



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 Puliaficio, Assistant Principal

Operational Report – October 2008 **Ronald J. Farrar, Principal**

Overview of Activities for October

- Whitin PTO Monthly Meeting at 6:30PM on October 1
- World Smile Day Celebrated at Whitin on October 3
- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on October 6
- Student Photos Taken by Laprade Studio on October 6
- Curriculum 1/2 Day for All Staff on October 10
- Whitin School Crisis Team Meeting on October 31
- Halloween Social for Students in Grades 5-6 on October 31

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Fifth Grade Eco-Challenge

Homerooms 206 & 208 participated in an Eco-Challenge put on by their teachers, Mrs. Dhosi, Mrs. Lavigne, Mrs. McCallum, & Mrs. Pandolfo. Students researched the four different types of land terrains and created a portfolio. The project culminated with a trip to Riverbend Farm to use the skills they had learned through the written research to experience the terrain of the area in new and scientifically based way. 17 parent volunteers took the trek with the students to Riverbend Farm.

PTO Reports and Parent Information

Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 1st at 6:30PM in the school library. A group of Whitin parents attended this meeting. Copies of the PTO meeting agenda and monthly Parent Newsletters are attached for your review.

On October 31st the PTO sponsored a Halloween Social for Grade 5 & 6. The Halloween Social, organized by Mrs. O'Brien and the Student Council, featured games, activities, dancing, a costume contest, and ice cream sundaes.

General School Information

Whitin Whalers Climate Committee:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In honor of this, Wednesday, October 22nd was designated "Pink Day" at Whitin Middle School to show support for all those whose lives have been affected by this disease. Students and Staff showed their support by wearing pink. In addition, the Whitin Whalers Climate Committee informed all staff that all Denim 4 Dollars Donations from Friday October 24th will go to Susan G. Komen Foundation for the cure. Denim 4 Dollars is a program created by the Whitin Whalers that collects donations every Friday in exchange for teachers wearing jeans or other denim clothing.

The Uxbridge Public Schools believe in equal employment and educational opportunities for its employees and students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, or sex in compliance with Title VI and Title IX or disability, in compliance with section 304/ADA or sexual orientation in compliance with G.L. c 151 and 157c.

Community Reading Day at Whitin

On Wednesday, October 22nd, Grades 5 & 6 homerooms welcomed community members into their classrooms for Community Reading Day. Volunteer members of the community as well as honor society students from Uxbridge High School visited classrooms to share their love of reading with the students.

World Smile Day Celebration

On Friday, October 3rd, Whitin students and staff celebrated World Smile Day with various activities. The theme of the day was “one act of kindness will lead to another.” Students and staff wore the colors of the smile, yellow and black, and student council sponsored a food drive to support the Uxbridge Food Pantry.

Whitin School Colors Day

Whitin students and staff showed their school spirit on Friday, October 10th with “School Colors Day.” Students wore sweatshirts, t-shirts, and flannel pants in the colors of orange and black to show their Whitin spirit.

Extracurricular Activities:

The full program of extracurricular clubs and student activities is underway at Whitin School. Following is a listing of after-school activities and advisors:

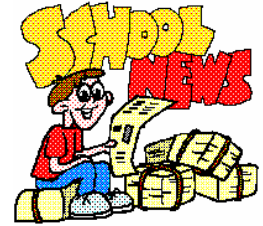
Intramurals	Dean Tourangeau
Student Council	Cathleen O’Brien
School Newspaper	Debra Prince
Yearbook	Mike Flanagan – Cathy Chauvin
Math Olympiad	Christine Robbins
Destination Imagination	Karen Knapik
Lego Robotics	Gretchen Roche
Bands	Kathleen Penza
Chorus	Jeanne Rapoza
Drama	Cathleen O’Brien

Upcoming Events:

- November 3 – Monthly Whitin Faculty Meeting
- November 4 – Professional Development Day
- November 5 – Whitin PTO Meeting at 6:30 PM
- November 9 – Whitin Marching Band in Veterans’ Day Parade
- November 10 – Report Cards Sent Home
- November 11 – Veterans Day Holiday – No School
- November 17-25 Scholastic Book Fair in Whitin Library
- November 21 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 27 – Thanksgiving Day



WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER October 2008



School Photos on Monday, October 6 and Tuesday, October 7

Following is the school photo schedule for this year:

Grade 5 student photos will be taken on Monday, October 6.

Grades 6-7-8 photos will be taken on Tuesday, October 7.

Parents will have many portrait package options to choose from. Order envelopes from Laprade Studio were given to students earlier this week. Completed order envelopes, with check enclosed, must be brought to school by students on their picture day.

Mid-Term Progress Reports

Last week was the mid-point of the 1st quarter marking period at Whitin School. Teachers in each class have been busy completing Progress Reports for all students. Teachers are listing mid-quarter grades, and entering comments about class behavior, participation, homework, and effort. Parents can expect children to bring home Progress Reports by Monday, October 6.

Learn to Ski or Snowboard

The Whitin Middle School Ski Club is having an information and sign up night on Wednesday, October 22 and Thursday, October 30 at 7 pm in the Whitin School cafeteria. The ski club is open to all students in grades 5-8, no prior skiing or boarding experience necessary, lessons are available. The Ski Club departs for Wachusett Mountain each Tuesday afternoon for 8 weeks starting in January. Transportation is by deluxe motor coach. For more information come to the information meeting, email uxbridgeskiclub@verizon.net or call Mark Francis 508-278-3583.

World Smile Day is October 3

World Smile Day is on Friday, October 3. It is a day dedicated to good cheer, good works, and lots of smiles. The catch phrase for the day is, "Do an Act of Kindness...Help one person smile." Whitin Middle School is planning several simple activities to encourage everyone to celebrate World Smile Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear yellow and black on Friday to represent "Smiley". The wearing of home-made smiley-faces is encouraged. Also, everyone is asked to perform one random act of kindness – to make someone smile. **Student Council is sponsoring a food drive in honor of Smile Day to benefit the Uxbridge Food Pantry.** Please donate non-perishable food items.

Early Dismissal for Students on October 10

Whitin Middle School students will be dismissed from school at 10:45 on Friday, October 10. Teachers in all Uxbridge Public Schools will be attending afternoon meetings to work on various curriculum assignments and projects. Parents are also reminded that Columbus Day is celebrated on Monday, October 13; there is no school for Uxbridge students on October 13.

PTO News

Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the school library. Parents are encouraged to become involved. You also will meet other parents and staff while helping out in your child's school.

Our first fundraiser, Yankee Candle, is scheduled for delivery on Wednesday, October, 29. Pick up will be after 2:30 pm in the cafeteria. Thank you for your support in participating in this fundraiser. Other ongoing fundraising opportunities: Box Tops and Shaw's receipts. Save your subscriptions!! The magazine fundraiser starts October 20th. Magazines make great gifts!!

Music Notes

The WMS Band program is off to a great start with a record enrollment of over 170 students. There are three teachers on the band staff this year: Mrs. Penza, Mr. Hammerton, and Mr. LaPete. Lessons have begun and we are looking forward to a fantastic year. Watch the parent newsletter for additional information and upcoming events.

Note from the Nurse...:

If you and your family are currently without health insurance you may be eligible for health benefits through MASS Health. Application packets may be obtained through the office of the school nurse or school social worker. You can also call 1-888-665-9993 for assistance or apply on-line at www.mass.gov/dma.

Have you heard of WIC on Wheels? WIC (Women, Infants and Children nutrition program) offers health and nutrition services to children and adolescents free of charge. A nurse practitioner is on board to provide: immunizations, well child visits, sick visits, school and sports physicals, nutrition education as well as various screenings. WIC can also refer you to other helpful programs. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Donahue RN at 278-6361 or WIC on Wheels at 508-641-4829

The WIC on Wheels van will be in your area each month at this location:

Uxbridge @ Hannaford's 1st Tuesday
8:30-4:30 3rd Tuesday

Northbridge High School has a free medical clinic on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 6-8 PM

Substitute Nurses are needed for all school buildings in our district. If you are an RN with a Massachusetts license and are interested, please call Mrs. Donahue @ 508 278-6361.

**Check out the school's webpage at
www.uxbridgeschools.com.**

Halloween Social for Grades 5-6 on October 31 – More Information to Follow



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 Puliafico, Assistant Principal

Date: October 6, 2008
To: Whitin Staff
From: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Puliafico
Re: Staff Meeting

Staff Meeting Agenda for October 6, 2008

- Fish Sticks
- Introductions – New Staff Member
- Plans for Curriculum Half-Day – October 10
 - StoryTown
 - MCAS Analysis/ISSPs
 - Blackstone Collaborative
 - Paraprofessional Workshop
- Upcoming Events
 - Fire Safety Assemblies (Grades 5 & 6) – October 10
 - Magazine Drive Assemblies – October 20
 - Community Reading Day (Grades 5 & 6) – October 22
 - Walkthrough Evacuation Drill – October 24
- Parking Lot Update
- RTI Presentation

Whitin Middle School PTO Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 2008
6:30pm in the Whitin Library

Agenda

- ❖ Superintendent Dan Stefanilo
 - Check only policy
 - Donation from Whitin PTO to the Freshman Class

- ❖ Review September Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Review Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Calendar of Upcoming Events
- ❖ Update on Yankee Candle Fundraiser
- ❖ Update on Spirit Wear Fundraiser
- ❖ Update on Box Tops
- ❖ Whitin Middle School Update
- ❖ Plans for Halloween Dance
- ❖ Plans for Vendor Fair
- ❖ New Business

**Whitin Middle School PTO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 3, 2008**

Attendance

Lisa Ahern, Sue Bell, Deb Blackburn, Andrea Consoletti, Laura Derderian, Lisa Devane, Ron Farrar, Nancy Hanson, Kris Holt, Kay Klos, Anne Maloney, Christine Nolan, Linda Page, Lynda Pelkey, Ron Pelkey, Sandy Petrillo, Michaelle Phillips, Amy Puliafico, Lori Randall, Kim Rexford, Lisa Rooney, Moe Stewart, Tracy Wagner, Nancy Winters

Review of Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2008

Minutes from August meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was accepted with a balance of \$20,215.85.

Update on Back to School Night

Back to school night is on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. Doors will open at 5:00pm. Welcome and Refreshments from 6:15-6:45 pm. Ron Farrar and Amy Puliafico will speak at 6:45pm. Parents will go to classrooms at 7:00pm. The evening will end at 8:30pm.

Student Council will be helping. They will each be given a T-shirt that will be returned at the end of the night. High School students will help with babysitting. PTO will have a table set up that night. There will be items for sale that night.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Sept. 1 Labor Day No School
- Sept. 2 Yankee Candle Fundraiser begins
- Sept. 3 Instrument Demo
- Sept. 9 Back to School Night
- Sept. 12 Instrument Rental Night
- Sept. 16 Yankee Candle Fundraiser ends
- Sept. 19 Gr. 5 Music Trip
- Sept. 26 Mid Term Progress Reports
Spirit Wear Fundraiser ends
- Oct. 1 PTO Meeting
- Oct. 6 & 7 School Pictures Laprade Studios

Update on Yankee Candle Fundraiser

The fundraiser began on Sept 2 and all orders are due by Tues., Sept. 16th.

Orders will be delivered on Oct. 29th. Pick-up will be on the 29th from 2:30pm-7:00pm.

Update on Sprit Wear Fundraiser

Sales will start at Back to School Night. There is a new black sweatshirt this year. There are also t-shirts, shorts, and flannel pants. All orders are due by Sept. 26th. Orders should be in at the end of Oct. beginning of Nov.

Update on Box Tops

Nancy Lemire is waiting to see who the advisor will be for Student Council to start this fundraiser. Target will match with Box Tops.

Whitin School Update

The goal for this year is to work on the school improvement plan.

New Business

Smencils- We still have a lot of chocolate left. There are about 150 smencils left in all. We will wait until Jan. to order more.

Vendor Fair- We will once again run a Bake Sale at this event like we did last year. Date for the fair is set for Sunday, Nov. 9th. We voted to turn the concession stand over to Parents for a Safe Graduation.

Scholastic Book Fair- Mon. 11/17- Mon., 11/24. It will once again be held in the Library. It will be open during Parent Teacher Conferences. Help is still needed during the day.

Magazine Drive- There will be an assembly on Oct 20th to kick off this fundraiser. There will be prizes for each turn in date. A stuffed crocodile will visit the top selling classroom. There will be an ice cream party for the top selling class.

Picture Frames- Picture frames were given out to the staff from the PTO at the beginning of the school year and they were well received.

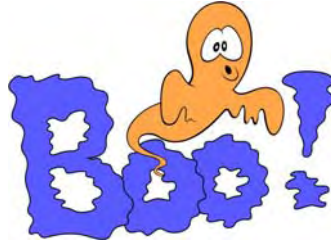
Hannafords Helps- This fundraiser begins on Sept. 4th and will run through Dec. 4th.

Hannafords also donated 30 cases of water to the Whitin PTO.

The next meeting will be on Wed., Oct. 1, 2008 at 6:30pm in the library.

Submitted by,
Tracy Wagner
Secretary

Whitin Middle School It's the 5th and 6th Grade Halloween Social



**Friday, October 31, 2008
2:30 – 4:00 PM
Whitin Cafeteria
\$3.00 Admission**



The annual Halloween social for students in grades 5 and 6 is scheduled for Friday afternoon, October 31, from 2:30 to 4:00 in the Whitin School Cafeteria. Students are invited to bring Halloween costumes to school in a bag; time to change into costumes will be provided at the end of the school day. Prizes will be awarded for the scariest, funniest, and most creative costumes. There will be music, line dancing, games, refreshments, contests and prizes. Students will be treated to a free drink and an ice cream sundae. The Halloween Social is sponsored by Whitin School PTO.



Whitin Middle School

November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends	3 Faculty Meeting Library 2:30pm American Pride Day	4 Professional Development No School	5 PTO Meeting Library 6:30pm	6	7 Reading Time 9:15am	8
9 Veterans Day Parade	10 Report Cards Sent Home	11 Veterans Day No School	12 USE PAC Meeting Library 7-9pm	13	14 Reading Time 10:15am BVT Tour 10:45am	15
16 American Education Week	17 Book Fair Student Shopping All Week	18	19	20	21 Reading Time 1:15pm Gr. 7&8 Dance 6:00-9:00pm	22
23	24 Early Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conf Afternoon & Evening Book Fair Shopping	25	26 Thanksgiving Recess Early Dismissal	27  Thanksgiving No School	28 No School	29
30						

