



WHITMAN WILDCAT NEWS

November 2009

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UPDATING HIGH SCHOOL MATH MATERIALS: WE WANT YOU!

Spokane Public Schools is spending the next few months considering the options for updating the high school mathematics materials for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. This work is based on the recently adopted standards approved by the state of Washington on July of 2008.

Public forums will be held Nov. 10 at the North Central HS library from 6-7 p.m. and Nov. 12 at Lewis and Clark HS (rooms 131-132) from 6-7 p.m. The purpose of these forums will be to provide the opportunity for a brief update on the adoption process and for parents and community members to provide input on their priorities with respect to high school mathematics materials. Additional forums will be held in late January or early February.

For more information, visit spokaneschools.org or contact Bridget Lewis, executive director of Instructional Programs, at bridgetl@spokaneschools.org, Rick Biggerstaff, coordinator of Secondary Mathematics, at rickb@spokaneschools.org, or call 354-5900.

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found bin is piling up! Be sure to check the bin by the Art Room (south of the front doors) to see if your sweatshirt, coat or other clothing is waiting for you to find it! Items will be donated to a local charity after conference week in November.

CONFERENCE WEEK

Please plan now for early release for November 19-20 and November 23-25. School hours will be:

Grades K-6th - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

***Thursday, November 19th Schedule is slightly different: Grades K-6th – 9:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Breakfast Times: Mon, Tue, Wed, & Fri. 8:20 – 8:50

Thur. 8:50 – 9:20

****We will have a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library. Come check it out! Nov. 19-24th from 9:00-1:00.**



VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY

Are you a veteran? Do you know a veteran living in our community? Our Veteran's Day Assembly will be Monday, November 9th in the gym at 2:00 pm.

All veterans are invited to come dressed in uniform, displaying medals or artifacts of their service. Parents and community are invited to attend. Thank you in advance for making this Veterans' Day a meaningful and memorable experience. A flyer came home requesting any name of a veteran that will be attending the assembly so we can honor them by name. This information needs to be in the office by Friday, October 30th.



**Don't Forget to VOTE
By Tuesday
November 3, 2009**



CANDY-CANE GRAMS

The ASB officers we will be having our annual Candy-cane Drive fundraiser beginning the week of conferences. A table will be set up at the entrance of the school for you to purchase a candy cane gram to send to your child, a student or friend at the school. Each gram is \$1.00. This will include a candy-cane, your personal message and will be tied with a beautiful ribbon. Support our school and make someone smile at the same time! Students will be allowed to purchase them in their classrooms through the 15th of December. We will be delivering the candy-cane grams on the 18th of December.

REPORTING STUDENT'S ABSENCES

The Spokane Regional Health District (SHRD) keeps track of many communicable diseases in our area in an effort to protect the general health of our community. School attendance clerks enter reasons for absences on a daily basis and a report is shared with SRHD weekly. This report uses numbers only and does not include student names.

When parents report specific illnesses, it helps us to provide meaningful information and also alerts the school staff if we need to inform parents, students or staff who may be at increased risk of serious complications.

Some of the specific illnesses/diseases that we need to know about are:

Respiratory influenza: fever, chills, head and muscle aches, extreme tiredness, cough.*

Stomach "flu": nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Confirmed Measles or Mumps

Chickenpox/Shingles

"Common Cold": Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, mild hacking cough.

Hepatitis

Meningitis: Viral or Bacterial

Mononucleosis

Pneumonia/Bronchitis

Scarlet Fever

Sore throat

Strep throat

Although not contagious, we would also like to keep track of absences due to Asthma (symptoms and/or medical appointments).

Please report your child's absences and make sure that current phone numbers are on file at school.

Thank you for your assistance.

****Reporting absences due to respiratory "flu" symptoms is most important for tracking both seasonal influenza and an outbreak of a new type of influenza virus that could spread worldwide (Pandemic Influenza).***

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



ATTENDANCE HOTLINE-354-4383

Remember to call this phone number if your student is not going to be at school. When a parent/guardian does not call, the student's absence is logged as unexcused. So please call.

For all students school starts promptly at 9:00 am Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday & Friday 9:30 am on Thursdays.

Please help your student be on time, for academic success.

When To Keep A Child Home From School

It is important, for the health of all students, staff and families that your child **not be at school when sick**. The following guidelines are appropriate reasons to keep children home from school:

- A fever $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F in the last 24 hours
- A consistent, goopy, runny nose
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours (or as directed by physician or the Health Department)
- A rash that is associated with fever or itching
- A bad cough – one that you wouldn't want your well child around
- A sore throat, especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck
- Shortness of breath or other problems with normal breathing
- A child that is acting ill – tired, pale, aches, confused, irritable, lack of normal appetite
- Drainage from the eye and/or redness of eyelid or surrounding skin.
- Your child needs to remain at home for at least 24 hours after starting antibiotics
- Chicken pox: May return to school after all sores have crusted over and no new eruptions

If you have any concerns about any of the above symptoms please contact your health care provider.

When reporting your child's absence, please provide specifics about the type of illness/symptoms.

When you call or send a note to let us know that your child will be absent from school, please indicate the one reason that **best** describes why your child will be absent based on the following selections (**be specific when possible**):

- Asthma or asthma-like symptoms (coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath)
- Cold or sinus symptoms (sneezing, sore throat, stuffy nose)
- Flu (fever, headache, exhaustion, body aches)
- Stomach symptoms (nausea and/or vomiting, sometimes called the 'stomach flu')
- Other infectious diseases (chickenpox, Fifth disease, whooping cough, measles, mumps, hepatitis, or meningitis – viral or bacterial)
- Mononucleosis
- Pneumonia/bronchitis
- Scarlet fever
- Strep throat
- Lice, ringworm, or scabies
- Other health conditions – specify if possible
- Injury or accident
- Medical/dental appointment
- Family matters

We appreciate your assistance in implementing this enhanced system. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 354-4320.

COATS AND THE WEATHER

The weather is changing and we are having more and more students arrive without coats. Students play outside during lunch and recess times during the day. Students without coats will also be asked to go outside since they would not be supervised if kept indoors. Please make sure that your child comes with his/her coat in the morning.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

It is important that you keep the school informed of any changes in your family information so that we can immediately reach you in case of illness, injury or emergency. Please contact the school in writing if there are any restrictions that we need to be aware of to protect your child. We also ask that a written request from the parent be sent to the school office if a student is to be released to someone not on the registration form. You may check in the office at anytime to update information.

SAFETY CONCERNS

The safety of our students is a major concern for us. In the excitement and the rush of all the activities we do each day, sometimes our children forget to think "safety". We would ask your assistance in the following areas:

VISITORS TO WHITMAN MUST CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE. THEY WILL NEED TO SIGN IN AND RECEIVE A VISITOR'S PASS BEFORE GOING ANYWHERE IN THE BUILDING. UPON LEAVING, PLEASE CHECK BACK IN WITH THE OFFICE. THANK YOU FOR HELPING US WITH THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS.



PICKING UP STUDENTS EARLY FROM SCHOOL

If you need to pick up your child early from school please come to the office to sign them out. If at all possible try and make appointments outside of the school day. This helps us to not interrupt the classrooms and the children's learning process through out the day.

PARKING SIGNS

We would like to thank the PTO for the new parking signs in the front parking lot. These signs will be a helpful addition in providing safety for all of Whitman students. The Whitman PTO helps fund many things here at Whitman and we are always looking for new volunteer parents/guardians to join. Thank you everyone for your continued support and working together.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

In an effort to make our school an even safer place for all children, we are asking parents to not send their children to school too early. They may not be on school grounds before 8:45 (9:15 on Thursdays) since there is no supervision before this time. They only exceptions are if they are coming for breakfast or participating in a school organized activity. Students are expected to leave the school grounds at dismissal time (3:00) unless they are participating in a school organized activity. *Siblings are not allowed to wait for other siblings who are participating in a before or after school activity.* Give clear instructions for your child's before/after school plans. School phones are not to be used for making after school or play arrangements. These plans should be made before they leave in the morning. Please assist us in making our playground and school a safer place by not dropping your child off too early and instruct them to leave the school grounds at 3:00p.m.

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:

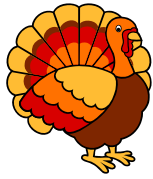
1. Wash Frequently: As often as you sneeze, cough, touch the garbage can, pick something off of the floor, go to the bathroom... You should wash your hands. At school you should wash before lunch, after a group activity, and after a bathroom visit.

2. Wash Well: It does NOT count if you just "wet you 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.





NOVEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
	Election Day Remember To Vote			
9	10	11	12	13
9:15 Veteran's Day Assembly in Gym	4 th Grade Symphony Concert at the Fox Theater	NO SCHOOL VETERAN'S DAY		
16	17	18	19	20
6:30 Skate Night		6:30 Family Night	Conferences & Progress Reports Early Release K – 6 th 9:30-1:00 pm Book Sale & Candy Cane Grams Sale Begins	Conferences & Progress Reports Early Release K – 6 th 9:00-1:00 pm Book Sale & Candy Cane Grams Sale
23	24	25	26	27
Conferences & Progress Reports Early Release K – 6 th 9:00-1:00 pm Book Sale & Candy Cane Grams Sale	Conferences & Progress Reports Early Release K – 6 th 9:00-1:00 pm Book Sale & Candy Cane Grams Sale	Conferences & Progress Reports Early Release K – 6 th 9:00-1:00 pm Book Sale & Candy Cane Grams Sale	NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
30				



DECEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4

