



# Whiteley Cat Tales

A PTA Publication,  
Illinois PTA, District 37

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December, 2005

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

## PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November was a busy month for the PTA and the school. We started out the month with Veteran's Day observances. Kids in grades 4 through 6 had an assembly and listened to a veteran from World War II talk about his experiences. The children in K through 3 had a special Veteran's Day movie.

District 15 is one of the only districts in the area that I know of that actually holds classes on Veteran's Day. It seems logical that children should spend the day in school learning about what our armed forces do for us on a daily basis. We also had a small group of children leave school with their parents to go over to the Hoffman Estates Veterans' Memorial for a short ceremony.

Mrs. Szuch ordered a spray of flowers from Silk Paradise and the children laid the spray at the memorial after leading the ceremony in the Pledge of Allegiance. I want to take this opportunity to thank Silk Paradise for contributing extra flowers to the arrangement.

We have also had a successful pie sale and our main wrapping paper fundraiser came to a close. Once again, thank you to all who participate in our fundraising activities.

Without your support, we would not be able to provide some of the many things our PTA does for our children.

Did your kids come home raving about the science assembly the PTA sponsored at school? We had a gentleman come in from the Science Alliance. The kids seemed thrilled! He used large numbers of volunteers from the different grades to help demonstrate his experiments. He had (controlled) explosions, liquids that created fog, showed chemical reactions with color changes and more.

We finished off the month with our Book Fair and Thanksgiving break. I hope you all had a chance to stop by the Book Fair and pick up some fun books for yourselves, your child, or family and friends. If you didn't have a chance last month, take some time to think about what you have to be thankful for. We truly are a blessed school community.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

- Anita Jamnik  
PTA President

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## Calendar of Events

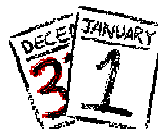
- 12/5-7 - Dist. 37 Benefit Days
- 12/9 - Holiday Store
- 12/12-14 PTA Dist. 37  
Shop & Share Days
- 12/13 - School Store
- 12/14 - Board of Education  
Meeting - 7 p.m.  
Food Pickup  
5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Cookie Exchange  
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 12/16 - Newsletter Deadline
- 12/19 - Winter Break Begins
- 1/3 - School Reopens
- 1/10 - School Store  
SPARK Meeting

### **Need another tax deduction for 2005?**

**The Whiteley PTA is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization — any direct donations are tax deductible.**

**Make your check out to: Frank C. Whiteley PTA and send it to school with your child before winter break.**

**The cancelled check will serve as your receipt if needed.**



**National  
PTA**  
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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Winter is upon us as temperatures are dropping. Please see that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. Snow pants and boots are required for playing in the field when snow is on the ground. It is that time of year for colds and flu. Please keep your child home until he/she is fever free for 24 hours.

In recent weeks, we have had unsafe situations with students crossing Haman Avenue to meet parents parked in the cul-du-sac or parked on the opposite side of the street. I have directed students to walk toward one of our two crossing guards at either end of the driveway to cross Haman Avenue in a safe manner. I would greatly appreciate your feedback and suggestions for our school dismissal at 3:40 p.m.

Students will be on Winter Vacation from December 19th until January 2, 2006. School will reopen Tuesday, January 3, 2006. I hope that everyone has a healthy and prosperous New Year!

- Mrs. Szuch, Principal

# Happy Holidays!

**The 2005-2006 PTA Membership Directory .....**  
**will be delivered in a few weeks to your youngest child's backpack!**

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

There will be a District 15 Blood Drive held at Plum Grove Junior High School in Rolling Meadows on Wednesday, January 18th from 2:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

If you are interested in donating, please contact Chris Hernet at 847-202-8268.



### FOR HAPPY CHILDREN

*Tell them that you love them,  
 Show them that you care.  
 Make them feel they're special,  
 And try to be aware -  
 If things seem to be different,  
 Something's just not right,  
 Assure them that you'll save them,  
 From monsters in the night.  
 Listen when they're talking.  
 Answer when they ask,  
 Excite in their achievements,  
 Take part in every task.  
 Respect them as a person,  
 Love them as they are,  
 Teach them to take chances,  
 Help them reach the stars.  
 Accept mistakes will happen,  
 And learn from what goes wrong,  
 With trust and communication,  
 Relationships stay strong.  
 Encourage love to others,  
 But first comes self-esteem,  
 With pride and love and confidence,  
 Their mind is free to dream.*

- Stephanie Douglas

### SCHOOL STORE NEWS

**Definition: Lanyard - A cord worn around the neck to hold something.**

**Whiteley lanyards are now available for \$2 at the School Store. They are imprinted with the white Whiteley Wildcat and paws logo on a black background. Perfect for hanging an ID badge!**  
**Next store: December 13th**

## DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY STORE - DECEMBER 9TH

### NOTE THE DATE CHANGE—

This year's Holiday Store will be held on Friday, December 9th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The children will be allowed to shop throughout the day for gifts ranging in price from 25 cents to \$10. There will be gift selections for everyone on your child's list — Mom, Dad, Sister, Brother, Grandparents and any other special people they can think of this holiday season. This can be a wonderful opportunity for children to surprise their family and friends with a special gift and also manage their money at the same time.



Further details will be coming home before the store opens.



## WHITELEY GIRL SCOUT NEWS

Girl Scouting is alive and thriving at Whiteley. This year's recruitment night was held on September 28th and was the most successful in recent years. There are now over 74 girls participating in eight troops from Kindergarten through 6th grade. Girls are still welcome to join! Just contact the leader listed below for more information.

During the Whiteley Fall Festival, the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade troops participated in a bake sale making a profit of about \$270. Those funds are being used toward a caroling event on December 20th at the Rosewood Care Center. The girls will share hot cocoa and cookies while mingling with the residents afterwards.

In addition, for a troop service project this year, the 4th grade Troop #3648 is sponsoring and decorating a tree for the Hoffman Estates Celebration of Lights event at Pine Park. This troop is also sponsoring a young girl from the Angel Tree at the Palatine Township Outreach Department and will provide homemade baked goods for their Christmas party.

Come find out what girl scouting is all about!

**Kindergarten (Daisy)** - Third Tuesday of the month at FCW Leader: Marnie Bushmole - 847-963-9829

**1st Grade (Brownie)** - Two Thursdays a month at the leader's home at 6:30 p.m. Leader: Sue Machuca - 847-705-4922

**2nd Grade (Brownie)** - First Tuesday of the month at FCW Leaders: Stacy Conway and Teri Pullara - 847-358-4824

**3rd Grade (Brownie)** - Wednesdays at FCW Leader: Teresa Izydorek - 847-991-6574

**4th Grade (Junior)** - 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at FCW Leader: Korene Palazzo - 847-934-9436

**5th Grade (Junior)** - 2nd and 4th Thursday at FCW Leader: Jennifer Nemec - 847-934-8515

1st and 3rd Thursday at FCW Leader: Kathy Mathias - 847-202-6768

**6th Grade (Junior)** - Sundays at the leader's home. Leader: Teresa Izydorek - 847-991-6574

## RACE IN AND JOIN THE CUB SCOUTS!



Looking for something fun and exciting for your son?! You can still sign up for Cub Scouting here at Whiteley School. Scouts is for 1st through 5th grade boys. We meet a couple times a month and have a bunch of cool stuff planned for the upcoming year.

In September, we had rock climbing, while in October, we built model rockets and launched them way up into the sky. We built model boats and raced them in November.

This January, we will be having the Pinewood race car derby (build a car and race it with other scouts), and in February, we will be off camping in cabins.

And remember when the Cub Scouts sold glow necklaces at the Fall Festival, we raised \$130 and donated it to the Hurricane Katerina Fund.

If you are interested in having your son join our pack, please call Chris Winberg at 847-358-4575 or Laura Hanks at 847-358-2927.



## MRS. NEUMANN AND MRS. SCHLADER—

Mrs. Diane Neumann began teaching second grade at Whiteley in 1989. After ten years, she moved to the Kindergarten classroom. This year, she has 56 students - 29 in the morning and 27 in the afternoon.

Mrs. Lynise Schlader has been the Kindergarten program assistant at Whiteley since the school opened in 1989. She has worked with Mrs. Neumann for the past seven years.

**Editor: Mrs. Neumann, it is my guess that you have taught Kindergarten to more than half of the Whiteley student body. That makes you a well-known teacher among the students. Can you tell us something about yourself that Whiteley parents may not already know?**

Mrs. Neumann: This year will be my twentieth year in teaching. I can hardly believe it! I began teaching 3rd grade in Nashville, Tennessee and then moved to District 15 in 1988. I taught 2nd grade at Thomas Jefferson before moving to Whiteley when it first opened. Here at Whiteley, I taught 2nd grade for 10 years and have been in Kindergarten with Mrs. Schlader ever since. You name it....we've seen it! This year we have 56 Kindergarteners and they certainly keep us hopping! My husband, David and I met in college and have been married for 15 years. He works in Glenview ....and to think I thought I had a long commute from Lake In The Hills!

We have two daughters. Our oldest daughter Brooke is in 5th grade and our youngest daughter,

Haley is in 3rd grade. Between homework, gymnastics and ice skating, we are constantly on the go! Sometimes I think I spend more time in the car than I do at home!

We have two pets—a Shiba Inu named Buck and a cat named Kitty. (Yes, I take a lot of heat for the lack of originality in her name.) They have both endured their fair share of being dressed up, pushed in strollers and having their “hair” done!

I can't really say I have much spare time, but one of my favorite things to do is to cook and to try new recipes. I am constantly thumbing through cookbooks to find something that catches my eye!

**Mrs. Schlader, will you fill us in on your life outside of Whiteley?**

Mrs. Schlader: I live in Lake Barrington with my husband, Steve and my daughter, Heather. Steve is vice president in charge of Construction for Center Point Properties in OakBrook. Heather is a licensed and certified substance abuse counselor. She currently is working in the Registrar's office at Harper College. We have a three year old yellow lab named Bailey who loves to go hunting with Steve.

I love to read and I love to travel. Two of my favorite trips were a cruise and land tour of Alaska and a three week trip to Australia and New Zealand. This summer we are going on a cruise of European capital cities and then staying in London for a few days afterward.

As anyone can tell you, I love to shop. When I was a little girl, I did professional modeling for Spiegel, Inc. I learned at an early age how much fun it is to wear new and exciting clothes. Now as a little hobby, I sell the clothes on EBay. You would be surprised at some of the items people buy, I guess the statement is true that “there is a buyer for everything”.

**Can you both tell us how you made the decision to become a teacher? What led you to the Kindergarten classroom?**

Mrs. Schlader: My own children attended District 15 schools and in the early 1980s, it seemed as if I was one of the few Moms not working outside the home. In my son's classroom, I was the room mom, the picture lady, the volunteer to go on field trips, etc. I was spending so much time at school that my husband jokingly said, “You're spending so much time at school, why don't you try to bring in a salary with it?” I took his suggestion, applied to District 15 and the rest is history. One of my first assignments was Kindergarten at Virginia Lake. It was only part-time but I loved it. My own children's ages were far removed from Kindergarten age so I seemed to have the patience necessary for Kindergarten. There is just something about the innocence, the excitement, the wonder of learning, that, this age embodies. They are always, so excited, so willing to please, so anxious to try new things. I really felt like this was the ideal fit for me and luckily I have been able to work in Kindergarten for all these years.

Mrs. Neumann: Ever since I was young, I have worked with children. During high school and college, I worked as a tutor for children learning to read and spent my summers teaching three and four year olds in a preschool program at a daycare center. Having the opportunity to teach Kindergarten is something I have always wanted to do. Even though I have enjoyed every grade level that I taught, I believe that Kindergarten is the perfect match for me. I still find teaching exciting and certainly a lot of fun! Kindergarteners have a special gift of enthusiasm for learning, which is certainly contagious. I cannot think of anything that I would rather do!

**Continued on the next page.**



## TEACHING OUR YOUNGEST WILDCATS

### **Mrs. Schlader, could you describe your working relationship with Mrs. Neumann?**

*I think we make a great team. I have always been fortunate to work with a teacher who allows me to be "not just a teacher's aide" but another teacher in the classroom. Working at the same grade level for years and working with the same teacher helps you to "just know" what needs to be done. Instinctively, you can anticipate what the other person needs even before they ask for it. We have the same expectations for behavior so classroom management is easy.*

*Best of all, we are friends and we laugh together a lot. Some days, we have to laugh or we'd cry. Just kidding! I think we both realize what a special job we have. We are a child's first experience with school and all that it entails. We want each child to have fun and most importantly to learn that school and learning are fun.*

### **Mrs. Neumann, in your opinion, how has Kindergarten changed over the years?**

Kindergarten has changed immensely over the years. At one time Kindergarten was based on learning social skills through play, art and music. Our focus now is to help the children learn both socially and academically. The Kindergarten curriculum is now based much more on the academic skills that children need to become successful readers, writers and problem solvers. One of my goals is to have the children learn to read and write sentences by the end of the year. Not only is this a realistic and wonderful goal for the children, but watching the children reach this goal is one of the most exciting parts of teaching Kindergarten.

### **Here's a question for each of you - When you eventually retire from teaching, what Kindergarten memories will stay with you?**

Mrs. Neumann: One of the best memories I will have is the thrill and sense of pride you have as a teacher when you listen to a child discover the secrets of reading and to sit down with them and read the sentence they have written. This will most certainly be one of the memories that I will be able to take with me, but I also have very personal memories that will stay with me forever.

Mrs. Schlader and I have stories upon stories of the cute things the children have said or have done. These are the ones that keep us smiling (sometimes giggling) all day. When I pick up my own children from school each day, they always ask me "How was school today Mom? Do you have any cute stories?" I never disappoint them!

Mrs. Schlader: Retirement for me will be coming soon as I plan on retiring in June, 2007. That will have given me 20 years of working in Kindergarten. I think that is long enough for one human being to be in Kindergarten! We will be building a home in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. We will permanently move there and I will become a Southern belle. I think the most striking memory that will stay with me - the one that happens every year - is the change you see in each child. The change from the sometimes shy, sometimes teary child who is apprehensive about coming into the classroom, into the confident child who can read a book and read something that they themselves wrote. It is so exciting to see their faces light up when this happens. They are so proud of themselves. It makes me proud that I helped - even in a small way.

**Thank you both for participating in our first duo teacher feature newsletter article. On behalf of Whiteley's past, present and future Kindergarten parents, thank you for your dedication to our littlest Wildcats.**

*Mrs. Schlader: I'm thankful for all the years of working at FCW where parents value education. Where children are rewarded for a job well done. I'm thankful that you have entrusted me with your most valuable treasures - your children. I hope they remember me as fondly as I will remember them.*

Mrs. Neumann: I am so very fortunate to be a part of Whiteley School. Here, we are blessed with a parent community and a PTA that help to put our children and their education first. Our staff is second to no other....and I am proud to be a part of it all.

Email: [Neumannnd@ccsd15.net](mailto:Neumannnd@ccsd15.net)  
[Schladel@ccsd15.net](mailto:Schladel@ccsd15.net)

### **Kindergym News.....**

*During the month of November, we reviewed leaping, galloping, sliding and skipping motor skills. We also had a fun Thanksgiving class where we played "turkey games". One of the games that we played was called "Wild Horse" roundup. We used 6 kids as taggers and the taggers had one minute to tag as many students as they could all while galloping! We alternated our taggers each game. Everyone became very good at galloping this month!*

- Jennifer Nemece



## REMEMBER LAST YEAR'S FUN FAIR? WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO IT AGAIN THIS FEBRUARY!

Before you know it, the 2006 Whiteley Fun Fair will be here! Do you remember last year's fair? Did your children play all of the games? How about the cake walk? And who can forget the fish pond?!

Whiteley will, once again, be hosting a Fun Fair on Friday, February 3rd from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Many volunteers are needed in order for the fun fair to be successful. Will you be able to help us this year?

We will need your help in the following areas:

- Chair a Committee (Food, games, etc.)
- Games (oversee a game)
- Ticket sales (selling food or game tickets)
- Cake Walk (coordinate the walkers)
- Food (take tickets and serve food)
- Redemption (kids redeeming their tickets for prizes)
- Publicity (posters for food, games, etc)
- Donate baked goods (purchased or homemade)
- Classroom Gift Baskets (supervise, donate)
- Face Painting (self-explanatory)
- Karaoke (supervise)
- Set up the fun fair (3 p.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Clean up the fun fair (8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.)
- And the ever popular: "I'll help with anything!"

Don't forget! You also will have fun with your family. We only need your help for one shift so you can enjoy the fair.

Let us know what shift you would like to take:

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

If you would like to be a part of this exciting event, please contact:

Sue Delapa (847)202-0611 email: [Johnsam7777@aol.com](mailto:Johnsam7777@aol.com)  
or Anne Wisniewski (847) 991-5478  
email: [Annewiz@flash.net](mailto:Annewiz@flash.net).

A flyer will also be sent out this month that you can fill out and return to school by Wednesday, December 14th.

Remember, everyone is invited to help — parents, teachers, staff, former Whiteley students.....

Your interest and support are greatly appreciated!

P.S. Do you have a "kiddie" pool or Karaoke machine that we could borrow for the night of the Fun Fair? If so, please contact Sue or Anne.

## AWESOME REACTIONS FROM SCIENCE ALLIANCE

The Science Alliance assembly performed by Bill Bosworth on November 8th was a complete success! Everyone young and old enjoyed the show and learned a little more about chemistry. What did your child tell you? Did they tell you that the mixing of two or more chemicals makes a reaction - and WOW - some of those were awesome, scary and surprising.

Many children were called on stage as volunteers - so there was a lot of hands on activity. They made super balls and gack. Some drew pictures on the walls with chap stick or wax and then squirted them with ammonia (Windex) to make the picture appear.

Did you know that glass is a liquid? Well it is! Ask your child! They found out.

And most importantly, the children were taught to remember "SAFETY" - "It's gonna get ya!" They must always have adult supervision and NEVER touch, smell or taste any chemical they may find. They were told to find a parent or teacher and ask for help!

The PTA was proud to sponsor this in-house field trip for our students. Two more assemblies will be offered later in the year. Help us by supporting our fundraising activities — box tops, monthly food fundraiser and direct donations to the Whiteley PTA.

- Liesl Ignoffo, Programs



## GOING BACK IN TIME AT WHITELEY - SNAPSHOTS FROM PTA NEWSLETTERS OF THE PAST

One of the best things about being the PTA newsletter editor this year has been the opportunity to read through the archives of FCW PTA newsletters of the past. These newsletters hold a wealth of information about how our PTA began, services it has provided and the history of this school. Beginning this month, I would like to occasionally take you "back in time" to relive a bit of the history of our school and its PTA.

### The beginning - School year 1989-1990

There have been four principals since Whiteley opened on August 30th, 1989. Mr. David Corbett was our first principal and remained with the school for four years. Mrs. Kathleen May took over in 1993 and retired after the 1999-2000 school year. In the fall of 2000, Mrs. Karen Hindman became principal and was instrumental in securing the 2003 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award for Whiteley. Our current principal, Mrs. Mary Szuch joined us in 2004 but already had a history at Whiteley. She was a third grade teacher here when the school was dedicated to one of District 15's former superintendents, Dr. Frank C. Whiteley on November 15th, 1989. Two of our former principals, Mr. Corbett and Mrs. Hindman are now part of District 15's administrative team.

In November of 1989, the Whiteley student body overwhelmingly decided that we would be known as the **Whiteley Wildcats** and that our school colors would be black and white. A contest was then held to name the newsletter and the winning entry of **Whiteley Cat Tales** was submitted by a 2nd grader. Enthusiasm for the new school was high and the PTA enjoyed an 81% membership rate by January, 1990.

On April 26, 1990, the Whiteley PTA received the highest honor that the State and National PTA bestows on a local unit. It was the winner of the "Advocates for Children Award" for the State of Illinois. In the newsletter, the PTA President shared a portion of the application she submitted for the award. She felt it said a lot about the school that year.

"Organizing a new unit has been a tremendously exciting and rewarding experience. It has not, however, been without its challenges. One of the more subtle challenges has been to gently break the ties to our old schools and forge a new bond with this school. Sometimes these kinds of bonds come as a result of overcoming adversity together. Struck by arson in early July, our building was very late in being completed. With only a few days available to get the building ready to open, our unit organized an army of parent volunteers who worked side by side with the staff to get the job done. That experience seems to have set the tone because we have continued to work side by side throughout our first year to provide the best education possible for our students. The strength of our unit lies not so much in what we have accomplished, but in where we are going. The foundation of our organization is solid and ready to be built upon. An acronym for the name Whiteley, written by one of our members in honor of our dedication, sums it all up: **We Have It Together: Education, Leadership, Environment and You!**"

That was our past - we need **You** to be a part of the future. Get involved in our PTA and make a difference!

- Jennifer Mondy, Newsletter Editor

### INTERNATIONAL COOKIE AND SWEET TREATS EXCHANGE

**Wednesday, December 14th, 2005 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room**

**This is a wonderful opportunity to share a recipe that your family enjoys and also to try many different treats that you might not know about!**

**A flyer with additional details is being sent home.**

**Start making your plans now - forms are due by Friday, December 9th.**



## MAKING A FAMILY MUSEUM VISIT FUN FOR TODDLERS, TEENS, AND IN-BETWEENS

- By Marilyn Anderson and Patricia Sullivan

- Reprinted from the National PTA Website

Museums are a place of wonderment, exploration, learning and fun for the entire family. Just ask Jean L. Sousa, associate director of museum education, The Art Institute of Chicago. "Don't be intimidated or worry that your children will cry or misbehave at the museum...and don't worry that you need a degree in art history," she said. "If the museum offers family programs, these are non-issues." Sousa said that parent workshops at museums build on issues in child development and learning theory to make family visits more comfortable.

Today, many museums are interactive learning centers that give families an opportunity to explore, learn, create their own art, and yes, even touch some exhibits. With all of this variety and activity, how can parents ensure that their children won't become overwhelmed, tired, or too distracted to enjoy the experience? The key is in the planning.

### A look at art museums

"It's important for children to distinguish between beautiful, masterfully rendered art and mass-produced art or what you see on television," Sousa said. For children's first art museum experiences, she recommends that parents keep the visit simple. "See three pictures and then have lunch," she said. Be flexible. When children start becoming restless, do something else.

Following are suggestions from Sousa and The Art Institute of

Chicago on how to cultivate your children's curiosity through art.

### Look for recognizable things.

Simply identifying things in a painting can be fun for families with young children. Parents can ask their children how many people and animals they see, how many fruits are in a still life, what kinds of activity is taking place, and what colors and shapes they see.

### Find visual clues that uncover meaning.

Ask older children to describe what they see and help them determine the meaning the artist intended. For instance, ask your children to determine the time of day, season, or which person is oldest in a painting. Then ask them to explain how they came to their conclusions.

**Imagine the work of art coming to life.** Let children's active imaginations run wild by asking them to make up a story for a picture. "In some ways not knowing much is an advantage," Sousa said.

### Modern art offers plenty of room for interpretation, too.

Parents can ask, what just happened? What's going on now? What will happen next? What sounds or smells do you imagine while looking at the painting?

### Listen and respond to each other.

Sharing time with your children at a museum also means communicating well. Be sure to ask your children why they feel a certain way or made certain comments about a piece of art.

**How to prepare for a museum visit.** "A child is going to get out of an experience what the adult is willing to put in," said Nancy Kolb, president and chief executive officer of Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia. "The parent has to be patient."

Following is a compilation of museum tips from Sousa, The Art Institute of Chicago and Kolb.

### Before the visit

- Get the information. Explore the museum's website to learn about the permanent and special exhibits, hours of operation, accessibility, admission fees and discounts, and family programs. Request a brochure or activity sheet that is used for school groups. (More than half of museums are free to the public. Of those that charge fees, nearly 60% have free days.)
- Ask your children what they're interested in and what they're studying in school. Then try to build upon their excitement.
- Consider becoming a member if you plan to visit several times during the year. Museum memberships often provide discounts for the museum store, food vendor, and special museum programs. (The median museum admission for a family of four is \$15. The median membership fee for families is \$25.)

Continued on the next page.



## ABOUT THE ILLINOIS PTA - From the Illinois PTA Website

The Illinois PTA is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding Section of any future Federal Tax Code.

### MISSION OF THE PTA

- Support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children.
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

### OBJECTS OF THE PTA

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.



## MAKING A FAMILY MUSEUM VISIT FUN . . . .

### Continued from the preceding page.

- Determine how long you will spend at the museum. Ninety minutes to two hours should be enough.

### At the museum

- Find the information desk and ask, "What do you recommend for families?"
- Help children figure out how things work, but don't do it for them. Use open-ended questions and try to get to the how and the why of things. For example, while at the dinosaur exhibit, ask, "How do you think they ate? Where did something that big sleep?"

- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Our over one hundred year history is filled with many wonderful accomplishments and continuing battles. One of those continuing battles is adequate school funding. The Legislation page of the Illinois PTA website will keep you updated on all legislative activities including Calls to Action and Legislative Alerts. Go to: [illinoispta.org](http://illinoispta.org)

The Illinois PTA works with and serves on many committees on the Illinois State Board of Education; cooperating agencies in the fields of health, safety, environmental concerns, juvenile protection, cultural arts; community outreach; and other governmental bodies.

With a membership of 200,000 members, the Illinois PTA is a strong voice for the advocacy of children and youth.

**If you haven't already joined the Whiteley PTA, please pick up a membership form in the school office. Your dues, in part, help the Illinois PTA in their continuing support of our children.**

- Keep the visit simple and don't try to see everything. Take a break.

### After the visit

- Ask your children what they liked or didn't like, and why. Ask what they enjoyed the most.
- Have them share their experiences with friends and relatives.
- Help your children find the answers to their unsolved questions.
- Talk about items in your house and have them relate what they learned to everyday objects.



## PLAY "CAN YOU FIND THE BOX TOP?" THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



The holidays are fast approaching and as you are grocery shopping, please be on the look out for those cute little box tops. There are several products that you can buy this holiday season that have a box top on it. Just look for the box top on various cookie dough, breads, dinner rolls and yogurts with the "dough boy" and cake mixes, frosting, brownies and more from a well-known Betty. Even some storage bags that "zip" and "lock" and reusable plastic containers have the box tops on them.

Our next classroom contest will be in January so remember to clip those box tops during the holidays!

- Jennifer Nemec

## NOVEMBER PIE WINNERS AND MORE . . . .

Thanks to everyone who purchased pies last month. Mrs. Stanis' classroom won the contest for selling the most pies (24) and Mrs. Zievel won the contest for the teacher that ordered the most pies (2).

The children that sold the most pies are as follows:

Room 108 - sold 13 pies

Room 202 - sold 10 pies

Both will receive a \$25 giftcard.

Third place resulted in a tie - 8 pies each for .

Also, we were able to sell the 48 extra pies we needed to sell to make our goal and late orders were accepted for another 27 pies. Last month's sale earned over \$1,200 for the PTA.

A special thank you to our hardworking pie crew:

**Denise Collingwood, Lisa and Steven Duffield, Colleen, Doug, Zach and Madeline Fear, Corry Hamilton, Sue Priebe, Terri Pullara, Phil Whiteside and Chris and Jenny Winberg.**

We would also like to thank everyone for their patience during the sale. We had some confusion due to the fact that several orders were turned in past the due date, and some items were missing from our regular shipment. However, we were able to get all of the orders filled and completed the following day. Thanks again to all who supported our sale last month.

- Tim and Stephanie Reidy



## IKEBANA SEMINAR REVIEW

The IKEBANA seminar held on Thursday, November 17th was well attended by Whiteley parents, teachers and staff. Participants learned that there are two styles in Japanese flower arrangements - Moribana and Nageire. The style taught at the seminar was Moribana in which flowers are arranged in a frog (spiked holder for flower stems) and an upright position.

Everyone enjoyed the seminar and took home a beautiful arrangement of yellow Mums, purple Liatris and white Wax flowers.

One of the participants commented, "I had a wonderful time - it was a pleasure to make and also see the beautiful culture of Japan."

This committee hopes to plan more international seminars and events which Whiteley students, families, teachers and staff can enjoy.

Our next event is the International Cookie and Sweet Treats Exchange on Wednesday, December 14th.

See page seven of this newsletter for more information. A detailed flyer with specific information on how you can participate will be sent home soon.

We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events!

- International Friendship Committee (IFC)

# THANK YOU CORNER

### To our Room Representatives:

A huge thank you goes out to everyone for all of their hard work on the classroom Halloween parties. It was very apparent how much preparation and time was spent getting ready so the parties would run so smoothly. And there were many comments about the delicious odors floating in the hallways that afternoon: nacho bars, pizzas, and all the great baked goods made for happy children. Thanks to all of you again and have a wonderful holiday season.

Valentine's Day will be here before we know it .....

- Debbie Klonder and Priscilla Sorrentino

### To Sue Priebe, Kathy Mathias and Heidi Sahli:

Thank you for learning how to use the popcorn machine and making popcorn for the kids before Thanksgiving break.

- Anita Jamnik

### To Kris Constantino:

A big thank you for preparing the PTA taxes this year!

- Anita Jamnik

A BIG thank you for ALL who helped with the Book Fair this year! So many of you came out to help with set-up as well as the selling of the books. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to **Yasuko Okamoto (and ALL of her friends!), Anita Jamnik (and her husband!), Anne Morel, Sue Priebe, Natasha Marean, Kathe Barwacz, Claire Sullivan, Cindy Dolan, Ellen Wong, Miriam Nakazawa, Maria Daigle, Paula Riccardo, Leisl Ignoffo, Denise Collingwood, Carol Dunnington, Barb Welninski, Estelle Nicholson, Dawn Plizga, Julie Wetterman and Anne Wisniewski.**

And thanks to all the **Whiteley Staff** for your help in supporting the Book Fair. Thank you everyone!

- Sue Ramsland and Dorothy Naumowicz

# Thank You

## TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION REMINDER— DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

Whiteley Teacher and Staff Appreciation week will be here before you know it—the first week of May! Before then, we would like to create a keepsake of special notes, thank yous and memories of this year and present it to the staff members that week. We need your help! Before you forget that special impact a staff member made on you or your child, jot it down on a piece of paper. It can be anything you would like to share — has your child made progress because of a staff member's influence? Would you like to share something from the conferences in November? These are just a couple of ideas to get you started. Think about it over winter break and see what you come up with. Let's make this a memorable year!

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

✂

**Name of Teacher or Staff member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A special memory I would like to share about this Whiteley staff member:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Japanese Translation Available

## **PACEE - PARENTS COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

The second of four PACEE meetings was held on November 2, 2005 at the Joseph M. Kizska Educational Service Center in Palatine. One of our PTA committee chairpersons attended the meeting and provided the newsletter with her notes.

As stated last month, Dr. McKanna is looking for parents to join this committee that has been formed to assess current needs, evaluate current mechanisms and recommend improvements. Each school is allotted three attendees. Whiteley still has openings for the next two meetings - February 15th and April 26th.

Here are some of the topics discussed at the November meeting.

### **Learning Resource Center - LRC**

LRCs cannot be restored to full-time status until a budget is finalized for next year. At this point, the district is still looking for additional ways to cut back rather than adding back programs. They believe there will be a deficit of \$3m this year.

### **Referendum**

It was stated that there will not be any discussion of a referendum until the district has an aligned budget. The Board will not ask the taxpayers for more money until they find out how much they need and why. When asked why in the past six years, the district went from having very solid finances to cutting back - the answer was that a lot of money was put into bonds and that has hurt the district.

### **Teacher Contracts**

The current contract expires in June, 2006. A new contract is needed by August in order for school to start smoothly. The bargaining committee consists of 8 teachers, 6 school board/district members, one attorney and one mediator. There have been several meetings to date.

### **Transportation**

When asked if there could be anything done to avoid junior high students sitting three to a seat on the bus, the answer was nothing at this time. The district is still short on bus drivers. Most Conyers Learning Academy children are on doubled up routes with bus times home close to one hour.

### **Building Closures**

A question was raised regarding closing a building in order to save \$1m per year. Two options suggested were the Conyers Learning Academy or the Kizska Educational Service Center. A district study would need to be ordered to look deeper into this issue.

### **Junior High Options**

It has been statistically proven that if junior high is 6th, 7th and 8th grades - there is a much better affect on children. The district may look into that as an option.

The issue of performing a District Boundary Study was brought up since some students from Hoffman Estates are bussed past a junior high to one which is further from their homes.

### **Board Member Request**

Upon request, parents stated that their two major issues right now are class sizes and the Learning Resource Centers.

If you would like to attend the next PACEE meeting, please contact Anita Jamnik. As always, if you have any questions for Dr. McKanna or the District 15 Board Members, feel free to email them. Email addresses can be found on the district website at [ccsd15.net](http://ccsd15.net)

## **WEBSITE WANTED**

**Do you have experience in setting up and designing websites? If so, consider performing that service for Whiteley's PTA.**

**Take a look at the information available on the sites administered by other District 15 PTAs. Thirteen of the district's 19 schools currently have PTA websites.**

**These sites can be accessed through the district's website at [ccsd15.net](http://ccsd15.net).**

**Go to: About District 15  
Then: PTA**

**Until we can develop our own site, please take advantage of what is already offered in our district.**

**Any questions? Ideas to discuss?  
Contact Anita Jamnik at  
847-776-0531.**