



<b>Brian Melody</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>354-4600</b>
<b>Attendance</b>		<b>354-4606</b>

**October 23, 2009**

**Upcoming Events**

**October**

Oct. 27	Site Council	3:15 pm
Oct. 27	PTSO Skate Night	6:30 to 8:30 Pattison's North

**November**

Nov. 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends	
Nov. 3	Individual Pictures	
Nov. 3	PTSO Family Portrait Night	
Nov. 4	PTSO Meeting	7:00 pm
Nov. 5	PTSO Family Portrait Night	
Nov. 7	Whitworth Writing Rally	
Nov. 10	4th Grades to Spokane Symphony	
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	No School
Nov. 13	Read to Succeed Ends	
Nov. 16	American Heritage Week	
Nov. 17	Scholastic Book Fair Begins	
Nov. 19-25	Conference Week	1:00 Dismissal
Nov. 20	ASB Character Counts Day	
Nov. 23	Individual Picture Re-Takes	
Nov. 24	Hearing Screening Gr. K, 1, 2, 3, & 5	
Nov. 25	Hearing Screening Continues	
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Week-end	No School



**Site Council Update**

In the recent election for our Primary Parent Representative, Dennis Wilson was elected to the Site Council. Thank you to all who expressed interest and willingness to serve our school this year. The Site Council meets the last Tuesday of each month at 3:15.

**Woodridge Site Council  
2009 - 2010**

<b>Site Council Chair</b>	<b>Robin Fiorillo</b>
<b>Site Council Vice Chair/Principal</b>	<b>Brian Melody</b>
<b>Primary Parent</b>	<b>Dennis Wilson</b>
<b>Primary Teacher</b>	<b>Jackie Colton</b>
<b>Intermediate Parent</b>	<b>Robin Fiorillo</b>
<b>Intermediate Teacher</b>	<b>Warren Wheeler</b>
<b>PTSO Representative</b>	<b>Susan Broom</b>
	<b>Renee Kincaid</b>
<b>Classified Representative</b>	<b>Jean Entz</b>
<b>Community Representative</b>	<b>Cathy Lobe</b>
<b>Specialist Representative</b>	<b>Brad Miller</b>

***We Need McGruff Houses!***

Help keep our students safe as they walk to and from school by signing up to be a McGruff House. McGruff Houses are safe havens for kids who find themselves in scary or dangerous situations. Applications can be picked up in the office and take just minutes to fill out. After a background check is run a representative from the Northwest COPS will come to your home to fill you in on your duties, take a photo of your house, and deliver your sign. If you have any questions, call Robin Fiorillo at 467-6934.

**Individual Picture Day  
November 3**

Bright colored clothing and big smiles make great pictures! Picture order envelopes will be coming home on Thursday, October 29. Please remember to mark the desired package, enclose payment, and return the envelope to school with your child "on picture day." If your child is absent re-takes will be on Monday, November 23.



## Halloween Activities

On Friday, October 30, classes will be celebrating Halloween in a variety of different ways. All primary grades and some intermediate classes will participate in the traditional costume parade that we do outside.\* The parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by celebrations in the classrooms. Teachers will be working with parent volunteers on planning the classroom activities and treats. Teachers will also be notifying students and parents of the specific plans for their particular classroom.

The following are some guidelines about costumes:

☀ Costumes need to be appropriate for school. They should not depict violent or gory characters. This is intended to be a fun time for all ages, and our youngest students are 5 years old. We don't want to frighten anyone. Favorite story-book characters, animals or sport/career outfits are fine.

☀ Due to state and district policy concerning no weapons or look alikes on school property, children may **NOT** bring toy weapons, guns, or knives as part of their costumes.

☀ Children should **NOT** wear costumes, masks, or make-up to school. They will have an opportunity to change into their costumes prior to the parade.

**(Kindergarten students may wear their costumes to school.)**

We appreciate your support of appropriate costumes for a fun, yet safe afternoon. If you are in doubt about the appropriateness of a particular costume it is always better to check with your child's teacher ahead of time to avoid disappointment on the day of the parade.

Some families are uncomfortable with cultural Halloween celebrations and we honor and respect their wishes at Woodridge. October 30, is intended to be a normal school day until the time the celebrations begin in the afternoon. At that time, there will be alternate planned activities in Room 103 for those children who do not celebrate Halloween. Please let your child's teacher know ahead of time if you'd like alternative activities for your child.

If you have any questions about our Halloween plans, please contact your child's teacher.

\* In the event of inclement weather, we'll parade in the hallway downstairs.

## Spokane Public Schools Citizens Advisory Council

We had our first Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on October 12th at Libby Center. Highlights included the following:

- \* Dr. Nancy Stowell discussed the Work Plan for the upcoming year which includes:
- \* Spokane Schools will be creating an "Institute for Advanced Placement" so that teachers can get instruction on AP classes locally. Prior to the implementation of this institute, the teachers had to travel out of town for such instruction.
- \* They will be researching on how to raise the graduation rate of students leaving high school.
- \* There will be a focus on middle school regarding the curriculum, hours, and structure of the system in general.
- \* School Board Candidates Forum (the candidates spoke and took questions):

### Director Position 3

**Jeff Bierman- Incumbent**

**Heidi Olson- Challenger**

### Director Position 4

**Laura Carder- Challenger**

**Rocky Treppiedi- Incumbent**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9 and will be attended by our local state legislators. I welcome issues that are important to our Woodridge parents. Please send questions to me directly at [jripley9@comcast.net](mailto:jripley9@comcast.net). I anticipate there will be a sizable number of questions being asked of them. With that in mind, I will report on any questions that I get answered in the next update.

Best regards,

Jeff Ripley, Woodridge CAC Representative

## Visitor Sign-in and Guest Badges

Please remember to stop by the office to check in and get a visitor's badge to wear while you're in the building. We monitor the hallways closely to ensure the safety of your children and ask anyone without a guest badge, a district staff tag, or a volunteer tag to return to the office. We are aware that sometimes parents need to stop in quickly to bring an item to a child but please stop by the office first.



October 23, 2009

Dear Parents,

We are fortunate at Woodridge to have a parent community that values education and works together with our school on behalf of all students. The highest priority that we share is student safety. While we would like to think we have a totally safe community, all neighborhoods have situations that make it imperative that we remind our children about safety walking to and from school and when playing outside.

Yesterday, I met with teachers and then each teacher met with their students, to discuss ways to strengthen your children's safety skills so they can better protect themselves. Because of a variety of neighborhood safety concerns, we felt this information would be timely to share with students and also with parents, as a parent/guardian is the best person to teach "Stranger Danger" to their children.

Aside from discussing the attached safety reminders (on the back of this letter) with your children, parents are also encouraged to visit [www.icrimewatch.net/washington.php](http://www.icrimewatch.net/washington.php) for additional safety tips and potential dangerous situations in specific neighborhoods in Washington State, including our neighborhood.

Thank you for working together on behalf of your children's safety as we develop "smart kids" in more ways than one. As always, if you have questions or concerns please feel free to call me at 354-4600.

Sincerely,

Brian Melody  
Principal

## STRANGER DANGER

We want to share with you some ways to strengthen your children's safety skills so they can better protect themselves. I know we all agree that there is nothing more important than the safety of our kids. Here are a few suggestions.

1. Identify people who can help you and your children with safety and decision making (extended family, close neighbors, friends, etc.).
2. Interact regularly with your neighbors. Tell your children whose homes they are allowed to visit with your permission.
3. Encourage your children to play and walk with friends; this is safer than being alone.
4. Help your children memorize their full name, phone number, address, parent's name and their parent's work number.
5. Teach your kids that adults who are strangers should NOT approach children. Tell them that if they are approached by an adult, they should stay alert because this may be a "trick." For example, a person might offer money, candy, or a game. They might also ask a child to help them with directions or to find a lost puppy.
6. Discuss an action plan to use if a stranger comes toward them in an uncomfortable way. You might have them scream, run, go to a safe house, or move toward a group of people.
7. Teach your children never to approach a car when they don't know and trust the driver.
8. Children should never go anywhere with anyone, or accept anything from anyone, without getting your permission first.
9. Give your children permission to be assertive with adults in using refusal skills. Practicing safety and refusal skills will make it easier for them to actually use these skills if needed. Teach that it's okay to say, "NO!" if someone tries to touch them or treat them in a way that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

Encourage your children to share their concerns with you; tell them you will listen to them, believe them, and support them. We want to support you in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to contact us about specific concerns you might have regarding the safety of children at home, at school or in the neighborhood. Thank you.