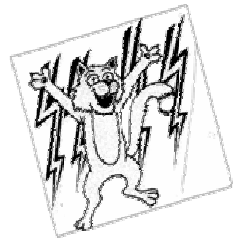


Whittier Wildchat



News from the Whittier School PTA – October 16, 2008

Whittier PTA Mission: To support and enhance the Whittier model of academic excellence, community, and respect, so that all Whittier students can become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Mark Your Calendar

October 17	Family Activity Night 6 – 8pm
October 24	Whittier Fall Carnival
October 29	Early Dismissal 1:10 pm
November 11	No School – Veteran's Day

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for someone to help organize the **Whittier Ebay Store**. The idea is simple; items families can donate will go into our store and be sold on Ebay. Income received goes to the school. Please contact James Forsher at j_forsher@yahoo.com for more information.

Thank you Volunteers!

Thank you to the following bakers who donated lots of yummy goodies for Ms. Jolley's retirement party on Tuesday: Elizabeth Torres, Erica Welch, Kathi Sleavin, Patty Brasel, Denni Kibelstis, Lulu Gargiulo, Elise Haavik, Barbara Rotter, Michele Kastle, Casey Holden, Diana Dunnell and Lynne Crowley. YOU ROCK!!

Whittier's Annual Fall Carnival is Next Friday, October 24th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm!

Mark your calendars and look for a paper invite coming to you via Kid Mail this week.

A big thanks to all those who've volunteered to work the Carnival!

We do still need a few more volunteers to bring the carnival to life. Please send in those volunteer forms, if you haven't already. Or simply email ericajwelch@comcast.net with your volunteer preferences.

Questions? Contact Erica Welch, ericajwelch@comcast.net (206) 783-0729 or Sarah Fields, sarahfie71@hotmail.com (206) 297-1497.

Message from the Co-Presidents

The PTA is in full swing with many events and programs! Chess, Spanish, After School Art and Drama are up and running. Wrapping paper is being ordered and money is trickling in for our Direct Appeal campaign. Best of all the playground remodel is done!

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on a chilly Monday morning following an assembly acknowledging those who have spent many hours (over many years for some) bringing the playground remodel to completion. Many thanks and much appreciation to our current playground committee Jordan Singer, Marianne Scholl, Cynthia Slate, Christy Higgins, Lori Engdahl and Jessica Walker. Kevin Spence also worked on the original design ideas, along with Kathy Campbell. Thanks also to Gretchen DeDecker, Seattle School's Self Help Project Coordinator, Anne Takekawa, project manager at the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, and Mark Brands and Clayton Beaudoin at Site Workshop. Also many thanks to the parents and students who joined Ms. McMillian shoveling chips on a hot Saturday afternoon!

The PTA donated over \$47,000 towards the playground remodel and an additional \$15,000 came from the City's Department of Neighborhood's Small and Simple Matching Fund. The playground remodel is an excellent example of the PTA working to support Whittier Elementary and the community. It is a lot of money donated to a project that will have a very lasting effect on a great school and neighborhood community!

SCRIP Stats & News

NEW to the Scrip program: REI gift cards for \$25! The company just joined so they aren't listed on the scrip forms sent home recently but we can order REI scrip starting now and plan on having it in-stock when we stock up for the holidays.

Gymboree coupons for 20% off your entire order are still available for use with Gymboree scrip purchased now through November and can be used online or in Gymboree stores.

We have already sold over \$16,000 in scrip for just over \$1,000 in profit! Thank you for supporting Scrip... the fundraiser which puts no dent in your family's budget!!

GROUNDS UPDATE / Mini-Weeding Parties

Beth Sheldrake has volunteered to coordinate two work parties for our grounds this year. The first work party will be the weekend of Nov 8th and 9th. The plan is to weed as much as the Whittier grounds as possible and lay down a fresh layer of compost or mulch (a daunting task to accomplish in one day!). Thanks Beth for coordinating this effort!

Now let's help Beth make sure all those weeds get out before a fresh layer of compost is spread. I would like to find four parents to compliment the November work party by hosting a Mini-Weeding Party this week or next. If you are sure you know what a weed looks like, I would like to encourage you to organize small weeding parties with your friends. You can pick your favorite part of the Whittier grounds.

Here is a special deal: If you are a parent who can get at least four other Whittier parents to help you for one hour and it is during school hours this week or next, I promise to come by, answer any questions, and bring coffee and treats for your own private weeding party! Please call Cynthia Slate at 782-8423 or cynthiaslate@msn.com to schedule a mini-weeding /coffee party.

Chess Club Members

You should have received a schedule for snacks and volunteering via email. If you did not, it may be because we have an old email account. If that is the case, please make sure Chess Club has your current phone number and email. We may need to contact you by both. Send an email with your child's full name and your best contact phone number in the body of the email to silversteinlaura@yahoo.com. Thank you!

5th Autumn Turn Off the T.V. Week Has Started

Can you do without the television and limit all other screen time for one week? Read, play outside, take a walk, play a board game with your family, or do some art. Pick up a No T.V. Week verification sheet outside the gym and return it to Mr. Pule by Thursday, Oct 23rd to earn a certificate and be entered in an incentive drawing. Turn the screens off. Get the whole family involved in Whittier's 2008 Fall Turn-Off the T.V. Week.

Come to the Fall Family Activity Night from 6pm-8pm on Friday, Oct. 17th. Bring your favorite board game to play in lunchroom and/or play badminton/beach ball volleyball in the gym. All are welcome! Don't hesitate, participate!

Teacher/Staff Wish Lists

Check out the school news bulletin board just outside the main office hall. Teachers and staff have posted "Wish Lists" for items they need. Is there a wish you can fulfill for a Whittier teacher or staff person? Please do so.

Whittier Programa de Español

¡Saludos!—Greetings from Whittier's new before-school Spanish program. As a former Wildcat, I'm especially excited that I can bring some of the Spanish language and its culture to Whittier students. This year we will offer two terms of instruction to introduce students to the culture, sounds, key words, and common phrases of the language.

As a teacher, I'm enjoying meeting some of your children and seeing the wonderful wealth of talent and enthusiasm they have. A special thank you to all who have signed up and paid for this program. It is most helpful when students arrive promptly (about 8:05) in order for class to begin at 8:10. Each class time, students are engaged in a variety of activities during class: from verbal practice to physical activities, from singing songs to playing games.

What could parents do to encourage greater Spanish learning? I'd recommend students be asked to share or practice whatever words or ideas they worked on that day in class. However, please keep in mind that individuals acquire language skills differently and they may know more than they are able to express.

With these things in mind, I feel very confident that this year's Spanish program will be great! Please feel free to contact me at emaguiar@seattleschools.org with questions or if you have something cultural to share with a class. And once again, 'GRACIAS' for your interest and support of this program.

Sra. Aguilar

October's Walk and Wheel to School Challenge Month

Walk, bike, scooter, bus, or park the car 2-5 blocks away from the school and walk the rest. Good for you and good for our environment. Be sure to track your commutes with a commute calendar available outside the gym.

Seattle Kid's Marathon

It is not too late to participate in the Seattle Kids Marathon. Join the 40 or so Wildcats who have already challenged themselves. Pick up a registration form outside the gym and return it to Mr. Pule. Then, start your 26.2 miles. Participants earn a foot token after every 5 miles. The last 1.2 miles is November 29th at the Seattle Center. You do not need to be there for the last run to participate. Marathoners are welcome to join our Runners Club on Friday mornings before school to help get those miles in.

From the Wildchat Editor

The Whittier Wildchat newsletter provides PTA news and other information to the Whittier school community. If you have news item to share, please send your submission to whittierwildchat@hotmail.com no later than Tuesday evening for publication on the following Thursday. Note that we may (lightly) edit your submission to fit our limited space.