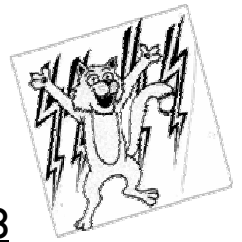


Whittier Wildchat



News from the Whittier School PTA – December 11, 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 11	Spanish Celebracion Planning Mtg
December 12	Spanish Committee Meeting
December 19	Early Dismissal 2:10pm
January 14	General PTA Meeting

Math Night Thank You

Thanks to all the people who helped out with Math Night.

A special thanks to Yvonne York, Lulu Gargiulo, Heather Morriss, Rochelle Pacchiano, and Ann Ripley who created and/or ran a Math activity.

Thanks to Ballard High students and former Whittier Alumni, Lucas Bailey and Beni Ransom for running our Bingo table.

Thanks to Don Ripley for helping to supervise in the Gym.

Most popular activities were:

- Marshmallow-toothpick geometry
- Penguin addition-subtractions game
- Bead sort/classify
- Creating math problems out of Legos
- Bingo

A very special thank you goes to Yvonne York and Lulu Gargiulo who came early and left late. They helped with set up, donated snacks, ran activities and help clean up.

A BIG thank you is also due to Casey Holden, who does way more at Whittier than one parent should have to, but stepped up to make our Math Night Passports. Thank you Casey!

If you would like to be involved in how we can improve our Math Nights at Whittier contact cynthiaslate@msn.com.

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!

Helping Hands

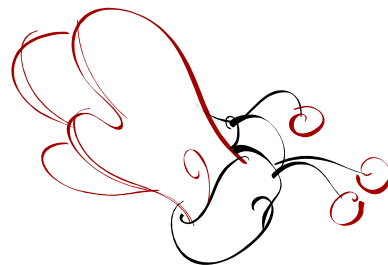
There's still time to participate in our holiday gift drive benefiting 29 families (with 67 children) at Whittier and Bailey Gatzert. We've had a tremendous response so far but we need a few more gift cards to assist these families with groceries, clothing and shoes. You'll find mittens hanging by the fireplace in the front lobby or you can send a check payable to Whittier PTA via kid mail addressed to "Helping Hands" and we'll get the scrip gift card on your behalf; Fred Meyer, Safeway, and Old Navy are \$25 each, Payless Shoes is \$20.

If you or your child took home a mitten, please bring your wrapped gift or gift card to the front office by the end of school on Monday, December 15th. We need everything turned in by Monday so the gifts can be organized for distribution to the families before Winter Break.

If you have donated a gift or gift card and would like a receipt for your tax-deductible donation, please e-mail the following information to Judy Eggerman, (jjegg@mindspring.com): your name(s); brief description of gift/gift cards; total value of donation; your child's name and room number. We'll send a receipt for your 2008 donation in January. Also, if your employer will match your donation, our tax ID number is 91-1479413 (PTA Whittier Seattle Cncl 6.15.370).

Thanks so much to everyone who's participating. The generosity of our Whittier community is heartwarming and will be greatly appreciated by these families in need.

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



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.

Spanish Celebracion and Planning Meeting

The Spanish Committee is beginning to plan 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 tonight @ 7pm in the Spanish Room (SW corner, 1st floor).** 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.

Scrip News and Updates

Wow! In just the 1st week of December we sold over \$5,000 in gift cards! Our in-stock selection remains varied but we do expect to start running out of some merchants next week so the earlier you shop the better your selection will be. We have the Staff Wish List on hand for teacher gift ideas and something for everyone else on your list as well. And remember to grab a few cards for the places you'll be shopping over winter break- we have grocery, Starbucks, Majestic Bay and much more!

Thank you to Ericka Newman from Whittier Kids! Ericka arranged for the Phinney Neighborhood Association to purchase their employee gift cards through Whittier's scrip program and we made over \$130 in profit!

Last chance for special orders is TODAY! Turn in your order form to the office, drop it off with a scrip volunteer or contact Shawn at shawnseverin@aol.com or 782-5525 by the end of the day (Thursday) and your items will be delivered before the start of winter break. Thank you for your support!