



Whiteley Cat Tales

A PTA Publication,
Illinois PTA, District 37

Volume 17, Issue 2
October, 2005

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

PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our school year is off to a good start! It doesn't really take too long to get back in the routine, does it? I have just a few reminders this month to write about.

Our main fundraiser, the EPI wrapping paper sale is now underway. Please keep in mind that if every family participated in our wrapping paper sale by purchasing even one item, our goals would be far exceeded and we would not need to do anymore fundraising for the entire year! If you really feel like you don't want any more "stuff", consider making a direct donation to the Whiteley PTA. Your donation is tax deductible, and don't forget to check to see if your employer makes matching donations!

As all of us who drive our kids to school or pick them up are aware, traffic around the school can be challenging, at best. The school staff and PTA have been working hard to come up with ways to provide the safest environment for our kids in the morning. The following procedures will ensure the safety of pedestrians:

* There will be only one lane open in the circle in the morning. We are asking that when you come into the circle, please **proceed past the school door** to the northernmost point in the circle. Your child can walk back to the door and enter the school.

* If you, the driver, need to exit your car *for any reason* such as helping your child out of the car, or retrieving a backpack from the trunk, **please pull into a parking space.**

* Our goal is to fill the circle, empty the cars of the kids, and refill the circle with the next load of cars. If everyone cooperates, this process can take less than 15 minutes to get **all** the kids into school!

* Finally, a message from our crossing guards: Please make sure you come to a **complete STOP** at the stop signs around the school. Our crossing guards are not allowed to provide traffic control, it is up to us to follow the basic Rules of the Road.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Fall Festival on Friday, October 7th. It will be a lot of fun for everyone! Make sure you consider insect repellent as there will be many activities to participate in out on the blacktop and in the "pit".

Finally, a great big thank you to all of you parents who have stepped up in this first month to help get our school year off to a good start. Our first graders had lots of help the first couple of weeks opening snack bags and purchasing their lunches. People helping with traffic in the morning made traffic move more efficiently.

- Anita Jamnik, PTA President

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Calendar of Events

- 9/30 EPI Forms Due
- 10/4 School Store Open
SPARK Meeting
- 10/7 Fall Festival
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 10/10 Columbus Day
- 10/11 Attendance Day
Board of Education
Meeting at 7 p.m.
- 10/14 Dads and Donuts
8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
- 10/18 School Store Open
- 10/19 Market Day Pickup
5:15 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
- 10/20 PTA Meeting 7 p.m.
- 10/21 Newsletter Deadline
- 10/25 Picture Retakes
- 10/30 Daylight Savings
Time Ends
- 10/31 Halloween Parties
- 11/1 SPARK Meeting

NOTE: There IS school on Tuesday, October 11th! Change your calendar.

Don't forget! EPI order forms are due Friday, September 30th. Remember, it's for the kids! See page 10 for the details.

**National
PTA**
everychild.one voice.®

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Well, it is hard to believe that the first month of school is behind us. We appreciate all the parents that attended our Parent Orientation on August 30th. Thank you to all our volunteers who assisted our first graders in the cafeteria the first two weeks of school. Our first graders are adjusting to their full day schedule. This year, I wanted to weave a thread of community service throughout our school. The staff and I have created the Whiteley Service Club that will include all students and staff. The philosophy of the club is to promote civic beliefs and responsibility. The club will meet one Wednesday a month in the gym. There will be ten meetings with each class in Grades 1 - 6 represented by three to four students as class leaders. Each child in the class will have an opportunity to be a class leader. The club will also include safety patrol and student tutors. Our projects for the year will be directed toward senior citizens, veterans and children.

In August, the class leaders shared information about the October 7th Book Exchange as well as future plans for Veteran's Day. We have had numerous volunteers for the Book Exchange. We are still looking for Veteran's Day speakers. If you know of a relative who served and is interested in speaking to our students, please email me at szuchm@ccsd15net or call the office by October 7th.

In September, the Whiteley Service Club launched the McCormick Tribune Foundation Hurricane Katrina Relief Campaign. To our astonishment, we raised \$3032.52 in less than a week. Thank you to everyone for your generosity! In October, the Whiteley Service Club will focus on our Make A Difference Day Project, which is a Fall Harvest Food Drive. The food drive for local pantries is organized by Illinois PTA District 37. Look for a flyer in early October to come home with your child.

Mr. Ken Skelnik is our Resource Center teacher and is at Whiteley School on Wednesday and Friday and a half-day on Monday. He has been working diligently at Jane Addams and Frank C. Whiteley to make sure that all our computers are up and running. Mr. Skelnik is currently training students to be a part of the Whiteley Video Production Club. Students will assist Mr. Skelnik on our Friday morning announcements.

The Resource Center opened the day after Labor Day. Classrooms have started book check out. Mrs. Bappert is our new Resource Center clerical on Tuesday, Thursday and Monday morning. We are currently looking for Resource Center volunteers to assist Mr. Skelnik and Mrs. Bappert. Please contact PTA volunteer coordinator, Mrs. Barbara Stark at B.stark@comcast.net.

Teachers appreciate the time and effort placed on your child's birthday treat. We would like to try limiting the birthday treat to the child's classroom. Parents have always been generous and included treats for the prior year's teacher and possibly two or three more staff. The staff would appreciate your assistance in meeting this goal as we try to keep our focus on academic time. In years past, the class waits to proceed with instruction and this can be 10-15 minutes per child and with 30-34 students in a class, this is a large block of instructional time. Again, we appreciate the care taken to create, bake or buy delicious birthday treats for your child's classroom.

A thank you to Debbie Klonder for arranging a delightful Room Mom/Dad Tea. The staff and I appreciate the effort of the Room Parents and Parent Volunteers. Thank you for your continued support!

- Mrs. Mary Szuch, Principal

Whiteley Classroom Numbers as of 9/05

Luna - a.m.	K	28
Luna - p.m.	K	29
Harms	K	20
Neumann - a.m.	K	29
Neumann - p.m.	K	27
Singer	5/6	8
Burruss	2/3/4	9
Stanis	1st	30
Strong	1st	28
Saez	1st	31
Bolger	2nd	28
Williams	2nd	27
Croak	2nd	29
Miller	3rd	32
Ehrhardt/Slavicek	3rd	30
Armamentos	3/4th	19
McAvoy	4th	25
Piskule	4th	24
Tomczyk	4th	24
Aalund	5th	29
Danielczyk/Hyla	5th	29
Zeivel	5th	31
Quinn	6th	32
Bartnicke	6th	34
Williams	6th	30
Total Students		662

Representative Suzie Bassi will speak on "Public School Funding in the State of Illinois" on Wednesday, October 19th at 7 p.m. at Pleasant Hill School in Palatine.

This presentation is open to the community.

FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 7TH

Whiteley's 2005 Fall Festival is Friday, October 7th, 2005 from 5:30 p.m. til 7:30 p.m. Please note that the time has been changed. Make the change to your school calendar. Featured activities for the evening include:

A **Dads Chili Contest** will be held in the multi-purpose room Dads bring in your best chili for all to taste. Parents will do the voting and there will be a prize for the best chili at Whiteley.

A **52 foot obstacle course** will be set up outside on the blacktop.

An **interactive DJ** from Black Cat Entertainment will be set up inside the gym. Bring your dancing shoes and get ready for some fun.

A **classroom pumpkin decorating contest** will be displayed inside the multi-purpose room on the stage. Each of the 25 classrooms will be decorating a pumpkin. The children will vote on Friday and the classroom that wins will receive a pizza party! Be sure to check out all of the entries.

Radar soccer and radar pitch by the Hoffman Estates Police Department will be played outside in the field.

The **Whiteley Service Club and Book Exchange** will be set up inside the multi-purpose room on the stage. Remember to bring in a paperback book, get and redeem a coupon and find a new book to bring home with you.

Glow necklaces will be sold by the Girl Scouts at the ticket table inside and they will also host a **Girl Scout Cake Sale** outside on the blacktop.

PHOTO's Dinner items will be available in the multi-purpose room. A hot dog or cheeseburger, with chips and a pop will cost \$2.50. Extra hot dogs and cheeseburgers are available for \$1.00 each. Water bottles will cost \$1.00 and Pumpkin cookies will be 50 cents each. **A flyer to purchase dinner tickets in advance will be coming home soon!**

REMEMBER YOUR INSECT REPELLENT - West Nile Virus Alert

Sponsored by your Whiteley PTA
Programs Committee, Liesl Ignoffo

Membership News

To date, 236 families have joined the Whiteley PTA - that's 50% of our total. Are you one of them? Help us reach our goal of 100% participation - join today!

Business Memberships are still being taken. Advertise yours now! It's not too late to get in the school directory.

Both Membership and Business forms are available in the school lobby or from your Room Parent.

**CHANGE THE DATE !
THE FUN FAIR IS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

**(Not February 10th)
Please change your calendar.
Sorry for the confusion!**

More details to come.....

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ACCESSING RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE — SPARK

Do you have a child with special needs? SPARK is a committee of the Northwest Suburban Council PTA that serves families of children with special needs in District 15. We would like to invite you to attend our meetings this year. We share information, resources and support; have interesting outside speakers and network via email. All meetings are held at Plum Grove Junior High from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Resource Center (upstairs).

October 4th - Be Your Child's Best Educational Advocate. Speaker Maureen Lowry-Fritz will be discussing IDEIA 2004 - the educational rights of children with disabilities.

November 1st - Executive Function and Attention Deficit Disorder. Speaker Shartrina Robinson-Amato will be sharing information to help our children be more successful.

If you have any questions, please contact Kris Constantino at constantino14@comcast.net or 847-358-6310

EVERYONE'S FAVORITE GYM TEACHER - MR. HARRIS

Mr. Robert (Bob) Harris began teaching first grade physical education classes at Whiteley in 1994 for three years. In 2000, he became Whiteley's full-time P.E. teacher. This year, he will be teaching all grade levels from Kindergarten through 6th grade. In addition, he coaches Intramurals for the 5th and 6th grades.

Editor: So, Mr. Harris, before we begin this interview, I have to ask the question that everyone wants to know, "How's the new baby?"

Mr. Harris: She is good. Allison Leigh Harris joined our family on July 28th. She is welcomed by her big brother, Will who will be two in October. Yes - that is going to keep my wife and I very busy for awhile!! My wife is also a teacher in the district - she is a fifth grade teacher at Marion Jordan and will be returning to work in October as well. The only member of our family who really did not want Ally was our dog Jim. He already dropped a few notches when Will was born - but we still love him very much - he is a little black and white cocker-spaniel/poodle mix.

How long have you been teaching and what made you decide to become a physical education teacher?

Surprisingly to tell you - this is my 14th year teaching - I know - I look so young!! I grew up in North Dakota and went to college in Moorhead, MN with a degree in elementary education and a minor in physical education. I taught a year in North Dakota - 6th grade. I then moved out to Illinois and got a job at Marion Jordan teaching 5th grade. The way the numbers

were at that school - I was not going to be able to teach the following year in 5th grade - however, the P.E. teacher was retiring and the principal asked if I would teach it. I jumped at the chance since I have loved all types of sports my whole life. While I was teaching P.E., I got my master's degree in Administration and Supervision. I then thought about going into administration and decided I wanted to go back into the classroom before I did that. I ended up teaching 5th grade again for a couple of years and just loved it! The Whiteley job then came up and I wanted a change again and really was pleased to get the job over here. I have always wanted to become a teacher and I love teaching all sorts of things - P.E. just gives me the opportunity to teach all grade levels and see the students grow physically, socially, and mentally from Kindergarten to 6th grade. It has truly been a wonderful experience here at FCW!

What would you say is your favorite game/skill to teach the children? And what is their absolute favorite, in your opinion?

I like to teach the kids something that they all can use their whole life. The two things I like teaching them are my dance unit and how to introduce yourself and shake hands with someone. These are both lifelong skills that they can use over and over again. They also break students out of their comfort zones.

I think the older students really enjoy any type of dodge ball game like "Return of the JEDI" or "Bombardment" and they also like a team building game called "Mission Impossible". The younger kids enjoy games like "4 Corners" and "Army/Navy".

Do you have any special memories of working with the PTA last year that you would like to share with us?

Since coming to FCW, I have been totally impressed with the support the PTA gives to the staff and students here. I have been so fortunate to work closely with extraordinary Kindergym Moms and Dads. They all work so hard and give up their time for the kids. I think it is so nice to see the parents come in and work with their kids and other students. It is something that they all will never forget. I also have a Field Day event at the end of the year where we need a lot of volunteers. Last year, we had a great day with a lot of great memories made - especially with water balloons!!

What are your goals for the 2005-2006 school year?

1. Kids have fun!
2. Have the kids learn new skills - both in sports and in life.
3. Raise money for the American Heart Association.
4. Continue to raise awareness of staying healthy and having fun with a variety of games and activities.
5. Spend as much time with my family as possible.

Mr. Harris, thank you for participating in our Teacher Feature newsletter article.

I would just like to thank everyone for all of their continued support at school and the well wishes for my family. I would also like to thank the parents and families in advance for all their help and support in the upcoming year.

Email: HarrisR@ccsd15.net

HELPING YOUR STUDENT GET THE MOST OUT OF HOMEWORK - By National PTA and National Education Association

Many students try to avoid it, but teaching and learning research indicates that children who spend more time on regularly assigned, meaningful homework, on average, do better in school. This article answers questions many people have about homework. It gives specific advice for helping your children. Here are some quick hints to help your child get the most out of homework.

Homework Hints

- Assume that your children will have studying to do every night.
- Ask your children if they understand their homework. If they do not, work a few examples together.
- Ask your children to show you their homework after the teacher returns it, to learn where they're having trouble and where they're doing well. See if your children did the work correctly.
- Stay in touch with your children's teachers. Ask about their classes and what they are studying. Ask their teachers how you can support what they are studying (flash cards, spelling, etc.)
- Remember, you and their teachers want the same thing - to help your children learn.
- Don't be afraid to get in touch with the teacher if you and your child don't understand an assignment or if your child is having a great deal of trouble. Almost all parents run into these problems, and teachers are glad to help.
- Don't do your children's work for them. Help them learn how to do it themselves.
- Show your children that you think homework is important. If you are at work during homework time, ask to see their work when you get home.
- Praise your children for doing well. Make praise a habit.
- Maintain a portfolio of "best pieces".
- Ask your school about tips or guides for helping your children develop good study habits.
- Help older students organize their assignments by recording them on calendars or planners, along with due dates, dates turned in, etc.



*I hear babies cry.....I watch them grow
They'll learn much more.....than I'll never know
And I think to myself....what a wonderful world
Yes, I think to myself.....what a wonderful world*

*- Excerpt from the song, "What a Wonderful World"
Lyrics by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele
Recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1968*

Mark your calendar!
**The next PTA
Board Meeting is
Thursday,
October 20th at 7 p.m.
in the staff lounge.**

**Find out what is
happening at Whiteley!**

50 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN PTA

- Adapted from Paul Simon's "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" - Recorded in December, 1975

*The problem is all in scheduling
They said to me
The answer can be simple if you
Think of it logically
We'd like to help you in your struggle to find time,
There must be fifty ways
To get involved in PTA.*

*They said it's really not our habit
To pursue
Furthermore, we hope our meaning
Won't be lost or misunderstood
But we'll repeat ourselves
At the risk of being rude
There must be fifty ways
To get involved with PTA
Fifty ways to get involved.*

CHORUS:

*Just be a committee chair, Claire
Man a fun fair booth, Ruth
Read about the district on the web, Deb
Just get yourself involved!*

*Get to a meeting of the Board, Lourdes
You really won't be that bored
Clip a box top and save, Dave
And get yourself involved!*

*They said it worries us so
To see you not involved
We wish there was something we could do
To really make it all work out
I said I appreciate that
And would you please explain
About the fifty ways*

*They said why don't we both
Just think about it some more
And we believe that someday
You'll begin to find the time
And they emailed me
And then I realized they probably were right,
There must be fifty ways
To get involved in PTA
More than fifty ways to get involved!*

CHORUS

— Jennifer Mondy
FCW PTA Newsletter Editor
Email: fcwnews@comcast.net

2005-2006 REFLECTIONS THEME: "I WONDER WHY?..."

From the Illinois PTA Website

Participating in the National and Illinois PTA's Reflections Program is an opportunity for students to explore and learn about various art forms. It does not matter whether an entry created for the Reflections Program has been created as a classroom assignment or independently at home.

When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, photography, and other art forms, they grow intellectually. They learn to analyze their thoughts, feelings and ideas. They learn to look at things, people and experiences in a fresh and exciting way, and they become more interested in the ideas and works of others. The Reflections Program also helps parents encourage and recognize the continuous self-discovery process of their children.

Young artists participate in the Reflections Program through their local PTA. A student may submit an entry

in any of the four arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted. Once judged at the local level, the winners go on to the council and/or district judging. Those winners go to the Illinois PTA to receive recognition. The best project in each grade level, from each category, will advance to the National PTA level. The four categories are: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography and Visual Arts. The grade divisions are: Primary (Preschool - 2nd), Intermediate (grades 3 - 5), Middle/Junior (grades 6 - 8) and Senior (grades 9 - 12). All students attending a school in Illinois where their PTA offers the Reflections Program may participate.

More details will be coming home soon.
If you have any questions, please contact: Denise Collingwood at denisecollingwood@comcast.net

WELCOME NEW WHITELEY FAMILIES

**Picture Retake Day is
October 25th -**

***If your child was
absent on Picture Day
or you are unhappy
with the original
picture, be sure to send
them with their smiles
on the 25th.***

***Retakes will only be
done in the morning.***

Welcome to Whiteley

WHITELEY'S BOOK FAIR 2005 WILL SOON BE HERE!

Be a shopper or be a volunteer! We Want You!

TO ALL THE SHOPPERS:

Once again, Whiteley's PTA will be holding its annual Book Fair in the Resource Center on the same days as the Parent-Teacher conferences in November as well as the Friday before the conferences.

November 18 from 9 a.m. til 2 p.m.

November 21 from 2 p.m. til 8 p.m.

November 22 from 7:30 a.m. til 12 noon

Mark your calendars now and plan to browse through our huge selection. While you are there, do some early holiday shopping! (If you buy a book for a teacher's gift, we will wrap it for you at no extra charge!) The company that is being used this year is W.W. Wickel, a family owned business for the last 130 years. They sell books the old fashion way, "They read all the books first." A huge selection of books from the Magic Treehouse series and the "Series of Unfortunate Events"

will be available. Also, many new exciting titles such as: "If You Give a Pig a Party", "The Gift of Nothing", The Giant Hug", "The Sledding Hill", and "The Last Apprentice".

TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS:

We also need LOTS of volunteers to help run this event! If you can help on any of the following days (even for an hour or two!), please call Sue Ramsland at 847-358-2399.

Monday, November 14th 2 to 4 p.m. (Setup books)

Tuesday - Thursday, November 15th - 17th

Mornings only (Classroom previews)

(Help younger children choose books and write their wish list.)

Friday, November 18th 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Book Sales)

Monday - Tuesday, November 21st - 22nd

(Book sales and take-down)

WHITELEY'S 2005-2006 ROOM PARENTS

Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered their time and energy to be a Room Representative this year. We hope you enjoy the special time with your child and their classmates. A very big thank you to all who volunteered but did not get chosen in the lottery. Please sign up again next year!
- Debbie Klonder and Priscilla Sorrentino

Here are your Whiteley Room Representatives:

Mrs. Neumann - A.M. Kindergarten
Korene Palazzo, Tina Brandts, Nancy McKernin
Mrs. Neumann - P.M. Kindergarten
Brenda Balek, Marnie Bushmole, Carey Vitosh
Mrs. Stanis -- First Grade
Priscilla Sorrentino, Denise Collingwood,
Jennifer Kiobassa
Mrs. Strong - First Grade
Paula Riccardo, Gloria Kovathana, Elyn Wong
Mrs. Saez - First Grade
Amy Langston, Doreen Glinka, Dawn Plizga
Mrs. Croak - 2nd Grade
Diana Mullane, Natasha Marean, Teri Pullara
Miss Williams - 2nd Grade
Dorothy Naumowicz, Darlene Plunkett,
Revani Ramanathan
Ms. Bolger - 2nd Grade
Isabelle McPherrin, Josephine Hurlburt,
Kim Bitzer-Poggio
Mrs. Ehrhardt/Mrs. Slavicek - 3rd grade
Liesl Ignoffo, Cheryl Crackenberger, Gita Bhojwani
Mrs. Miller - 3rd grade
Candy Borst, Cindy Kent (Zettlemoyer)
Mr. Armanmentos - 3rd/4th Grades
Karen Kuhl, Debbie McCaffrey
Ms. McAvoy - 4th grade
Barb Stark, Carrie Schalk

Mr. Tomczyk - 4th Grade
Kathe Barwacz, Christine Sidor
Mrs. Piskule - 4th Grade
Carol Dunnington, Cindy Dolan
Mrs. Zeivel - 5th Grade
Donna Rosen, Rita Wojnowski, Mary Van
Ms. Aalund - 5th Grade
Chris Hernet, Michelle Hugg
Mrs. Danielczyk/Mrs. Hyla - 5th Grade
Lisa Duffield, Angela Canny, Kathy Moore
Mrs. Quinn - 6th Grade
Sue Priebe, Christine Segin
Mr. Williams - 6th Grade
Linda DeFreitas, Melissa Scesniak (Perrino)
Miss Bartnicke - 6th Grade
Tom Bernacki, Stephanie Frey, Barbara Changelon
Mrs. Luna - A.M. Kindergarten
Guadalupe Uriostigue, Brenda Escobar
Mrs. Luna - P.M. Kindergarten
Angelica Venegas, Yadiru Aeuyu, Sandy Hernandez

And a great big **thank you** to our bakers for the Room Parent Tea that was held on Thursday, September 15th.
Dorothy Naumowicz, Karen Winberg, Rita Wojnowski, Julie Dohm, Lori Mayer, Paula Falvo, Anne Wisniewski, Carla Nelson, Patricia Burns, Heidi Sahli and Kathy Mathias.

Special thanks to our babysitters. Thanks for taking care of our Room Reps little ones during the tea. Mom, **Jennifer Nemeck** and 6th graders: **Rachel Izydorek, Takeshi Yamamoto, Kara Priebe, Andrew Kaiser, Grace Neubauer, Nicki Messner, Tommy Ignoffo, Joey Fedjur, Samatha White and Carter Sorrentino.**

KINDERGYM — LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR

Kindergym will begin on October 5th this year. We want to thank the following parents for volunteering to help with the program:

Carol Cox, Pam Park, Samantha Kim, Korene Palazzo, Kaori Nakata, Sachiko Shimizu, Rie Hirota, Chika Chiba, Carrie Vitosh, Janice Schumaker, Takako Nakamura, Yasuko Nonaka, Yoriko Minakata, Nancy McKernin and Anu Buzruk

All Kindergym classes will be held on Wednesdays:

9:55 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.	Mrs. Luna
10:25 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.	Mrs. Neumann
10:55 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	Mrs. Harms
2:05 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.	Mrs. Luna
2:35 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Mrs. Neumann

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the morning bilingual classes. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karen Aranza at 847-358-2587 or Jennifer Nemeck at 847-934-8515. Thanks!

DISNEY TEACHER AWARDS - CELEBRATING CREATIVITY IN TEACHING

The Walt Disney Company is searching for amazing, dynamic, creative teachers who lead their students to the heights of learning. When we find these outstanding teachers, we are going to honor them with monetary awards totaling over \$700,000 and recognition at an awards gala.

Please give us a hand in making sure we locate each and every deserving teacher. Students, parents, other teachers - please contact us before **October 15, 2005**. Giving them a hand like this is the most powerful way you can thank a teacher.

Call toll-free 1-877-282-8322 or log on to www.DisneyHand.com

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
ONE DAY ONLY!

DADS AND DONUTS

BRING THE KIDS & MEET
OTHER WHITELEY DADS

8:30 A.M. TIL 9:15 A.M.

WHITELEY TEACHERS AND STAFF APPRECIATION

To: Whiteley Students and Families:
Hello, we are Priscilla Sorrentino and Debbie Klonder. We are the Whiteley Teachers and Staff Appreciation Committee this year. Both Debbie and I are very excited to be able to show all of our wonderful Whiteley staff how much we appreciate everything they do for our children.
We need your help! It will only take a few minutes of your time, but we are sure it will make someone feel very special.

Here's what we need you to do: In the space below, write down a special memory or note of thanks to a staff member that had a special impact on you or made you feel happy or special at one time or another. It can be anything you would like to share. You can submit as many as you would like, for as many staff members as you would like. Between now and March, we will be collecting your notes and creating a keepsake to present to the staff members during Staff Appreciation Week in May. Please help us make this a memorable year. If you have any questions, please call or email. Priscilla Sorrentino 847-776-0132 or theygotus@comcast.net

Detach and submit in an envelope addressed to Priscilla Sorrentino & send it to school with your child.

Name of Teacher or Staff member: _____

This Whiteley staff member is special because: _____

Name (optional) _____

BOX TOPS = FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES



Bonus Box Top Certificate - Thank you so much for submitting the Jewel Bonus Box Top certificates to school. It was a huge promotion! Our school collected 94 bonus certificates. Each certificate was worth 20 box tops, which equaled \$188 for our school. Even though the certificates show that they expire on September 22, 2005, please ignore that. According to Box Tops that is the date that the contest ends and these certificates do not need to be submitted by that date. If you have any that you have not submitted to school, please remember to do so. These certificates will be added to each classroom's contest count for the month of September.

Classroom Contest - Our first contest will end on September 30th. Look in the November newsletter

To find out which two classrooms won. Our next contest will be in January so keep on saving those box tops!

Whole Grains - Have you been saving the "Whole Grain" symbols on the cereal boxes? If you have, please submit them to school. We will be accepting these symbols until **Friday, December 16th**. Each of the whole grain symbols will give our school one ticket entry to win 1,000,000 box tops!

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Nemeck at 847-934-8515. Thanks for your help in funding our PTA sponsored school activities!

MARKET DAY NEWS - ATTENTION PIE LOVERS!

During the month of November, Market Day will be having a Pie selling contest. The classroom that sells the most pies can win their choice of either an **ice cream or pizza party**. The top three pie sellers from Whiteley will each win a **\$25 gift card from Best Buy!**

More details to come.....

**Shop at Office
Depot and
Whiteley will
Earn 5% of your
Purchase!**

**Just give Whiteley's
Code #70032775
When you
Checkout at the
Register.**

EPI ORDER FORMS DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

Our PTA Fall Fundraiser is currently underway. Since this will be our only fundraiser this year, we are hoping for a BIG success. Proceeds from the fundraiser go towards the Fall Festival, Dads and Donuts, Moms and Munchies and in-house field trips for the children.

Buying even one or two items will count towards the participation contest between grades. The grade level with the highest percentage of participation will win a **PIZZA PARTY!!!!** Orders are due **Friday, September 30th**, but we will accept them until Monday, October 3rd (no exceptions) - so take another look at your catalog over the week-end! If you can't find anything in the catalog, the PTA will accept direct donations. Please make your check payable to the FCW PTA. **All donations are tax deductible.**

Any questions? Call Sue Priebe at 705-7434 or Paula Neubauer at 359-2129.

THANK YOU CORNER

To Anne Morel:

For your time and talent this summer in producing an outstanding Whiteley School Calendar that was ready to go home the first week of school.

To Denise Collingwood, Li Yen Huang, Debbie Klonder, Amy Langston, Jennifer Mondy, Anne Morel, Dorothy Naumowicz, Jennifer Nemec, Paula Riccardo, Rachel Scharm, Priscilla Sorrentino, Anne Wisniewski and Ellyn Wong:

For helping one or more days in the lunchroom during the first two weeks of school to guide students to their tables, remind them of their lunch number, open up hot lunches and milk cartons, collect trays, find lunchboxes, help with spills and generally make it a little easier for first graders to make the transition to a full day of school.

To: Gayle Bernacki, Jennifer Kiolbassa, Liesl and Thomas Ignoffo and Renee Robinson:

For helping direct traffic in front of the school during the first week. The PTA promised Mr. Lawson (5th grade last year) that we would follow the efficient plan he set up for us. We couldn't let him down.

To: Anita Jamnik, our PTA President and #1 Volunteer:

For helping the membership committee during Meet The Teacher and Parent Orientation night. Thanks for your leadership this year and everything you do "behind the scenes".

Mark your calendar!

The next District 15 School Board meeting is Tuesday, October 11th at 7 p.m. at Sundling Jr. High School on Smith Street in Palatine.

Find out for yourself what is happening in our school district!

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS - HOT LUNCH

Dear Editor:

My oldest child is in first grade and I am confused over how the hot lunch program works. Also, how much time does she really have to eat her lunch?
-- Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned:

I understand your concerns. Even though I have a fifth grader, I had not witnessed a lunch period until this year. The lunch hour is broken down into 20 minute blocks. The first graders have recess for the first 2 blocks (40 minutes) and then eat during the last 20 minutes. If they bring their lunch, they are able to pick up their lunchbox at their classroom door as they re-enter the building from recess. Then they proceed to the lunchroom, find their table and eat.

If your child is taking a hot lunch that day, they need to have money in their personal lunch account. Each lunch costs \$1.90 and you can send cash or a check made out to CCSD 15 Food Services to replenish the account.

Please put the check or cash in an envelope marked with your child's name and room number. This envelope MUST be given to the teacher in the morning. The lunch coordinator cannot accept cash or checks during the lunch hour. If your child is choosing a hot lunch on any particular day, he must inform the teacher that morning when she takes the lunch count.

When the first graders re-enter the building after recess, those who are taking the hot lunch will wait in the lunch line to receive their food. Then they must punch in their ID number on the keypad.

They then proceed to their table to eat. Please be aware that first graders are new to this system, slower and usually the last to receive the hot lunch. If they are at the very end of the line, oftentimes there is only 5 to 7 minutes left to the lunch period. First graders are allowed a little more time to eat but sometimes they are rushed. Please keep that in mind when deciding which hot lunch to order.

Don't toss your newsletter in the trash when you are done reading it.

Recycle it! Give it to a neighbor who doesn't have a child at Whiteley.

Help them learn about their school community.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW

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2003 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon
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Japanese Translation Available

Due to a large turnout, the Board of Education meeting held on September 14, 2005 was moved to the gym at Sundling Jr. High School. Approximately 150 people were in attendance during the session.

Dr. McKanna began his portion of the meeting by stating he has heard from many parents regarding the class sizes this year. There are 67 classes within the district that have 30 or more students. An explanation was given as to how principals assign teachers at their school and how the number of sections is based upon the amount of students in the school the previous Spring. A two-page spreadsheet of enrollment figures by school and grade level was available to those in attendance. These numbers reflect enrollment as of August 31, 2005. The Board President stated that in order to bring down the class sizes, 32 teachers would have to be added at a cost of \$2 million. In addition, a copy of "Article X - Class Size" from the "1996-2005 Classroom Teachers' Council Negotiated Agreement" was discussed. It contains guidelines to be used in determining each building's allocation for clerical and program assistance based on class sizes, split classes, bilingual classes, etc. Staff meetings are then held at each school and each grade level presents their needs for program assistance time. Teachers determine what they really need after assessing the needs of their class. A shared decision-making model is used to determine what is best for the school.

The meeting agenda continued with a discussion on clubs and activities within the district. There were concerns from some board members that site based funds at the elementary level were not being spent on clubs. The administration stated that each school makes their own decision as to how to spend their building budget. Site based money is spent on everything from consumable supplies (paper, ink cartridges) to substitute teacher days and includes stipends (\$600) for site based clubs (like video production, etc). District based clubs (intramurals, chorus and band) are paid by the district and are not at the discretion of the schools.

The Board Vice President asked why PTAs cannot pay for or run the clubs. The administration responded that PTAs can run after-school events, but during school (clubs are typically held during lunch), the teacher contract requires that clubs are to be sponsored and run by certified staff.

At approximately 9 p.m., citizens were able to address the board and several parents spoke about reinstating Community Based Trips (CBTs) for special education students. They all explained how CBTs were not merely field trips but an essential part of their child's education. Later in the evening, the Board voted to put CBTs back in the budget at a net cost of \$2,900.

The proposal for videotaping school board meetings has been reviewed. It was suggested that Junior High School students videotape the meetings and then provide copies to the local cable stations. Live coverage of the Board meetings would be too costly at this time.

One of the final discussions of the night was centered on the District's need to borrow \$10 million to make the November 15th payroll. Cook county tax bills are late this year and it puts the District into a short-term borrowing situation.

In order to obtain this loan, the District must obtain a legal opinion at a cost of \$6,000 to \$8,000. In addition, the interest to borrow the money for 52 days ranges from \$44,000 to \$60,000. Last year, the county taxes were received in late November.

The board meeting concluded sometime after 10 p.m.

Spotlight on the Board Meeting Notes

Spotlight on the Board is a collection of notes taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Pleasant Hill PTA's District 15 Liaison, Susan Quinn. 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.

Go to: www.phpta.org
Access: District 15 School Board

Notes are usually available the day after the meeting.