



Whiteley Cat Tales

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Illinois PTA, District 37

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

PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it seems like the weather has finally started changing. I'm not sure if that's a good thing or not, but hey - we are in Illinois, right? Our membership drive is coming to an end and the directory should be ready soon. Other PTA committees are in full swing with activities for our students and families.

Speaking of activities, wasn't the Fall Festival a BLAST?! Thank you to Mrs. Ignoffo who worked tirelessly to plan the whole event and coordinated with the Whiteley Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, as well as the 6th graders, to sell refreshments, bake sale items and glow sticks.

Did you know that the PTAs of District 15 maintain a Coat Closet for families in need? The District 15 Coat Closet is bursting at the seams with good, cold weather coats. If you or someone you know could use a coat for any member of the family, call me and I will make sure that we connect coats to families that can use them.

The countdown to Halloween has begun at my house and I'm sure everyone else is busy planning costumes and parties! The school will hold the classroom Halloween parties on Monday, October 31st. If you signed up to bring a treat, we will have tables in the front foyer where you can drop them off.

Make sure your treats are labeled with your child's classroom number and teacher's name. We will deliver them to the classrooms for the parties. The staff is requesting that only the room parent volunteers remain at school during the parties.

One more thing: our superintendent, Dr. McKanna is looking for parents to join the new District 15 Parents Committee for Educational Excellence. This is a committee that has been formed to assess current needs, evaluate current mechanisms and recommend improvements. He is looking for three representatives from each school. The dates of the meetings are: November 2nd, February 15th and April 26th from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Joseph M. Kizska Educational Service Center in Palatine. If you are interested in attending one (or all) of these meetings, please call me so I can RSVP to the district office.

And, as always, if you have any other questions, I can be reached at the PTA phone number 847-963-7234 or at my home number 847-776-0531.

- Anita Jamnik
FCW PTA President

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Calendar of Events

- 11/1 **SPARK Meeting School Store**
- 11/8 **Science Alliance**
- 11/9 **Board of Education Meeting - 7 p.m.**
- 11/11 **Veteran's Day**
- 11/14-16 **PTA Dist. 37 Shop & Share Days**
- 11/15 **School Store**
- 11/16 **Food Pickup 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**
- 11/17 **PTA Meeting 7 p.m. IFC Seminar**
- 11/18 **Report Cards Gr. 1-6 Book Fair Newsletter Deadline Reflections Deadline**
- 11/21-22 **No School - Conferences/Book Fair**
- 11/23-25 **No School - Thanksgiving Break**
- 11/29 **School Store**
- 11/30 - 12/1 **Vision & Hearing Screening**

Don't forget to reserve your space for

IKEBANA

A Japanese Flower Arrangement Seminar - Thursday, November 17th

Come learn the gentle art of Japanese Flower arranging from members of our International Friendship Committee (IFC). You will take home an arrangement that you put together! Tuition is \$5 and includes the cost of the flowers. Class size is limited! A registration form will be sent home with your child.

- See page 7 to learn more about FCW PTA's International Friendship Committee.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents:

The staff and I greatly appreciate the effort of the PTA in hosting a fabulous Fall Festival! Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Whiteley Service Club and PTA Food Drive. We collected food during the week of October 17th through 21st. We participated in Make A Difference Day on Saturday, October 22nd with food donations from the community. A special thank you to Mrs. Stanton for organizing this food drive with PTA District 37. Thanks also to Mrs. Collingwood for her assistance with donation boxes.

Important November dates: Students in Grades 1 - 6 will be receiving their report cards on Friday, November 18th. This is also our Sports Day/Hat Day. Students will not be attending school the week of November 21-25, 2005. Parent-Teacher conferences are Monday, November 21st and Tuesday, November 22nd. Wednesday, November 23rd is a non-attendance day for students. On November 24th and 25th, the school is closed for Thanksgiving.

Also, on November 30th and December 1st, all students will have Vision and Hearing Screening tests.

Thank you for your continued support!

- Mary Szuch, Principal



TRICK OR TREAT AT FREMD H.S.

Students and parents are invited to attend the "Trick or Treat" festival at Fremd High School on Monday, October 31st from 4-6pm. Several of their activities and clubs will offer candy to children in classrooms that have been transformed into "ghoulish" settings. They will have rooms decorated for different ages of children. Children under the age of twelve are invited and must be accompanied by an adult. Enter at the main entrance (flag pole) in the front of the building.

I WONDER WHY...?

I wonder why the sky is blue? Why do the leaves fall off the trees? Why do I need to sleep? What do you wonder? Use your wildest imagination and you just might find out. Put your idea into art. You may draw, paint, write a story, take a photograph or create a song to express this year's National and Illinois PTA Reflections theme: I Wonder Why?

The deadline for entries is **Friday, November 18th**. Rules and entry forms will be sent home soon.

AND OUR FALL FUNDRAISER WINNERS ARE ...

Thanks to all of the families who participated in our Fall Fundraiser. Your hard work helped us to raise a total profit of \$7,500 with additional direct donations of \$515. The money earned will be used to fund in-school field trips, Dads and Donuts, Moms and Munchies and other PTA sponsored events. The second grade won the pizza party for the highest participation level at 45%. The products will be delivered to your child's classroom for parent-teacher conferences November 21 and 22. If you cannot attend, the products will go home with your child the following Monday. If you have a large order, please keep this in mind.

The winners of our drawing are as follows:
For every five items sold, or equivalent direct donation, one entry was given.

Game System:
\$50 giftcard -
Stereo -

Winners for the participation prizes are:

- Paula Neubauer and Sue Priebe
Ways and Means Committee

SCIENCE ALLIANCE - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

The Science Alliance is coming to Whiteley School on Tuesday, November 8th! Bill Bosworth will be presenting two shows - one for the Kindergarten through 3rd graders and another for our 4th through 6th grades. Students will participate in the exciting demonstrations about the chemistry that surrounds us. They will learn explanations of atoms, molecules and chemical reactions. Mr. Bosworth will be bringing chemistry to life in his show called "Close Encounters of the Chemical Kind"! Remember to ask your child about their exciting science encounter.

Sponsored by the Whiteley PTA
Liesl Ignoffo, Programs Committee



COMING SOON! WHITELEY FUN FAIR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

We are looking for two or three people who would be interested in co-chairing this event in 2007. If you would like to help organize this fun event, please call Sue Delapa 847-202-0611 or Anne Wisniewski 847-991-5478.

A volunteer form with many opportunities will be coming home later this month.

FALL FESTIVAL RECAP AND MANY THANK YOUS

The weather was terrific and the turnout was tremendous for Whiteley's Fall Festival on Friday, October 7th. An estimated 800 students, teachers, siblings, parents and friends enjoyed the food, music, pumpkin and chili contests, obstacle course, radar pitch and soccer, book exchange and just having fun with our school community!

The classroom pumpkins were all unique and delighted both adults and children. After the voting was completed, the contest winner was Room 217 - Mr. Buress' class. They won a free pizza party.

The Dad's chili contest was won by Mr. Tom Bernacki with his "Tom's Turkey Chili". He won a \$25 gift certificate donated from a local pizza and grill restaurant.

Of course, an evening such as this would not be possible without the help of many volunteers. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!

Obstacle course: **Tom Ignoffo, John Conway, Dan Kennedy, Michelle Hugg, Brenda Kennedy and Eric Hugg**

Food Line: **Stacey Conway, Edyta Witeszynske, Carrie Schalk, Laura Podgorny, Connie Lavin, Kathy Mathias, Donna Rosen, Mary Van, Dorsey Uhrich, Barb Stark and Laura Surber**

Ticket Sales: **Teri Browning, Anne Wisniewski, Anita Jamnik, Tami Lehigh, Gayle Bernacki and Terri Browning**

Door Monitors: **Anne Morel, Anupama Buzruk, Sue Priebe, Denise Collingwood, Gita Bhojwani, Mary Ann Lucas, Lisa Duffield, Christine Sidor and Kathy Moore**

Chili Contest Table: **Dawn Plizga, Karla Browning, Cheryl Crackenberger and Cathy Stanton**

Radar Soccer and Baseball: **Keith Browning, Keith Browning Jr., Andrew and Tuyet Lui, Tom Ignoffo and Tommy Ignoffo Jr.**

And to all those who stayed until the end including **Mrs. Mary Szuch and Mr. Keith McKinnie.**

- Liesl Ignoffo, Programs Committee



MRS. HOLLERAN - MORE THAN A MUSIC TEACHER

Mrs. Wynnvyn Holleran began teaching music at Whiteley in 1989 - the year the school opened. This year, she is teaching all grade levels from Kindergarten through 6th grade. In addition, she directs the 5th and 6th grade chorus which typically consists of 70 to 90 students.

Editor: Mrs. Holleran, our children all know who you are, can you tell the parents something about yourself and your life outside of Whiteley?

Mrs. Holleran: I have been married to Patrick for 28 years. He has been a financial analyst for Honeywell for 30 years. We live in Algonquin which used to be a small, quaint town and has recently turned into the next Schaumburg. That makes driving to work a difficult task every day.

We do have some big family celebrations coming up - our son Brandon, who is 22 will be graduating from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater in December. My husband and I are very excited - no more college bills!!!!

Also, our daughter Meghann who is 27 is getting married on May 6th, so we have many fun activities to plan! For fun, I love to golf, but I am not very good. I also am the president of a mixed couples bowling league. I am not a good bowler either but I am very good at organizing fun social events.

What made you decide to become a teacher and how long have you been a music teacher?

I attended Wheeling High School and that is where my choral director, Mr. Dobler influenced my decision to become a music teacher.

He is a wonderful teacher and loved by all of his students.

After high school, I was supposed to attend the American Conservatory of Music downtown to become a concert pianist. At the last moment, I won a teaching scholarship at Northern Illinois University and decided it might be more fun to teach in a school situation than teach privately. I have never regretted that decision!

At NIU, I received my Bachelors Degree in Music Education and my first job was at Virginia Lake in Palatine where I taught for 10 years. I did stay home for three years when my children were small and then I came back and started at Whiteley.

After a few years, I got my Masters Degree from Concordia in Curriculum and Instruction and thought about switching to the regular classroom - but I decided teaching music was way too much fun to give up! Plus, I could never teach math or science and that could be a problem!

I also have been playing the piano since I was five years old. In Junior HS and High School, I played all the percussion instruments in band and orchestra and I have been a church organist throughout the years.

Mrs. Holleran, can you describe what happens in a typical music class at Whiteley?

A music class for the primary students starts with singing the Whiteley School song. Kindergarten and 1st graders love to sing that song, which I wrote the first month Whiteley opened.

Second graders love to sing the Scat Song and Puff the Magic Dragon.

In the primary grades, we do a lot of movement and playing simple rhythm instruments.

In the intermediate grades, we work on Quality singing - singing that is good enough to perform for an audience.

We also play recorders, ukuleles, xylophones and percussion instruments.

In some units, we do incorporate computers and piano keyboards. At the end of 6th grade, students compose and play their own melodies. We also do a lot of movement and dancing. The favorite right now in 6th grade is the Limbo.

For those of us with older children, I want to thank you for all of your hard work in preparing them for the school musicals. For the benefit of those whose children haven't been involved yet, can you tell us something about these performances?

I love doing musicals. For me, it gives all students an opportunity to shine. There's a spot for everyone from superstar to backup singer. I compare a musical to playing basketball. Some students are your super shooters and great passers, but you need the whole team working together to win a game. With a musical, you have super singers and great actors but you need everyone working together to create a successful production.

There are three musicals a year at Whiteley. In December, the 6th grade and chorus put on a holiday program. In February, the 3rd and 4th graders do a show about vacations, sports, self-esteem, etc. In April, the 5th graders and chorus usually do a show based on rock and roll because that's my favorite type of music and I get to choose!

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MAKING PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES WORK FOR YOUR CHILD - From the National PTA website



A parent-teacher conference is a time when important people in a student's life can talk about how that student is doing in school. It's a chance for you to ask questions about the class or your child's progress. It is also a time for you and the teacher to work together as a team to discuss ways you both can help your son or daughter. Whether your child is in elementary, middle or secondary school, parent-teacher conferences are important. If your school does not schedule regular conferences, you can request them. Teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Together, you can help your child have a great school year.

Before the Conference

Schedule an appointment - A parent-teacher conference is not the only time when parents and teachers should make contact. Parents may want to schedule a special meeting with their child's teacher for a variety of reasons. If you need to set up an appointment with the teacher, make a phone call or write a quick note to the teacher, and let him or her know if you have particular issues you would like to discuss.

Talk to your child - Find out which subjects your child likes the best and the least. Ask why. Also, ask if there is anything your child would like you to talk about with the teacher. Help the child understand that you and the teacher are meeting to help him or her. If your child is in middle or high school, you may want to include him or her in the conference.

Gather input from others - If your spouse, another care-giving adult, or someone with pertinent information or insight (doctor, counselor, other guardian) can't attend the conference, ask for that person's concerns and questions before the conference.

Make a list - Before you go to the meeting, make a list of topics to discuss with the teacher. Along with questions About academics and behavior, you

may want to talk to the teacher about the child's home life, personality, concerns, habits and hobbies, and other topics that may help the teacher in working with the child (e.g., religious holidays, music lessons, part-time jobs, a sick relative).

During the Conference

Establish rapport - As an ice-breaker, take notice of something that reflects well upon the teacher. For example, thank the teacher for having made thoughtful notes on your child's homework or for the special attention in helping your child learn to multiply.

Ask questions - Questions you ask during the conference can help you express your hopes for the student's success in class and for the teacher. It's a good idea to ask the important questions first, in case time runs out. The teacher's answers should help you both work together to help your child.

If your child receives special services (e.g., gifted and talented programs, speech or occupational therapy), be sure to ask about the frequency of services and your child's progress.

Addressing problems - Parent-teacher conferences are a good time to discuss any difficulties (either academic or behavioral) a child might be having at school. When problems arise, parents will want to:

- Avoid angry or apologetic reactions. Instead, ask for examples.
- Ask what is being done about the problem and what strategies seem to help at school.
- Develop an action plan that may include steps that parents can take at home and steps the teacher will take when the problem comes up at school.
- Schedule a follow-up conference and decide on the best way to stay in touch (phone, email or letters sent to the home).

Develop an action plan - If the student needs help with a behavioral or an academic issue, you and the teacher should agree on specific plans - that you both will work on - to help your child do better. Be sure you understand what the teacher suggests. If it's not clear, ask him or her to explain. Set up a way to check on your child's progress. You and the teacher can decide how best to stay in touch, such as through phone calls, notes, or additional meetings.

Ending the conference - End the conference by reviewing what you discussed and restating your action plan. This is also a good time to set up your next meeting.

After the Conference

When discussing the conference with the child afterward, stress the good things that were covered and be direct about problems that were identified. If an action plan is in place, explain to the child what was arranged. When an action plan is in place, consider the following: Watch your child's behavior and check on classwork and homework. Ask how the student feels about schoolwork. Stay in touch with the teacher to discuss your child's progress. Express appreciation as progress is made. A good way to promote a continuing relationship with the teacher is to say "thank you" with a note or a telephone call. Continuing to keep in touch with the teacher, even if things are going well, can play an important role in helping the child do better in school. When a child knows parents and teachers are regularly working together, the child will see that education is a high priority requiring commitment and effort.

NOVEMBER 20TH - 26TH IS NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

- From the Illinois PTA Website

November 20th - 26th is National Family Week.

Children should look back at their time spent at home, and remember the positive experiences with their, ever so important family.

For most of us, our families come first, before other important things in our life. But does our behavior reflect that belief?

Although most people say that nothing is more important than their families, day-to-day behavior can tell another story as Jennifer James, a former columnist, once pointed out, "When we're moving fast, sometimes the relationships we care most about get short shrift. We think those we love will forgive us if we spend most of our time at other things. But a child may grow up before we notice that hours of being too busy have extended into days, weeks, months and years. This is a bit of what happened to the boy who recently divorced his mother. She always thought there would be time to get back together."

But she was wrong.

James reminds us that "There are ways to give time and interest to children, family and friends even when every minute seems loaded." For example, you can turn off the TV or put down the newspaper when a loved one is talking to you. The simple gesture of looking directly at someone and stopping what you're doing for a few minutes while they're talking, says they're important to you.

With the holidays as an exception, many families don't gather around the table for meals anymore, so we better come up with some alternatives. Try creating everyday ways to really be with each other, even if it's just for a few minutes at a time. It's vital if we're going to stay close and feel like a family.

What do you think? How do you let your family know, on a daily basis, that they're important to you?

Go for Parental Greatness!

- By R. Jerry Criss, Parent Involvement Chairman

SPARK - SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ACCESSING RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE - PROGRAM CALENDAR

SPARK will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, November 1st at Plum Grove Jr. High School in Rolling Meadows. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Resource Center.

Topic: Executive Function: What is this and why should I care?

The topic of Executive Function will be explained by Shartrina Robinson of Rush Neuro-Behavioral Center. Brain based learning and behavior problems affect about 20% of all children. One of the leading contributions of academic and behavioral problems in children today is the increasing demands placed upon their executive function skills. For all of us, these functions are the brain processes that affect planning, organization, decision-making, time management, attention and behavioral regulation.

Does your child lose important papers or possessions? Fail to turn in completed homework? Starts tasks but doesn't finish? Cannot find clothes, shoes, toys, books?

"Jumps the gun" socially? Written work is poorly organized? Has difficulty relating a story chronologically? Does any of this sound familiar?

Ms. Robinson will share information on what exactly this is, the evaluation process, and strategies to help kids reach their full potential.

December: No Program

January 10th: Developing Successful Kids: A Mastery Toolkit for the "Can Do" Student

February 7th: The 411 on Speech and Language Therapy: What does my child do in there?

March 7th: Reading 101: Assessments, benchmarks and strategies

April 4th: Surviving Parenthood in New and Challenging Times

WELCOME NEW WHITELEY FAMILIES

Welcome to Whiteley

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

WE WANT AND NEED YOU TO HELP US GROW !



Have you ever wanted to volunteer at Whiteley, but didn't think your English was good enough? The International Friendship Committee (IFC) is just for you!

What is IFC?

The IFC was formed eight years ago by some Japanese parents in order to help parents increase understanding with their children about what was happening at Whiteley, the United States school systems and even how to help their children communicate better in the classroom. Children who have friends of many cultures are happy and enjoy school more. We also provide an educational but enjoyable environment at Whiteley through presenting mini seminars and the Multicultural Event in the Spring.

Our goals are twofold:

To help international newcomers be a part of the Whiteley school family and to help non-English speaking parents to get involved in PTA activities.

We wish to provide an educational environment in order for everyone to understand different cultural backgrounds.

We need your help now to do the following:

Multicultural Event (April 21, 2006) - We need your help in planning the Multicultural Event in order to make it better than ever. Several years ago, Japanese and Korean families held a cooking class after school to introduce their cultures. From that small festival grew the Multicultural Event we now hold every Spring. Last year, twelve countries participated!

Help us with your ideas and to organize mini seminars which showcase the many different countries and cultures represented at Whiteley.

We want to **increase the number** of nationalities or cultural backgrounds represented by the IFC in order for it to progress. We need you to help translate Whiteley information into your language to help others at school who may need this information.

If you can only volunteer a little time, we still need you! We would like to invite you to a planning meeting in November. Please call or email today if you could help!

Call the PTA office at 847-963-7234 or Yasuko Nonaka at 847-358-0834 or email at: nonayasu4432@aol.com



KINDERGYM IS OFF AND RUNNING

Our first lesson was on October 5th. During the month of October, we worked on:

Identifying Body Parts

Walking and Running

Hopping and Jumping

In addition, we had a special Halloween lesson!

In the October newsletter, we listed all of the volunteers: however, after the article was written, we had another Mom that volunteered to help.

So I want to be sure to also thank **Miriam Nakazawa** (morning session) for volunteering!

Karen Aranza and I really appreciate all the help from the Kindergym parents. Not only are these parents helping with their child's class, but they are also helping with the bilingual classes as well.

- Jennifer Nemeč

SCHOOL STORE - SPONSORED BY YOUR FCW PTA

The Whiteley PTA School Store committee is chaired by **Sunny Tiao** and is open every other Tuesday during the lunch hour. Sunny and her volunteers offer students the chance to purchase basic school supplies at a low cost. This is not a fundraising event for the PTA.

Supplies offered range in price from 10 cents for pencils, two-pocket folders and cap erasers to \$2 for a box of 24 count colored pencils. There are also novelty erasers, as well as the big pink eraser, pencil sharpeners, mechanical pencils and lead refills for 50 cents. Spiral notebooks and glue (stick or bottle) can be purchased for 25 cents.

New this year is the **black Whiteley rubber band bracelets** for one dollar. Items may vary throughout the school year based on the children's interests and available supplies.

During a student's recess time, he can shop at the store which is located in the lobby in front of the Resource Center. Whiteley Service Club helps sort and deliver the supplies to the classrooms at the end of the lunch period.

Many thanks to the parents that have signed up to volunteer this year: **Stacy Conway, Gayle Bernacki, Barbara Downing, Fong Chang, Debbie Klonder, Jennifer Mondy, Asiya Syed, Lynne Shields, Revathi Ramanathan** and **Kathi Wilson**.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you for your participation in the October Shop and Share Benefit Days. Our next Shop and Share days are November 14th, 15th and 16th. Watch your child's backpack for our flyer and coupons. Extra flyers and coupons will be available in the lobby of the school. And, thanks to the grocery stores for their generous donations to our scholarship funds.

By shopping on these dates and using the coupons, you can do your part to help raise funds for the Illinois PTA Scholarship program. Encourage education!

- Anne Morel and Amy Langston



**Mark your
calendars now!**

***The Holiday Store will
be open on Wednesday,
December 7th.***

***Children can shop for
quality gifts at low
prices for family and
friends.***

***Details to come home
soon!***

FROM OUR READING SPECIALIST ...

“When you motivate your child to read, you also motivate him/her to learn. That’s a gift that improves school success more than almost anything else.”

(The Parent Institute)

This is why I am so thrilled to be able to bring the “Book It!” program to our school. It is a reading incentive program that partners home and school in the mutual goal of increasing reading practice. Read alouds, partner reading, and independent reading all are important aspects of family reading at all ages. Never think your 6th grader is too old to cozy up to a great read with you, or that a 4th grader wouldn’t still enjoy alternating pages as you read together. Students in grades K, 1, 2, 4, and 6 will be participating in the “Book It!” program this year. The classroom teacher will set monthly goals (we began October 1st) and will give your child an award certificate good for one free single-topping personal pizza from a national pizza company when the goal is met.

There is no purchase required and the pizza can be taken to go. In addition, your child will receive a fun, new Book It! Card with a backpack clip and a sticker for the card. If your child meets the reading goals for all six months of the program, he or she will get an All-Star Medallion from the pizza company. We are also in the process of planning a celebration here at school too. Bill Teale, a well-known researcher and professor, details some basic reading truths including:

*The volume of reading positively correlates to achievement.
Good readers read more, poor readers read less.*

No one has more influence on children than parents. If you show your child that reading is wonderful, he/she may become a believer. Have fun with it!

- By Robin Gran
FCW Reading Specialist/Consultant

WE ARE BRINGING A BOOKSTORE TO YOU!



We will be holding our annual book fair in the Resource Center on the same days as the parent-teacher conferences as well as the Friday before conferences.

November 18th - 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.
November 21st - 2 p.m. until 8 p.m.
November 22nd - 7:30 a.m. until 12 noon

Stop by, browse through our huge selection, and do some holiday shopping! (If you buy a book for a teacher’s gift, we will wrap it for you at no extra charge!) See you there!

Please note: We are still in need of LOTS of volunteers to help run this event. If you can help the week before the fair, or during the actual times of the book fair, please call Sue Ramsland at 847-358-2399. Thanks!



WHITELEY SCHOOL SONG COMPOSER

Continued from page 4

If you held parent/teacher conferences for music, what would you like to say to Whiteley parents?

I would say how much I enjoy your children and I wish I had more time to get to know each student at a more personal level. When you teach everyone in the school, it is very hard to find the time to give each child the attention you would like to give them.

Mrs. Holleran, thank you for participating in our Teacher Feature article and your continued dedication to our children.

I love teaching at Whiteley and cannot imagine being anywhere else. Thank you for always being such supportive parents and sending great kids to school.

Email: HolleraW@ccsd15.net



AND THE BOX TOPS WINNERS ARE ...



Congratulations to our September classroom winners:

First Floor: **Mrs. Saez**, Room 106, 1st grade - 461 box tops and 24 grocery bonus receipts (each receipt was worth 20 box tops) giving her a total of **941** box tops. Mrs. Saez's class was treated to a popcorn party.

Second Floor: **Mrs. Danielczyk and Mrs. Hyla**, Room 210, 5th grade - 371 box tops and 27 bonus receipts (each receipt was worth 20 box tops) giving their class a total of **911** box tops! Mrs. Danielczyk and Mrs. Hyla's class was treated to a cookie party.

Just for this contest, we collected over 8,000 box tops! Keep those box tops coming. Our next contest will be from January 1 - January 31st. Also, thank you for helping me by trimming the box tops. As you trim, please try to trim around the outline. Expired box tops or box tops where the expiration date is cut off, cannot be submitted to the company.

Booster Club

Have you signed up for the free booster club? It's very easy. One of the many benefits you will receive is coupons from the website. When you sign up, our school will receive five bonus box tops. The website is www.boxtop4education.com. As a member of the booster club, you can enter monthly contests to win 100,000 bonus box tops for our school. In addition to this contest, there is a sweepstakes to see live auto racing. Only Booster Club members can enter into the sweepstakes and receive current promotions. It is definitely beneficial to be a Booster Club member!

*For those of you who are current Booster Club members, please remember to go to the website each month to enter the contest.

- Jennifer Nemec



BUY A PIE (OR TWO) AND SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

Our food fundraiser is back this year and we are hoping to top last year's profits of over \$4,000! As many of you already know, the PTA facilitates this fundraiser - one that every family can participate in. No need to ask anyone to purchase anything - just place an order for your family and enjoy restaurant quality foods that are quick and easy to prepare. There is a large selection of items to choose from and you can order online right from your own home. You can find the website address on the order form that is sent home with your child every month.

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, we thought it would be exciting to have a pie selling contest! This is a great opportunity to have some fun, as well as earn some extra funds for our school. Whiteley will receive \$1.75 for every pie we sell up to 249 pies. If we sell 250 or more, our profit increases to \$2.75 per pie! There are over 500 families in our school community. If every family ordered at least one pie, our school would receive \$1,375 for our PTA sponsored activities.

As an extra incentive, \$25 gift cards will be given to the top three sellers at Whiteley.

Also, the PTA Committee chairpersons of this fundraiser will treat the classroom that sells the most pies to a **pizza or ice cream party**. **The teacher that orders/sells the most pies will earn a FREE PIE of his or her choice!**

Order forms will be sent home soon. This Thanksgiving, let someone else do your baking!

And another important note: the food delivery truck usually arrives around 4 p.m. and the boxes must be unpacked and then customer orders are packed before they arrive. We couldn't do this without our dedicated volunteers and additional hands are always welcome to get the job done!

Many thanks to: **Colleen Fear, Terry Pullara, Corey Hamilton, Phil Whiteside and Chris Winberg.**

- Tim and Stephanie Reidy



THANK YOU CORNER

To Mrs. Kathy Weber, our school secretary:

For all of your help in getting the School Store ready to go this year, especially your coordination of the Whiteley Service Club student helpers!

To Mr. Harris:

Thanks for letting the PTA use the soccer balls and mats for the radar kick at the Fall Festival. Also many thanks for the decorative lights in the gym!

To Mr. Keith McKinnie, our school custodian:

Many thanks for all the help with preparations for our Fall Festival event - from getting the lights from the district, to setting up and all of the miscellaneous things that came up during the event that you so willingly helped out with.

To Colleen Fear:

A big thank you for stepping in and taking control of the Classroom Pumpkin Decorating Contest voting table at the Fall Festival!

To Yasuko Nonaka and Akemi Yamamoto:

For translating the PTA newsletter for our Japanese speaking parents. Thank you for providing this wonderful service and keeping everyone informed!

Thanks to all the Dads who attended our Dads & Donuts event on Friday, October 14.

Over 56 dozen donuts were consumed!

A special thank you to all of the teachers who helped serve our Whiteley Dads.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves!

- The Hospitality Committee

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Dear Editor:

I understand that the District 15 Board Meetings are now being videotaped. Where can I watch them in Hoffman Estates?

- HE Parent

Dear HE Parent:

Currently, only Palatine is running the videotape provided by the district on Channel 6 - Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m. Hoffman Estates needs to take this issue before the Village Board and they will decide if/when the videotape will be broadcast. If you would like to see the tapes broadcast in Hoffman Estates, please contact the Village Board and let them know.

Dear Editor:

How do I find out about my child's lunch account balance? Will I get a notice if their account is getting close to zero? I would like to know the exact amount that they have remaining so I can plan accordingly.

- Curious Parent

Dear Curious:

Negative balance notices are sent out several times a week. If I see that a child's account is low, I will tell them that they need more money and provide them with a deposit slip. If a child needs to know the specific amount left in their account, they can ask me after the lunch line is finished. Parents can call or email me anytime to inquire.

- Annette Grabowski
FCW Lunch Coordinator
Email: GrabowsA@ccsd15.net
Phone: 847-963-7208

Don't forget - we need your special memories or note of thanks to a staff member that had a special impact on you or your child. A keepsake will be created and presented during Staff Appreciation Week in May. Please help us make this a memorable year for all of our Whiteley Teachers and Staff.

Additional forms to submit your message are available in the school lobby or use a separate sheet of paper. Send it to school with your child in an envelope addressed to Priscilla Sorrentino, PTA - Thanks for your help!

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

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2003 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon
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Japanese Translation Available

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REVIEW

With over 200 people in attendance at the October 11, 2005 Board of Education meeting, Dr. McKanna recognized Marion Jordan as the newest "No Child Left Behind" Blue Ribbon school in the district. In addition, he personally thanked the PTA Presidents in attendance, including our own Anita Jamnik, for their dedication and presented them with a certificate of appreciation.

The meeting continued with reports from the Administration on the 2005 Annual Student Achievement Report, a 10-year Life/Safety Study and Special Education Legislation.

Copies of the slides shown at the meeting were made available and can be downloaded from Pleasant Hill PTA's website at phpta.org.

The consulting firm that evaluated all 19 of the district's buildings during the life/safety study concluded that they were in "excellent shape".

Of the expected \$33 million to maintain the buildings over the next 10 years, Frank C. Whiteley Elementary is expected to require \$377K.

Citizens were allowed to address the board at approximately 8:45 p.m. and brought up concerns about field trips for band and chorus, school libraries, better funding for autism and how large class sizes are affecting children.

Afterwards, board discussions continued on the subject of clubs and activities in the district, an energy conservation plan and the district's website.

The administration stated that it is already in the process of sending a letter to all principals regarding the need to conserve energy. Since natural gas prices are expected to rise 30 to 50% this winter, measures must be taken to reduce our costs. Ideas offered included lowering thermostats, changing the temperature in water fountains and computers going to an energy saving mode when not in use.

In regards to making more documents available on the internet, board members disagreed on the issue. Dr. McKanna advised that they could put a list of documents on the website, with a brief explanation, so that citizens would be aware of what they can request through the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act).

- By Jennifer Mondy, FCW PTA Newsletter Editor

District 15 has Substitute Program Assistant openings - Interested individuals should submit an online application on their website at www.ccsd15.net and click on Career Opportunities. Applications will be accepted until November 4, 2005.

HOW TO KEEP INFORMED ON THE ISSUES AFFECTING DISTRICT 15

Local Public Television

Board of Education meetings are now being videotaped and are available for broadcast in Hoffman Estates, Palatine, Rolling Meadows and parts of Barrington. Check your local listing for dates and times.

Daily Herald

This newspaper consistently sends a reporter to the board meetings and articles are printed the following day and often for a few days afterwards. You can read the articles online at www.dailyherald.com

"Spotlight on the Board" Meeting Notes

Notes taken by Pleasant Hill PTA's District 15 Liaison, Susan Quinn are available online, as well as handouts that were available to those in attendance, at www.phpta.org Go to: District 15 School Board

District 15 Website

A summary of actions taken by the Board of Education is now online at www.ccsd15.net

Go to: "About District 15", then: "Board of Education" and finally: "Meeting Dates/Agendas/Minutes"