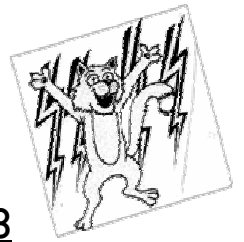


Whittier Wildchat



News from the Whittier School PTA – November 20, 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

November 24 - 26	Parent-Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL
November 27 – 28	Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL
December 1	Helping Hands Gift Drive Starts
December 5	Math Night

Thank You Volunteers!

😊 A big THANK YOU to these volunteers: Lynne Crowley, Elise Haavik, Jeannette Hammond, Shawn Severin & Cynthia Slate for helping sort and fill the shirt orders last Thursday morning. Tanner Crowley (age 4) made a fantastic delivery boy!!!! Thanks Tanner!

Direct Appeal – It's Not Too Late to Donate

The Direct Appeal campaign officially runs through November 21st, though donations are always welcomed and appreciated. We have raised just over \$12,000 (half of our goal of \$25,000). If you haven't donated yet to Direct Appeal, please do so. Send a check in with your child, no amount is too big or too small. Direct Appeal donations are tax deductible, the tax i.d. number is 91-147-9413. Direct Appeal donations financially support programs and events such as the Halloween Carnival, After School Art & Drama, Chess Club. Direct Appeal donations also provide money to the school library, the tutoring program, PE and the staff discretionary fund. It's not too late to donate! Questions? Contact Susan M. Weber, Direct Appeal Chair, 612-0589 or smwlaw@comcast.net

THANK YOU Ballard Rotary!

For purchasing your QFC/Fred Meyer holiday gift cards through Whittier's scrip program! The \$3,200 that 32 low-income children will get to use for a very special shopping spree also netted Whittier's PTA \$160 in profit. And thank you to Cothron McMillian for once again steering them in our direction!

Helping Hands Gift Drive

As we celebrate the holidays, we're all impacted in some way by the dire state of the economy and many of us are being more cautious about our spending. We're also aware that families already struggling financially are the most vulnerable in times such as these. **Helping Hands** is an opportunity to assist Whittier and Bailey Gatzert Elementary families in need and extend a helping hand.

Beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving, December 1st, mittens will be displayed in the front lobby. Each mitten will list a gift that you can donate: a book, toy or game for an age-specific child or a scrip gift card for a family (Safeway, Payless Shoes, Fred Meyer, or Old Navy). Choose a mitten and return your wrapped gift or gift card by Monday, December 15th.

Please consider making **Helping Hands** a part of your family's giving this season. It's a simple gesture of caring that will make a difference in another family's celebration of the holidays.

If you, or somebody you know, are in need of support, please contact our principal, Cothron McMillian on her private direct phone line at 206.252.1655. Certainly, it's hard to ask for help but be assured that it's completely confidential.

If you have questions about **Helping Hands**, please contact Kathi Sleavin (jksleavin@juno.com) or Judy Eggerman (ijegg@mindspring.com).

SCRIP SPECIAL

Stop by the scrip table for a Bath & Body Works coupon good for \$10 off a purchase of \$30 or more! Cards are available in \$25 and \$10 increments and the company has increased their contribution to 18% for each card purchased now through December.

And Remember to grab grocery and movie theater gift cards for the Thanksgiving break!

Teacher/Staff Wish Lists

Wish lists are up! Check out the bulleting board on the outside of the main office across from the kid restrooms. Many of our dedicated teachers and staff have posted wish lists for new or gently used items that they can use in their classrooms. Many thanks to those who have already made some wishes come true. Have you made a wish come true yet?

New Lost & Found Racks Coming

Our old rack will be replaced with new racks and bins in December. Hanging items will be separated by color, and small items will be divided into bins; providing much easier opportunities for finding lost belongings. The old rack will be dismantled and the new racks installed during the first week of December.

So....when you come by the school during the next week for your parent/teacher conference, take a look at what's on the rack. Maybe you will find something that belongs to your child(ren). Maybe you'll find something you didn't even know was missing. Maybe you'll find that long lost special item. **All unclaimed items will be donated to charity the first week in December.**

Don't wait! Look now!

Whittier Spanish Celebration

Get ready for the Whittier Spanish Celebration! Our big fiesta will feature student performances, food, music, crafts, and games from a variety of Spanish cultures. The exact date has yet to be determined but will be in early March. The Spanish committee needs your help to make this Whittier tradition a success! We would like volunteers to help with planning the event, preparing food, setting up, assisting with games and crafts, and clean-up. Please attend the planning meeting on Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 pm in room 205. If you would like to volunteer but can't attend the meeting please contact the Spanish Committee at whittierspanish@hotmail.com.

Muchas gracias!

Recycle Whittier T-Shirts

Trying to find space in your closet for your brand new Wildcat shirt?

DONATE your outgrown one to the Whittier community "recycle/reuse" collection box. The collection box will be located in the front office for the next few weeks ... feel free to leave any clean Whittier shirts for others to use.

If you have any questions or problems with your shirt order, please contact me at caseyholden@mac.com or 524-1917.

Did You Know?

Did you know that one of our new teachers, is certainly not new to teaching children in Seattle? Ms. Kristi Stoa comes to Whittier continuing a long and productive career with Seattle Public Schools. She spent 16 years at Adams before going to Bryant and then taking a leave of absence to fuel her passion for science by working at Islandwood for a year. Islandwood is an environmental science education school on Bainbridge Island. It provides outdoor educational opportunities to children and adults using the cultural and natural environment as a context. After refueling her passion for science she taught at Lawton elementary school before participating in the Star mentor program (Staff Training Assistance and Review). As a STAR mentor, Ms. Stoa took a 3 year leave from teaching children and mentored new teachers providing valuable wisdom, helpful suggestions, a sounding board, and answers to the wide range of questions that new teachers have. Rather than returning to Lawton and bumping a colleague out of a position (that's just the type of person she is!) she came to Whittier and has quickly become a beloved 5th grade teacher. When she isn't teaching, she enjoys reading, gardening, walks and most of all her adorable 5 year old granddaughter. She can also boast about her windsurfing and down hill skiing talents until injuries forced her to tame down a bit.

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.