



WHITMAN WILDCAT NEWS

October 2009

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Whitman Teachers Rewarded

We'd like to thank **Shadle Walmart** for recognizing Whitman Elementary teachers with their **Teacher Recognition Reward Program!** Ten of our teachers' names were drawn and each was presented with a \$100 gift card from Walmart to use for classroom needs. We were all treated to doughnuts and juice as well!

Thank you Walmart! And thanks to every teacher and staff member at Whitman for making this the best place to teach, learn and grow!!

A Note From The PTO

Our next meeting is October 13th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Library. You are welcome to bring your children. We are continuing to collect juice pouches, Campbell's soup labels, and Box Tops for Education. Please write your child's name and room number on the back of the Box Tops in order to participate in a weekly drawing. At this time we are not collecting plastic bags. If you have any questions regarding the PTO you may call and leave a message with the Whitman office at 354-4320 or drop a note by the office. We hope to see you at our next meeting to discuss how the PTO can continue to support the teachers and students at Whitman. We will also be hearing more about the new report card.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW ASB OFFICERS

President – Jasmine Sarich

Vice-President – Mariah Christen

Secretary – Kendra Crossley

Treasurer – Mack Herman

Advisory Board – Hannah Simmons, Shyanne Jones, Katrina Bercier, Cheyenne Gillespie, Josh Lee, Kalyn Wallace, Cheyanna Jones, Larissa Caldeira, Taylor Buchmann, Keyonna Davis

We are excited about all the fun to be had this year!

EMERGENCY INFORMATION/ENROLLMENT VERIFICATIONS

It is vital that we know where you can be located during the day. One or two reliable alternate phone numbers are also needed in case you cannot be reached. Please be sure the school office has accurate phone numbers. Long distance is not available on our phones. Please call and update your student's information with a local number (509) where you can be reached. **IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OFFICE ASAP.**

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications – If you have not filled out a new application for this year the old one will expire. Please have a new application filled out no later than October 8th.

Calling All Volunteers!!!

It's that time of year again! Whitman's staff is always thankful for helping hands at school. If any of you are interested in giving some of your spare time to help in school, you will need to get a volunteer application form in the office, fill it out and return it to school. This registration process involves a criminal history screening, familiarization with the volunteer policies and acceptance into the program. This is for your safety and the safety of our children. As soon as your volunteer application has been cleared, Mrs. Thams, Whitman's volunteer coordinator, will call you to come in for an orientation. We are looking forward to meeting all of you.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We are looking forward to a great year getting to know your child. There are some new faces in the counseling office this fall. We are excited to welcome Patricia Morel as the new half-time counselor. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions—we look forward to working with your child!

Safety Procedures at Whitman

Our goal at Whitman is to provide the safest possible environment for our students, staff and community. To help with this, all School District employees are asked to wear their identification badges so students, staff, volunteers and visitors know those adults are "authorized" to be here.

We also have a procedure for all visitors to the school to check in at the office and wear a visitor pass visibly so students and adults know this is someone who has been cleared through the office. We ask that all visitors enter the building through the front doors regardless of your destination in the school.

For safety reasons, we ask those in the school who are not wearing a badge or visitor pass to return to the office and check in. Even if you are dropping your child off or picking him/her up after school, please check in and wear your visitor pass.

Please do not be offended if asked to return to the office and check in. We are increasing our watchfulness in order to keep Whitman safe and secure. We also want students to know that they should report anyone in the building without a badge or visitor tag. Their sense of security is very important to us.

Thank you for your help and understanding!



WHITMAN CARNIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Congratulations to all for making our school carnival a successful and enjoyable family event! A special thank you goes out to our wonderful PTO members, Whitman staff, family members, and custodians for making the whole night run smoothly. We would also like to acknowledge the generous help from Yoke's Foods. They allowed us to purchase our food at cost. Wasn't the food great? And Mmmmm . . . The cotton candy was a favorite!

How fun it was to watch as children of all ages, toss rings onto pop bottles, threw a football through a challenging target or listen to the delighted comments of, "Wow! Look what I won!" The lines may have been long at times, but the excitement of the evening never wore off!

All proceeds will go towards supporting Whitman students and their activities.

Thank you again for all of your support!



Pick Up / Drop Off & Early Pick Up

Many students have been arriving too early to school. Children should not arrive at school any earlier than 8:45 a.m. or 9:15 a.m. on Thursdays unless they are eating breakfast. If they are eating breakfast, they may arrive at 8:20 a.m. or 8:50 a.m. on Thursdays. There is no outside supervision for students arriving early.

Plans for after school are to be made at home before the child comes to school. If you or someone else is picking them up after school, please be here when the children are released. Students are released at 3:00 p.m. and must be picked up no later than 3:15 p.m. If a student has detention they must be picked up at 3:30 p.m.

We understand that appointments need to be made for students from time to time throughout the school year. Please try to make these appointments before or after school hours thus *not* impacting their educational day.

WASH YOUR HANDS... DROWN A GERM... STAY HEALTHY!

Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent an illness. That goes for the flu, a cold, or preventing food poisoning. If you would truly take the time to wash your hands well, you will be on your way to a healthier year. Here are the hand washing basics you should follow:

1. Wash Frequently: As often as you sneeze, cough, touch the garbage can, pick something off of the floor, go to the bathroom... You should wash your hands. At school you should wash before lunch, after a group activity, and after a bathroom visit.

2. Wash Well: It does NOT count if you just "wet your hands." This does nothing but make the germs on your hands happier and more content to multiply. Get the water warm, get a good amount of soap, and scrub every part of your hands and wrists until the bubbles overflow. This means about 20 seconds of good scrubbing. Sing the happy birthday song to yourself slowly and you should be fine, but take the time to do it well.

3. Watch What You Touch: Once you touch an item, person, or surface that could be germ filled (and lots of places are germ filled) be careful to not touch your face or mouth until you have had a chance to wash your hands well.

By taking care of your hands and keeping them clean, you will enjoy more play days, and fewer days flat on your back.

Whitman Attendance Line
Is available
24 hours a day- 7 days a week
Call 354-4383 to leave a message



URGENT SAFETY CONCERN

Traffic/Parking Lot

We are increasingly concerned with parking lot safety and traffic problems at drop off and pick up times. Some of the concerns are:

- Drivers driving/stopping facing the wrong way on Helena to pick up a child
- Drivers stopping across the street and motioning to students to cross in the middle of the street to get to the car
- Double parking
- Drivers attempting to go around cars that are double parked
- Drivers stopping in the bus lane
- Drivers leaving cars that are running
- Drivers attempting to get into the parking lot to pick up or drop off students when the cones are out
- Student and adult pedestrians crossing the street between parked or double-parked vehicles
- Currently the fine for parking in handicapped spaces is \$250.00

All of these situations drastically increase the safety risks for our students at very busy traffic times! **WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please follow these rules for student drop-off and pick-up:**

- **DO NOT** come into the front parking lot for student drop-off or pick-up unless you have a disabled parking permit. **Our crossing guards are told not to move the cones for any vehicle that does not have a disabled parking permit. Please honor their service to the school and their need to do the job as they have been told.**
- If you have disabled parking permit but are not parking to enter the school, we would appreciate having you decide on an alternate area to pick up your child.
- **DO** plan to pick up students on Rowan or in the back parking lot.
- **NEVER** tell your child to jaywalk or cross the street from between parked cars. This is especially dangerous during high traffic times.
- **ALWAYS** teach your child to cross with the crossing guards even if they must walk farther to do so.

We are working through the Facilities Department to look at improvements to the site so that traffic concerns can be addressed. *We thank you for your patience with the current traffic flow situation and especially for putting student safety first when it may mean personal inconvenience.* **Our children are precious and their safety is our great concern!**



OCTOBER 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9 NO SCHOOL
12	13 6:30 PTO Meeting 6:30 Skate Night	14	15	16 Award Assembly 1:30 Primary 2:15 Intermediate
19	20 3 rd & 4 th Grade Fire Safety House	21 3 rd & 4 th Grade Fire Safety House	22	23 Individual Picture Re-Take Day
26	27	28	29	30



NOVEMBER 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 Election Day	4	5	6

