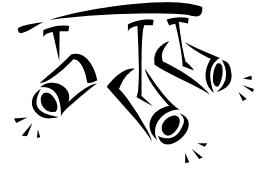




## WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

120 Granite Street  
Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569  
Main Office: 508-278-8640  
Fax: 508-278-8639



NELMS Spotlight School

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

### **Monthly Report – December 2007** **Ronald J. Farrar, Principal**

#### **Overview of Activities for December**

- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on December 3
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band at Uxbridge Senior Center December 8
- Whitin Parents PTO Monthly Meeting on December 12
- Whitin Middle School Play on December 18
- Progress Report Cards Sent Home to Parents on December 17
- Whitin Middle School Winter Concert December 19

#### **Subject/Course/Classroom Activities**

**Grade 7 Field Trip:** Grade 7 students enjoyed a field trip to see Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at the Trinity Repertory Theater in Providence on December 14. This activity supplemented literature readings that had been completed during class.

**Carnegie Learning Visit:** On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a representative from Carnegie Learning visited and observed four math classrooms as part of our implementation fidelity program. This day was designed to help the teachers implement Carnegie Math to its fullest and answer any questions the teachers had. The Carnegie representative spent a full day immersed in the classroom setting and then met with the teachers after school to discuss the program.

**Student Council Activities:** Whitin Student Council sponsored a winter coat drive during the month of December. Student Council members met on December 19 to organize and bundle bags of winter clothing for the needy.

**Band and Chorus Concert:** The Whitin School chorus and bands performed to a full-house in the High School auditorium on the evening of December 19. This year's outstanding holiday concert featured songs by the chorus and music selections by the Beginner Band, Intermediate Band and Advanced Band. Congratulations to Kathleen Penza, Rob Hammerton, and Jeanne Rapoza for leading a super music concert.

**Additional Band Notes:** Whitin Middle School Grade Eight Instrumental Ensembles performed at the Uxbridge Senior Center on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. They entertained the Uxbridge Seniors with songs of the season and then joined them for lunch.

**Drama Production:** Whitin School Drama Club performed its production of “A Christmas Carol” on Tuesday, December 18. A total of 78 Whitin students under the guidance of Mrs. Cathleen O’Brien carried forth the message of goodwill and peace on earth.

### **PTO Reports and Parent Information**

**PTO Monthly Meeting:** Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30PM in the school library. A group of parents have been attending PTO monthly meetings. Copies of PTO meeting agenda and monthly Parent Newsletter are attached for your review.

### **General School Information**

**Faculty Meeting:** The monthly meeting for Whitin School faculty was held on Monday, December 3. A copy of the faculty meeting agenda is attached.

### **Upcoming Events:**

January 2	Professional Development Day
January 8	Variety Show Auditions
January 9	School Council and PTO Monthly Meetings
January 9	BVT Parent Applicant Night
January 18	Social for Grades 5-6 and Dance for Grades 7-8
January 21	Martin Luther King Birthday Celebrated
January 22	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Mid-year)
January 25	Curriculum Half Day

# WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER December 2007

## Mid-Term Progress Reports

Next week is the mid-point of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter marking period at Whitin School. Teachers in each class will be busy calculating grades and completing progress reports. Progress reports will be sent home on Monday, December 17.

## Monthly PTO Meeting on December 12

Thank you to all who participated in the Whitin School Magazine Drive. It was a great success. Both classroom and individual awards were provided. Brandon Wagar, grade 5 student, was awarded Principal of the Day.

The next monthly meeting of the Whitin Middle School PTO is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 6:30pm in the Whitin School library. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

## Band Notes

**Senior Center Performance:** On Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, several grade eight band students will be traveling to the Uxbridge Senior Center to perform for the seniors and then join them for lunch and conversation. They will be performing in a brass quintet, a woodwind choir and a saxophone trio. We wish them the best of luck as they bring the sounds of the season to our Uxbridge community.

**Winter Concert:** Approximately 160 students from the Whitin Middle School will combine their talents in the annual Winter Concert which will be held on **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Uxbridge High School Auditorium.** They have been working very hard this fall to prepare for the concert and are looking forward to performing for their families and friends. Performing ensembles will include the Whitin School Chorus, Beginner Band, Intermediate Band and Advanced Band. The Jazz Band will be presenting a special performance in March during Music in Our Schools Month. We are very proud of our student musicians!

**Quilt Raffle:** The music department would like to thank Mrs. Gabrielle Caron who, for the third consecutive year, has generously donated a quilt to be raffled off at our Winter Concert. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets can be purchased from band members or Mrs. Penza and will also be available at the Winter Concert. This is a major fundraiser for us each year and we appreciate the support. Thank you Mrs. Caron!

## Drama Production: A Christmas Carol

Whitin School Drama Club proudly presents its production of "A Christmas Carol" on Thursday, December 13 in the cafetorium at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, students, or senior citizens. Please join us for our holiday production highlighting 78 of Whitin's wonderful stars! Witness the transformation of the world's greatest miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, and carry our message of goodwill and peace on earth in your heart for the holidays.

## Student Council Coat Drive

The Student Council is collecting winter outerwear for the homeless. Please look through your closets for coats, jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and boots. Send your clean donations to Room 102 by Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Let's work together to keep people warm this winter!

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

November 30, 2007

*(See Back for notes from the Nurse)*

## Note from the Nurse...

While the holiday season can be merry, it can also create havoc on our immune systems. Here are some ideas to keep it healthy and keep the stress to a minimum.

It's hard enough to exercise when little is going on, but add holidays to the mix and many of us find exercise moving to the bottom of lengthy to-do lists. One thing you don't want is to add more stress by trying to maintain your regular exercise schedule. At the same time, staying active in some way will give you energy, help lessen holiday tension and, of course, help mitigate some of the extra calories you may be eating.

The [holiday](#) season can make you feel tired, stressed and run-down. Your immune system can get depressed, and you may end up sick if you don't take the time to take care of yourself.

### **During The Holidays:**

- Get adequate sleep. Even if your routine is interrupted by guests and/or travel, maintain a regular sleep schedule as much as possible.
- Eat [healthy](#), nutritious foods. Avoid getting into the fast-food routine because you're busy.
- Take a high-potency multivitamin if you are not already doing so. You may want to take extra vitamin C to help [boost your immune system](#).
- Avoid taking on too much. You can't do everything, and you will become stressed and fatigued if you try to.
- Streamline your shopping. Try to avoid crowded stores packed with all types of germs.
- Keep up your exercise program.
- Make private time. Relax, read, take time for yourself. It will rejuvenate and refresh you.
- Most importantly, spend some quality time with family and friends.

Have a safe and healthy holiday and a Happy New Year.

Whitin Middle School PTO Meeting  
Wednesday December 12, 2007  
**6:30pm in the library**

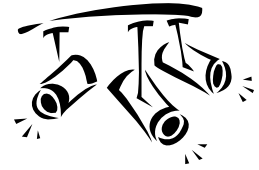
## Agenda

- ❖ **Review November Meeting Minutes**
- ❖ **Review Treasurer's Report**
- ❖ **Calendar of Upcoming Events**
- ❖ **Update on SpiritWear Fundraiser**
- ❖ **Update on Magazine Drive Fundraiser**
- ❖ **Update on School Council**
- ❖ **Update on Library Book Fair Nov 12-19**
- ❖ **Introduction of Classroom Request Form**
- ❖ **New Business**



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NELMS Spotlight School

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

DATE: December 3, 2007  
TO: Whitin School Faculty  
FROM: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Mayer  
RE: Faculty Meeting

### **Faculty Meeting Agenda for Monday, December 3, 2007**

- Positive Comments...
- Calendar of Activities for December
  - PTO Meeting: December 12
  - School Play: December 13
  - Winter Concert: December 19
  - Staff Party: December 20
- Second Quarter Progress Reports Timeline
  - Marks Close: December 7
  - Grades Due: December 12
  - Reports Sent Home: December 17
- Professional Development Day: January 2, 2008
  - Morning: District Activity at UHS
  - Afternoon: Content Area Best Practices Presentations
- Budget Update
- Technology
- Attendance/Tardiness
- Hero Art Pictures Update
- Hannaford Grant