent family for membership

dues. These dues will automatically entitle you to receive a **FREE** copy of the Whiteley School Directory. You ask, "Why do I need this?" It is **HELPFUL!** In the directory, you will find information such as:

- Names, addresses & phone numbers for all the families that are members of the PTA
- Direct telephone num-

bers for your child's teacher

- Other important school numbers
- Names, addresses & phone numbers for all local business's that support our school

Please send in your completed form with your dues and become a member **TODAY!**

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PARTICIPATION AND SO WILL YOUR CHILD! Your dues support PTA sponsored programs for our children. It is a worthwhile investment! **Additional forms will be available during Parent Orientation Night, August 30th.**

TIMES OF OUR LIVES - By John G. Ramsay - From the Nat'l PTA Website

School brings a surge of scheduling challenges that can rule with a tyrannical hand if we forget to ask and answer the most basic questions: What do we want schedules to do for our families? What kinds of regularly scheduled activities will strengthen our families and help our kids succeed at home and in school? Below are some activities my wife and I build into our daily and weekly schedules. When our schedules work, it's because they reflect what we value as a family. The challenge is finding that balance of solitary and social, home and school, and practice and pleasure activities.

Getting ready time:

Kids need to arrive at school rested, alert, and ready to learn. Vital literacy and math lessons often take place in the morning. Arriving late, drowsy, and out-of-sorts is a sure way to fall behind. Do what you can to rouse your child's body and mind into a state of wakefulness. Morning rituals can help: the bowl of cereal, listening to news on the radio, and re-checking the backpack.

Teacher time:

Volunteering or visiting at your child's school is an opportunity to build a working partnership with your child's teacher. It sends an important message to the entire staff: "I care how my child is

doing in school." And it sends the same message to your child.

Friend time:

Each new school year brings changes in children's friendships. They'll need help cultivating new friendships and reviving old ones. For the parents of younger children that means planning, phone calls and transportation. As kids move into 4th and 5th grade, they're able to learn the skills to make these arrangements and rearrangements by and for themselves.

Playtime:

Kids can arrive home from school only slightly less worn and grumpy than adults getting home from work. Games, hobbies or a game of catch with a parent will help them decompress and restore their energies.

Reading time:

Parents often assume that the kids do plenty of reading in school - not so. The school day is crammed with activities and distractions that make it hard for kids to choose books to read. Reading aloud with them is an occasion for conversation and a good strategy for minimizing TV time.

Down time:

Instead of stacking one activity after the next, schedule ample slack time between events. That way the horrible feeling of running late all day and all week won't begin to feel normal.

Adventure time:

When was the last time you took your kids to some local place - a park, store or museum where they've never been before? Adventures help to restore our curiosity about the unknown, break out of routines, and savor a sense of spontaneity, and they're a lot cheaper than vacations.

Practice time:

All of the world need not be a stage, but some part of the home should be a study carrel or rehearsal booth. Kids are learning a repertoire of new skills that they need to consolidate if they're going to move ahead with confidence. That means daily practice and supportive, informed feedback: "You almost have it. Try it one more time."

Debriefing time:

Parents feel guilty if they miss dinner with their kids. Dinnertime is important - it's a means to catch up on the events and moods, small victories and setbacks of the day.

Backpack time:

What's in that bulging beast with the broken zipper anyway? The backpack may be the tortoise of the information age, but it remains the primary courier pigeon between school and home. It is filled with assignments, newsletters and permission slips - crumpled papers that need attentive sifting and deciphering.

Phone call time:

Once you see what's in the backpack, it's likely that you'll want to reach for the phone to ask another parent, for example: "Is the field trip to the North Pole real or virtual?" Create a network of adults whose parenting you respect. Ask for help to get you through those impossible moments when job and family require you to be in two places at one time.

Bedtime:

Bedtime is bedlam at my house. By 10 p.m., my three boys are revving up for an hour of horseplay, and my wife and I are zombies, desperate for sleep. I own no wisdom about bedtime, but I know one thing that works - thinking ahead. Get ready for the morning - clothes, cereal, lunches and school supplies. Your morning will go more smoothly if you've organized it the night before.

Remember the three keys to sane scheduling during the school year are clarity, discipline and flexibility. Be clear about the kind of priority moments you want for your family. Be disciplined about creating the kinds of routines your kids need to do well in school. Be flexible enough to admit that the best-laid plans don't always work.

10 WAYS FOR PARENTS TO HELP TEACHERS - By Mimi Doe - From the Nat'l PTA Website

District 15's actual class sizes are from 21 to 35 students this year.

Grades 1 - 6 are averaging 27.6

Grades 7 - 8 are averaging 28.6

The District average is 27.8 vs. 24.6 last year

- This information was reported at the Board of Education meeting held August 10, 2005

Many teachers have written to me over the years, frustrated with how unprepared their students are - and they don't mean academically. Chris, a kindergarten teacher, wrote what many teachers have expressed, "I would love it if you could write a 10 tips for parents to help us teachers do our increasingly demanding job. Many parents of children I teach have left the job of spiritual, character and social/emotional education to me. I can't do it all in addition to teaching academic skills. I'm getting burned out and pretty soon won't have the energy to nourish one child let alone 25."

So here goes - my 10 tips:

1. Create a smooth take-off each day. Give your child a hug before she ventures out the door and you head to work. Look her in the eye, and tell her how proud you are of her. Your child's self-confidence and security will help her do well both in school and in life.
2. Prepare for a happy landing at the end of the day when you reconvene. Create a predictable ritual such as 10-20 minutes listening to your child talk about his day - before you check phone messages, read the mail or begin dinner. That way you are fully present to listen and your child has a touchstone he can count on between school and home.
3. Fill your child's lunchbox with healthy snacks and lunches. Have dinner at a reasonable hour and a healthy breakfast. A well-balanced diet maximizes your child's learning potential.
4. Include calm, peaceful times in your children's afternoons and evenings. Maintain a schedule that allows them to go to school rested, and if they are sick, have a system in place so they are able to stay home.
5. Remember it's your children's homework, not yours. Create a specific homework space that's clutter-free and quiet. Encourage editing and double-checking work, but allow your kids to make mistakes, as it's the only way teachers can gauge if they understand the material. It's also how children learn responsibility for the quality of their work.
6. Fill your child's life with a love for learning by showing him your own curiosity, respecting his questions, and encouraging his efforts.
7. Fill your home with books to read, books simply to look at and books that provide answers to life's many questions. The public or school library is an excellent resource.
8. Be a partner with your child's teacher. When you need to speak to him or her in reference to a specific issue with your child, do it privately, not in front of your child. Make a point never to criticize your child's teacher in front of your child.
9. Set up a system where routine items are easily located - such as backpacks, shoes, signed notices. Create a central calendar for upcoming events to avoid the unexpected.
10. Tuck a 'love note' in your child's lunch bag to let her know how special she is. Knowing they are loved makes it easier for children to be kind to others.

Mark your calendar! The next District 15 School Board meeting is Wednesday, September 14th at 7 p.m. at Sundling Jr. High School on Smith Street in Palatine.

THANK YOU CORNER

To Kathy Mathias, Heidi Sahli, Paula Neubauer, and Leanna Rublaitus:
For all of your hard work this summer on the PTA audit.

To Paula Neubauer, Liesl Ignoffo, Candy Borst, Gayle Bernacki, Jennifer Nemec and Anita Jamnik:
For your outstanding efforts in putting together a balanced PTA budget.

To Heidi Sahli, Kathy Mathias, Jennifer Nemec, Jennifer Mondy, Priscilla Sorrentino and Anita Jamnik:
Thanks for helping stuff the August PTA mailing so that Mrs. Szuch and Kathy Weber could include the Teacher Assignment sheets and save postage.

To Kathy Weber, our school secretary:
Thanks for all of your help in compiling the names of new Whiteley Families so that they could be listed in the newsletter and welcomed to our School community.

To Mrs. Szuch, our Principal:
Your continued support to the PTA is greatly appreciated. We are all Looking forward to a successful school year!

FALL FESTIVAL

Friday, October 7th

This year we will be celebrating the back-to-school picnic as the "Fall Festival"! Come join us for some great food, DJ, Dad's Chili Contest, Moon Walk, Popcorn, Bake Sale and just good fun. So, come out and join in the fun with your family and friends!

Location: F.C. Whiteley School
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers needed, please call Liesl Ignoffo at 847-359-5868. We look forward to seeing all of you!

Liesl Ignoffo, Programs

Sponsored by the FCW PTA

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Dear Editor:

I'd like to volunteer more at school but I work full-time and have 3 children. Are there any volunteer opportunities for someone like me?
- Whiteley parent of 3

Dear Parent:

Yes, there are several things you can do to help the school. Take a look at the yellow volunteer form that came in the mail two weeks ago. There are several events that are held in the evenings in which we need assistance. For example, the Fall Festival on October 7th, the Book Fair in November, Market Day, and/or assisting with PTA membership registration at the Fall Festival and Parent Orientation Night. If you have any questions, call Bark Stark at 934-1809.

Dear Editor

Do we have to purchase wrapping paper and other items in order to raise money for our school? Can I just make a cash donation?
- A 5th grade parent

Dear 5th grade parent:

YES and NO. Yes, you can make a cash donation to Whiteley's PTA in order to support our school-sponsored activities. This can be done at any time during the school year. And NO, you do not have to buy wrapping paper, although EPI sure does have some high-quality papers for those extra-special occasions in life! Make sure you take a look at the brochure when your child brings it home in September. You just may be surprised at what you find inside.

Dear Editor:

I've heard of a group called SPARK – what is it all about?
- Interested Parent

Dear Interested:

SPARK stands for Special Education Parents Accessing Resources and Knowledge. It is designed for families whose children learn differently or have special needs. We have a PTA committee that keeps us informed on any meetings or presentations that this group holds. Information will be made available in the newsletter as we receive it.

**PLEASE SEND ANY GENERAL QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING THE SCHOOL OR PTA EVENTS TO:
FCWNEWS@COMCAST.NET**

The next PTA Board Meeting is Thursday, September 15th At 7:15 p.m. in the staff lounge.

**A PTA Publication,
Illinois PTA, District 37**

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2003 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon
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NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL PTA MEETING

Please join the Northwest Suburban Council PTA (NWSC) for an evening of laughter and bonding with Daily Herald columnist, author, speaker and parent - Deb DiSandro.

Deb DiSandro will be speaking during NWSC's general membership meeting on September 19th at 7 p.m. at Winston Campus, Palatine.

For more information, contact Lisa Hanson-Braun at 847-705-8567 or LHBhome@aol.com

WEBSITES YOU SHOULD KNOW

District 15	www.ccsd15.net
Illinois PTA	www.illinoispta.org
National PTA	www.pta.org

Send me any other website addresses that you have found helpful to your child's education:
fcwnews@comcast.net

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING - REVIEW

There were over 75 people in attendance at the August 10th meeting of the District 15 School Board.

Three new principals and five new assistant principals introduced themselves to the public, including Tamara Borck.

Following the introductions, a comprehensive communications plan was presented to the school board and those in attendance.

The administration stated that it needs to increase its communication to the district.

Approximately 78% of the taxpayers do not have children in District 15 schools and therefore, have not been as informed as to the state of the district as those with children in the schools.

It was stated that a newsletter will be mailed to the entire community, which consists of 55,000 households, either 2 or 4 times a year. There will be a reply mechanism so that people can send in questions and receive answers.

Emphasis was placed on the fact that this will be a two-way communication with the public, not just one-way.

Prior to the start of the meeting, board members and administrators met with village officials and others to discuss how they can better communicate with each other.

More meetings are planned to include village leaders, business people, park district officials, building managers and parents. Also discussed was the

creation of a Parent Advisory Council to the School Board. It was stressed that parents have different issues than businesses in the district. Therefore, parents must have an outlet to address their concerns.

The administration informed the School Board that they are constantly upgrading and enhancing the district's website. There are plans to add the email addresses of board members so that citizens can provide them with feedback. Additional financial data will also be available on the website so that the public knows exactly where the district is spending its money.

Finally, plans are underway to videotape and televise future school board meetings.

The school board president asked that a formal plan be presented by the September meeting. Besides the outline of the communications plan for the district, the student assignment/attendance report was given. Actual classroom numbers this year are between 21 and 35 students per class. The average in grades 1 to 6 is 27.6 per class. The district average overall is 27.8 vs. 24.6 last year. It is the highest since 1981. They stated that the numbers may change as the school year starts due to no-shows, walk-ins and move ins to the district.

- Meeting reviewed by
Jennifer Mondy,
Newsletter Editor