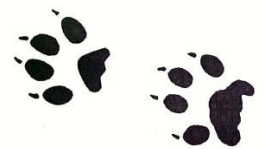


The Whitt Wolf Call



Volume 3, Issue 2

Whitt Elementary PTA

October 2010

We've Got Room Parents

Thank you to all of our WONDERFUL Whitt Wolves parents! All of our classes have a room parent (or two) now and they are busily working on our first two big events: Fall Frenzy on October 22nd and our Halloween parties on October 29th. Be watching for more information coming home in your kid's folders!

Any questions? Contact Amy Pinner, Room Rep. Coordinator, amypinner@verizon.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 6	National Walk to School Day
Oct 7	Rachel's Challenge Parents Meeting 7pm Cafeteria – no children
Oct 12-15	Book Fair; Family Night on 14 th 4-7pm
Oct 13	School Pictures
Oct 14	Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct 21	Rachel's Challenge Kick-off Assembly
Oct 22	Wolf Howl 1pm
Oct 22	Fall Frenzy Carnival 5-8pm
Oct 23-28	Red Ribbon Week (Say no to Drugs)
Oct 27	Cookie Dough and Prize Pick-up 3-6pm
Oct 28	Chick-Fil-A Family Fun Night
Oct 29	Halloween Class Parties

From the President:

Wow, It's fall and the fun is in full swing here at Whitt! We have had a busy September and look forward to lots of fun in October.

Join us on October 6 for National Walk to School Day! It is fun to gather in large groups and walk to school. You never know who might show up that morning to greet the walkers! Be sure to mark October 12, 2010 – October 15, 2010 for our only Scholastic book fair this year. The book fair will be open during parent teacher conferences with a family fun night. Dinner will be courtesy of Olive Garden. Look for information to come home with your child or on our website at www.whittpta.net.

The next Wolf Howl will be October 22, 2010 at 1:00 pm. Join us for fun as students who sold 10 or more items in the fundraiser wrap Dr. Slaten and Mrs. Morton as mummies. The students who sold 20 or more will be going into the money booth. Later that evening, our Fall Frenzy will be in full swing from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. There are lots of fun booths, and teachers will earn \$.20 for each ticket collected. Help your teacher earn money to be spent in their classroom.

The last week in October will be filled with Red Ribbon week, cookie dough delivery, family fun night at Chick-fil-a and class Halloween parties. What a fun filled October.

Last, but not least, I want to thank our volunteers for all their efforts, including working in teachers classrooms. Their time and commitment is invaluable!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Have a great month.

Building for Success!

Kari Hunt, Whitt Elementary PTA President

Stay in the Loop

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers. All of our school fundraisers and events could not have been successful without the help of all our hard working parents and volunteers.

Most of our volunteer sign-ups are done through email. If you are interested in "staying in the loop" about volunteer opportunities throughout the year, please send your contact information to me directly or fill submit on the web at www.whittpta.net.

Erin Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator
ewilson@swbell.net



Don't forget to join us as the Whitt Wolves participate in International Walk to School Day Wednesday, October 6th. If you have any questions please contact Angela Warren at angieandabby@yahoo.com.



Here is your chance to help us fill those empty shelves in the library. The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair! The Book Fair will be open for business Tuesday October 12th – 15th. Not only does the Book Fair help raise funds to purchase additional library resources, but it also encourages reading among our students.

A special **Family Fun Night** will be held on Thursday, October 14th, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Parents, grandparents, and siblings can come eat, shop and join in the fun. More details will follow.

Don't miss the chance to light up a young readers face with a good book. See you at the Book Fair!

Any questions contact Karen Bosse at kc.bosse@verizon.net



Fall Fundraiser



The totals are not in yet, but we can already tell we had an excellent fundraiser this year! Thank you so much to everyone who participated, the funds will be used to provide great programs for both parents and students.

Just a few important dates to remind you of in regards to the recent fundraiser:

- October 22:** Wolf Howl at 1:00
- October 27:** Pick up frozen goodies and prizes at school (3:00-6:00pm)

The Wolf Howl on October 22nd is important because if your child sold at least 10 items, he or she will be participating in wrapping our principal, Dr. Slaten, and assistant principal, Mrs. Morton, like mummies! Also, they will be given 20 free coupons to be used at the carnival that night (if they sold at least 10 items!). If your child sold at least 20 items, then they will be getting in a "money booth" to try and collect as many dollar bills as they can!

Again, thank you so much for helping to support your child's school!! We really appreciate it and could not have such a great PTA without such wonderful parents and volunteers.

Thank you,
DeAnn Smith, 4th Vice President - Ways and Means
Trey.deann@gmail.com

Fall Frenzy is coming!



Mark your calendars!

Friday, October 22, from 5-8pm, we will be having our Fall Frenzy Carnival here at Whitt Elementary. Classroom teachers, support staff, and PTA have all collaborated to provide a fun variety of booths this year. Come on out and play some games, eat some snacks, and support our favorite school. It will be a TON of fun!

For questions or more information, please contact:
Deonna Osborn, Carnival Chairperson
Whitt Elementary PTA
deonno@gmail.com

WHITT ELEMENTARY RED RIBBON WEEK October 25-29, 2010

MONDAY – WEAR RED AND KICK OFF RED RIBBON WEEK

**TUESDAY – TEAM UP AGAINST DRUGS
(WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM’S JERSEY OR SHIRT)**

**WEDNESDAY – HATS OFF TO BEING DRUG FREE
(WEAR CRAZY HAT)**

**THURSDAY - HUGS NOT DRUGS
(BRING A STUFFED ANIMAL TO HUG)
*Must be small enough to fit in your backpack!***

**FRIDAY – BOO TO DRUGS DAY
(WEAR YOUR COSTUME AND CONTINUE TO SAY NO TO DRUGS)**



Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education

October is “Batty for Boxtops”

Our first box tops contest will run from **Monday October 4th** until **Monday, October 18th**. Collection sheets will be sent home shortly. Please **trim** your Box Tops and tape or glue them onto the sheet. Each sheet holds 10 Box Tops; but if you do not have enough to complete it, please send it in partially filled.

(If you have Bonus Box Tops that are worth more, please submit those in a Ziploc baggie or an envelope labeled with your child's name and teacher.)

The class that gathers the most Box Tops by the deadline of Monday, **October 18th** will earn a s’mores and hot chocolate party! We will have one special prize for the top collector in the school.

Please also send in your Campbell soup labels as well. We will be restarting this program too.

Noreen Smith, Family Fun Night Chair
Noreensmith07@verizon.net
Stephanie Bush, Box Top Coordinator
beansmommy30@gmail.com

Your 2010-2011 PTA Board

Officers:

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1st Vice President – Aide to President – Christi Johnston
kcjohnston19@yahoo.com
2nd Vice President – Programs – Angie Warren
angieandabby@yahoo.com
3rd Vice President – Membership – Jamie Hodges
pinkdramamama@yahoo.com
4th Vice President – Ways & Means – Deann Smith
Trey.deann@gmail.com
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Historian – Rikki Gildert kemperdawn@verizon.com

Chairs:

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Book Fair – Karen Bosse kc.bosse@verizon.net
Carnival – Deonna Osborn deonnao@gmail.com
Citizenship/Legislative – Jennifer Parker
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Communications/Publicity – Lisa Ybarra lisa@the-ybarras.com
Council Delegate – Christi Johnston cjohnston19@yahoo.com
Council Delegate – Rebecca Lindsey reblindsey@verizon.net
Directory – Amy Roe Amy.Roe@pepsico.com
Environmental/Beautification – Stacie Smith sjrs48@yahoo.com
Family Fun Night/Community Partners – Noreen Smith
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Field Day – Kelly Detloff keldetof@msn.com
Golf Tournament – Deonna Osborn deonnao@gmail.com
Health Ed/S.A.G.E./Youth Protection – Carmen Dorsey
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Holiday Store – Erin Becker beckers131@tx.rr.com
Hospitality – Angela Harmony angelaharmony@yahoo.com
Room Rep Coordinator – Amy Pinner amypinner@verizon.net
Spirit – Amy Embry amyembry@yahoo.com
Teacher Appreciation – Fiona Xayaphanh
maemaehan@yahoo.com
Volunteer Coordinator – Erin Wilson ewilson@swbell.net
Watch D.O.G.S. – Jennifer Cheung jennybee7@gmail.com
Yearbook – Karen Andiel karenandiel@gmail.com

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month!!!

You should have received a ribbon to color and decorate at the end of September. Watch the main hallway as we hang up all these beautifully decorated ribbons!! We'll leave them up through the end of October! We hope this project will help grow awareness with the adults throughout our community of the importance of self-breast exams and check-ups with your doctor to ensure we are all healthy.

Save Lids to Save Lives campaign starts this month and goes through Dec 3rd! We're asking you to bring your rinsed Yoplait pink lids to school and put them in the “Yoplait lids” box. We will mail these lids to Yoplait for you. For every pink lid they receive, 10 cents is donated to Susan G Komen to help raise funds to research the cure for breast cancer.

*Carmen Dorsey
Youth Protection / Health Education / SAGE Chair*

October is National Family Health month

The main mission of "Family Health Month" is to encourage family communication, increase public awareness of family histories and health issues, provide information to assist families in keeping up their health, and record family histories.

The following areas should help enable you to take a closer look at your and your family's overall health:

Proper Nutrition: Do you eat a balanced diet?

See that your family eats appropriately. Heart disease, some cancers, stroke, diabetes, and damage to your arteries can be linked to what you eat. Fiber, fruits and vegetables can help reduce your risk of some cancers.

Physical Fitness: Does your body feel in tune?

Keep your family's bodies in tune. Ride bikes, take a walk, jump on the trampoline, or do whatever it is that your family enjoys! Exercise can help prevent heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis, depression and, possibly, colon cancer, stroke and back injury. You'll also feel better and keep your weight under control if you exercise regularly.

Stress: Do you feel pressured?

Pay attention to your family's mental and spiritual health.

Hazards: Is your home safe for young and old?

Control hazards in your home and reduce health risks.

Disease: Are immunizations up to date in your household?

Schedule periodic health screening exams and immunizations for your family.

Tobacco: Do you use tobacco?

Healthy life-style habits play a major role in preventing illness. Using tobacco is one of the most dangerous things you can do. More preventable illnesses are caused by tobacco than by anything else.

Alcohol: Do you drink too much?

Again, healthy life-style habits play a major role in preventing illness. Limit how much alcohol you drink. Too much alcohol can damage the liver and contribute to some cancers, such as throat and liver cancer.

Partnership for Health: Do you have a regular doctor?

Family physicians are experts in helping you set up the personal health program that not only gets you healthy but keeps you healthy. Establish a partnership for health with your family physician.

Carmen Dorsey

Youth Protection / Health Education / SAGE Chair

Record-Breaking Family Fun Night in September!



117 E. FM 544, Murphy
(972) 509-2700

Next Night: OCTOBER 28, 2010

5:00-7:30 pm

The First Family Fun Night was a huge success. Mrs. Shirley's 1st grade class wins the snow cone and popcorn party and we raised \$283.00 (the biggest Spirit event ever for that location!!). Don't miss our next family fun night in October!

Remember: Drive thru orders count as well! Just mention Whitt Elementary when ordering.

Fridays are Spirit Days at Whitt!



Don't forget to wear your spirit wear every Friday. We'll be having a weekly contest among the classes in each grade level to see who has the most spirit! Each winning class per grade will get to keep Wylie the Wolf in their class for the week.

If you don't have your spirit wear yet, the PTA has a selection of t-shirts for purchase. There is a table set up at every Wolf Howl and the order form can be printed from our website, www.whittpta.net or you can pick up a form in the front office. Just send it in with your payment and we'll deliver your order to your child's classroom.

Thanks for your support and don't forget to show your Whitt Wolf spirit!

Meet our Volunteers of the Month

Kari Hunt and her husband David have been married for 13 years. They have two children: Inna, a second grader here at Whitt, and Stewart, a sixth grader at Draper. Inna and Stewart keep both parents busy watching them play sports. The family works together as well, tending to their vineyard, planted in the spring of 2010. In her free time, Kari enjoys reading, family time, and movies. Kari has been volunteering at her children's schools and involved with PTA since Stewart was in kindergarten. She feels so honored being a part of the PTA, and now serves Whit Elementary as our PTA President! Thanks so much Kari!

Stephanie Bush has been married to her high school sweetheart for 16 years this coming December. She loves being Mom to her first grader Evie, and the family's 13 year old Australian Cattle dog, Alex. Stephanie admits to being half Aggie and half Longhorn and although a graduate of the University of Texas, always roots for the Horns! Stephanie's hobbies are bargain hunting with coupons, reading, scrapbooking, music and hanging out with friends. She is on her church women's ministry team, and promotes women's education. Stephanie enthusiastically serves Whitt Elementary as the Box Top Coordinator. Great Job Stephanie!

Jamie Hodges: Originally from California, Jamie has lived in Texas now for the past 13 years. She and her husband Steve have three daughters, Julia (7), Sevina (5), and Keira (3 months). Julia is a proud 2nd grader and Sevina is a new Kindergartner, both Whitt Wolves. Jamie also runs a moms' website, DFWAreaMoms.com. She coaches her daughter's cheer squad and is training for the Susan G. Komen 3 Day in November. In her spare time, she likes to play Wii with her girls, read magazines and books, and blog about her family. She also loves to cook and try out new recipes. Jamie is a very active member in the Whitt PTA. She is the 3rd VP of Memberships for the 2010-2011 school year. Way to go, Jamie!

Amy Embry and her husband Steve have been married for 14 years and have 3 precious children. Amy, Steve, and Ella are busy parents and a very capable big sister to twins Kyli and Matt! Ella is a second grader at Whitt and the twins, Kyli and Matt are 4 years old. In 2007, Steve and Amy moved their family all the way to Texas to come to Whitt Elementary! Amy's limited free time is spent enjoying scrapbooking, baking, and hanging out with great friends. The family is a big Dr. Pepper family. And don't be surprised if you run into them at Disney World! Amy did a great job as Family Fun Night Chairman last year and is now serving as Spirit Chairman. You're a great asset Amy!

Whitt Cub Scouts

The Whitt Cub Scouts are now up to 55 members! Boys in 1st-4th grade, there's still time to get in on the fun by coming to our FUN October/November activities:

- October 9 BBs, Archery, Pirate Ships, Caves, Castle and optional Camping at Cuboree.
- October 21 Pumpkin carving contest, "mummy" the den leaders and more at our Pack Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Sachse, 1520 Blackburn Rd.
- October 24 Fly a radio controlled airplane! Free burgers, hot dogs and chili.
- November 5 "Escape to Tiger Island" Hawaiian extravaganza for all 1st grade Tiger Cub Scouts.
- November 13 Geocaching (treasure hunt with GPS devices)

For more information contact Jeanine Stevens, Cubmaster, at 972-814-5997 or tardam@aol.com

Nursing Needle



Happy October!! As we plan for Halloween, with ghosts and goblins, it's a good time to address our **skeletons**. Our bones provide a nice structure for all our body parts to reside. But to keep this skeleton healthy, we need to take care of it. To do so we need plenty of foods with calcium and vitamin D, to help build strong bones. For our children older than age 9, now is the time to build their best bones forever! That means they need more calcium now than they did when they were younger. Try some of these tips to help increase calcium and Vitamin D intake. Add cheese to lunchmeat sandwiches or just grill up a cheese sandwich. Include yogurt with your child's favorite fruit or make pudding with low-fat or fat-free milk for dessert. Roll up sliced cheese or give string cheese or cut up carrot sticks or other vegetables to dip in ranch dressing for lunches or as a snack. Encourage your children to drink low-fat or fat-free white or chocolate flavored milk in the cafeteria for lunch. With these little changes our children can be on the way to getting enough of the calcium they need for strong bones.

But to create an overall healthy bone program, participation in an exercise routine is necessary to keep skeletons strong. Weight bearing exercise such as soccer, basketball, gymnastics, or dance can be great activities. Even an effective 30 minute walk can provide activity to promote strong bones. As parents we need to be good role models. Teaching these practices at an early age can develop lifetime habits. When children do not get enough Calcium or Vitamin D or exercise, their bones can become weak and can break easily. Medicines and certain kidney or intestinal diseases will also cause interference of Calcium absorption. Speak to your child's doctor if this affects your child or if your child is lactose intolerant, allergic to milk, or vegetarian for alternative Calcium diets.

Now, for that special night of trick-or-treating, and goodies galore, special precautions should be observed to keep our **WOLVES** safe. Don't allow your children to snack while they are trick-or-treating. All treats should be inspected before they are eaten. Check for any signs of tampering, such as discoloration, pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious. Limit the amount of trick-or-treating time so your children don't end up with too much candy and bellyaches. Let them choose only one piece of candy to eat for a snack each day. Don't allow young children to eat hard candy or other small treats that can be choking hazards. We want this to be an enjoyable and safe holiday.

Happy Haunting, Nurse Brandon

Absences for Illness



Wylie ISD is preparing for the upcoming flu season. Each year during flu season, the school nurses closely monitor illness at each campus. If your child is absent due to illness, you may be asked some specific questions about his or her symptoms to help us monitor flu-like illness. Your child's name and other personal information will be kept confidential. We highly encourage you to report your child's absence for illness to your school's nurse. Please include **specific/detailed reason for absence** (ex. fever, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, sore throat, doctor's diagnosis, etc). This will assist us in closely monitoring our students during flu season. It is very important that students stay home when they are ill. This will reduce the spread of germs and prevent others from getting sick. Thank you for helping us to keep our students healthy this season!

TO REPORT AN ILLNESS

CALL 972 429-2568 FOR NURSE BRANDON

Wylie ISD Looking For Nurses

Wylie ISD is looking for a few good nurses, that is to substitute. If you are a nurse looking for some work with wonderful Wylie students, please contact Amy Hillin, RN, MSN, NCSN, Wylie Health Services Coordinator at 972 429-2373 for more information.



Wylie ISD is introducing a new district-wide character education program called **Rachel's Challenge** and Whitt Elementary is very excited to be participating! This program encourages acts of kindness and compassion from all, and for all.

Special thanks go to the PTA, which was able to purchase the kit for Rachel's Challenge for Whitt.

Learn more October 7th at 7pm

Calling all parents! Join the Whitt Staff on October 7th at 7pm in the Whitt Cafeteria as they present this new and exciting program to you. Due to the nature of the parent video, please do not bring your children.

Below is some background information on this program from their website. You can also learn more online at www.rachelschallenge.org.

How The Elementary Program Began

Rockwall ISD first experienced Rachel's Challenge in April of 2007 when Rachel's Challenge presented the program to high school students. The effect that the program had on the climate and culture of their school was profound, and soon Rockwall brought the program to their middle school students and had formed a partnership with Rachel's Challenge to develop the program for the elementary students.

Today, Rockwall ISD is the model district for a comprehensive K-12 Rachel's Challenge initiative. According to Nancy Boyd, the Director of Counseling, instrumental in partnering with Rachel's Challenge: "Rachel's Challenge gives the students the permission to be kind and compassionate." Rockwall has seen a dramatic cultural change in their students. From kindergarten through 12th Grade, students perform "Random Acts of Kindness".

At the elementary level, the students are encouraged to make a positive difference in someone's life. When a student does an act of kindness the teacher writes that act on a small paper link and adds it to the chain of kindness at their school. Currently, the students in Rockwall have created over 123,000 links. By accepting Rachel's Challenge they are starting a Chain Reaction in their school.

Students Connect with the Program Because:

Proactive - By focusing on creating a culture of kindness and compassion on campus, this program doesn't just treat the symptoms; it directly addresses the root problems of isolation, prejudice and bullying.

Positive - Rachel's Challenge focuses on the impact that Rachel Scott made during her life. Rachel's story is powerful; students connect with her life, accept her challenges and model her behavior. The Program is age appropriate for elementary students.

Sustainable - This program creates real, sustainable momentum through the Kindness and Compassion Clubs (K. C.) Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to see the ever-increasing impact that their acts of kindness are making on their community.

What the Elementary Program Looks Like:

Kick off Assembly – The kick-off assembly is geared to inspire students and motivate them to start a chain reaction in their school. The program provides all of the instructions as well as a DVD that will help to make this assembly a great motivational tool for your student body. Whitt's Kick-off Assembly will be on October 21st at 8:00.

Curriculum – There is a professionally developed curriculum that teachers use in class to augment what they are currently teaching. The curriculum covers five central themes in Rachel's Challenge: Influence, Goal Setting, Journaling, Acceptance, and Kindness. Each of the sections provides practical ways to practice these ideas and activities.

K.C. Clubs – K.C. Clubs drive and sustain the momentum of the chain reaction on the school campus. These clubs are an excellent way for the student body to create a lasting impact in their school and community. Rachel's Challenge provides creative, practical ideas for service projects and other ways students can help make their school a place where everyone feels accepted.

End of Year Celebration – At the end of each year each school or district holds a celebration that honors students for their hard work in creating a climate of kindness and compassion on their campus. This celebration serves as a way to involve the community