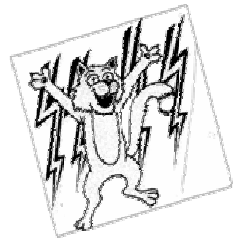


Whittier Wildchat



News from the Whittier School PTA – December 4, 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

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| December 1- 15 | Helping Hands Gift Drive |
| December 5 | Math Night |
| December 11 | Spanish Celebracion Planning Mtg |
| December 12 | Spanish Committee Meeting |

Thank You Volunteers!

😊 It took a great team to make Book Fair a success. Many thanks for all your hard work to Elise Haavik, Michele Barnes, Jeannette Hammond, Heather Drennan, Jennie Bailey, Allison Eva, Laura Brosten, Therese MacDonald, Denni Kibelstis, Brad Gentry, Trina Torgelson, Barb Hazzard, Erica Welch and Renelle Risley. Your efforts made this happen - Thank You!

😊 Thank you to Lucinda Dalrymple for working so diligently on the School Directory! It's a lot of work, and she did it all on her own.

😊 Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To Whittier parent Dana Miller for her remodel of our Lost and Found area. The storage rack is sturdy, organized and will make it easier for Whittier families to find those items that never made it home from school.

Parents Night Out Series

The PTA is happy to announce plans for a "Parents Night Out" series before the end of the school year. We will be offering 3 Friday evenings in which you can drop your kids off at Whittier and go have fun.

Volunteers are needed. All you have to do is show up one of the evenings and help out. Please contact Jim Forsher at j_forsher@yahoo.com for more information.

Whittier's Yearbook Needs You!

We need one (or two) techie soul(s) to take on creating our annual Yearbook. Boldman Photography will work with you and provide the software and individual photos. You gather other photos from school - and there are already parents and teachers working on these photos - and creatively assemble them using the provided software. If you feel up to the task - and we have many creative parents at our school - email Regan@nwlink.com and I'll get you started!

Math Night is this Friday

December 5th from 6:30 to 8:30

We are very much in need of volunteers to:

- Set up-5:30 to 6:30 pm
- Greet families
- Run a game/activity
- Donate some dry food-pretzels, crackers, etc...
- Supervise in the Gym

If you have already said you can run an activity or a game, you can:

- come with your kids early to set up (learn) a game or activity
- meet Friday after drop off in the lunchroom to get a game and learn at home
- bring your own math game to play with kids (please call to make sure someone else is not bringing the same game).

Things we still need:

More volunteers to make up a math game/activity...be creative the fun games you make up for your own kids at home to help them with math are usually a big hit.

Contact Cynthia at 782-8423 or cynthiaslate@msn.com

Direct Appeal Campaign

Our fall 2008 Direct Appeal campaign is officially over, but donations are always accepted. We are at \$14,000 at this time, \$11,000 short of our \$25,000 goal, but checks are still trickling in. If you haven't donated yet, please do so! Or, if you know anyone who needs a tax deduction before the end of the year, have them write out a check to Whittier PTA Direct Appeal! Many thanks to all who have donated! If you haven't received a thank you letter please let Susan Weber know at smwlaw@comcast.net or 206-612-0589. We make every effort to acknowledge each donation, but there always seems to be one that falls through the cracks.

Sincerely,

Jamie Shirley, Sandi Tennyson & Susan M. Weber
Fall 2008 Direct Appeal Committee

PTA Co-Presidents: Susan Weber smwlaw@comcast.net and Barbara Hazzard barbandandy@msn.com. This newsletter is also available at the PTA website www.whittierway.org and can be received electronically through the WhittierWEB yahoo group. To subscribe or to submit an item for the Wildchat, send a request to whittierwildchat@hotmail.com by Tuesday afternoon.

Have you fulfilled a Teacher's wish yet?

Check out the bulletin board outside the office across from the children's restrooms for Whittier teacher/staff Wish Lists. Some have already been fulfilled and are greatly appreciated. Let's see some more wishes crossed off the lists!

Request to Help Another PTA

We have been requested to help a sister PTA, from Green Lake Elementary School, in one of their programs. If you are buying a cut tree for the holidays, we ask you to consider buying from their tree lot at the school, on NE 65th Street, four blocks west of I-5. Their lot closes Sunday, December 21st and is open from 4 to 8 weekdays, 9 to 8 Saturdays, and 10 to 7 Sundays. The program is staffed totally by parents and teachers, and all of their profits supplement the PTA budget, which funds a half time 'class size reduction' teacher, and other education programs, including vocal and instrumental music, swimming instructioneven school supplies. The program sells quality trees at competitive prices, so if you are buying a tree anyway, this is a chance to help another PTA program at virtually no cost by keeping your money in a neighborhood school.

Successful Food Drive

A big thanks to all the Whittier families for making the food drive a huge success. Over 1400 items were collected providing hearty boxes of food items for 73 families. Ms. Mayo's class brought in the most items at 201. The boxes were distributed between Whittier and West Seattle Elementary. West Seattle Elementary was especially grateful as 75% of the student population receive free and/or reduced lunch.

A special thanks to the following people for the hard work behind the scenes: Mary Hjelm, Stephanie Carmel, Samantha Noonan, Casey Holden, and Marie Talcott

A special thanks to the following classrooms for their contributions:

- Ms Nieman's class for the wonderful posters.
- Ms. Gordon-Smith's class for the announcements at the Monday morning assembly.
- Ms. Engel's class for carrying all the food items to the cafeteria last Friday.

A special thank you to the parents and students who stayed after school to box up all the food. It went smoothly and quickly thanks to your hard work.

Dear Whittier Spanish Program Supporters,

We hope all of your children are enjoying the Before School Spanish classes.

We wanted to invite and encourage you to **join the Spanish Committee** to help guide this newly developed program with suggestions, ideas, and input. Right now our small committee consists of only three parents, Jill McGrath and the Spanish Instructor. We try to meet once a month to briefly go over anything that needs to be addressed and right now we are beginning to plan for the next session that will begin in late January. **Our next meeting is Friday, December 12th @ 3:15 in Room 205.** Please join us! (If there is enough interest I can try to arrange to have childcare for us)

The Spanish Committee is also in the beginning stages of planning the **Whittier Spanish Celebracion**. In past years, this event was enormously popular and we hope to bring that tradition back to Whittier this year. It will be held on **March 6th** and will consist of a Spanish themed potluck, Spanish related crafts and games, and small performances by the different before school classes. There is a lot of information and materials from previous years to guide us but new ideas are also welcome! In order for this event to take place we will need lots of parents to help out with the planning in the next several months as well as help with the actual event. This would be a great opportunity to show your enthusiasm for the Spanish language to your kids and join in the fun of experiencing a second language! The first meeting to begin **planning for the Spanish Celebracion will be Thursday, December 11th @ 7pm in Room 205.** Hope to see you there! If you would like to volunteer but can't attend the meeting please contact the Spanish Committee at whittierspanish@hotmail.com.

Gracias!

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.