



# The Whitt Wolf Call



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

WHITT ELEMENTARY PTA

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Upcoming Events

### September

- 9/8 Fall Fundraiser Kick-off
- 9/13 PTA General Meeting - 6:45 pm  
\*Watch DOGS kick off immediately following meeting
- 9/14 Rachel's Challenge Kick-off
- 9/16 Wolf Howl - 1:30 pm
- 9/22 Family Fun Night at Chick Fil A
- 9/22 Fall Fundraiser Orders Due

### October

- 10/5 National Walk to School Day
- 10/7 First Six Weeks Awards
- 10/7 Whitt Night at the Wylie Pirate Football Game

## How to Keep In the Know

There are so many good things going on at Whitt, it's sometimes hard to keep track. The good news is that there are several ways that help to keep you "in the know!"

- The **Whitt Wolf Call Newsletter** will be coming home once a month.
- Additional information and a schedule of upcoming events can always be found at the **Whitt PTA website** at [www.whittpta.net](http://www.whittpta.net)
- Listen to **89.1 FM WLF Wolf Radio** around the perimeter of the school - you may even hear some familiar voices!
- Become a "friend" of the **Whitt Elementary PTA Facebook page** for event reminders.

## From the President:

Welcome back, fellow Whitt Wolves! It is hard to believe that we are embarking upon our fourth year here at Whitt Elementary. Last school year, PTA planted shade trees on the playground, purchased the Accelerated Reader program, painted game stencils for the children to utilize at recess, purchased much needed items for classrooms and "specials" rooms, provided programs such as National Walk to School Day, Red Ribbon Week, Reflections, a recycling initiative, and even brought in a parent education program. We also hosted the Fall Frenzy Carnival, Annual Golf Tournament, Whitt's Got Talent, Splash Day, Field Day, Family Fun Nights, and much more! Additionally, the room parents did a fantastic job with the classroom parties.

Once again, PTA has a multitude of activities planned for the year. We have an exciting year ahead and are thrilled to hit the ground running!

Our first general PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, beginning at 6:45pm. Immediately following the meeting, we will be having our Watch D.O.G.S. kick-off. Please join us! I welcome you to bring any questions, suggestions, or concerns at that time. I am here to serve you during your journey at Whitt, whether it's finding the right volunteer opportunity, answering questions about PTA, or simply helping point you in the right direction for contact information. We would not be successful without the amazing group of volunteers here at Whitt. Please feel free to let me know how I can help you this year - we are all in this together!

I have enjoyed meeting so many new people already this year, as well as seeing lots of familiar faces in the hallways. We are truly blessed to have Dr. Slaten, Mrs. Morton, and the incredible network of teachers and staff located inside our school walls. Our children are genuinely in good hands. I feel honored to be working with each and every volunteer and staff member this year in order to make Whitt Elementary the best school it can be. I am definitely proud to be a Whitt Wolf!

I wish you and your children a successful and wonderful year at Whitt Elementary!

Reaching one child at a time,  
Deonna Osborn  
Whitt Elementary PTA President

# Volunteer Corner

## Attention all Whitt Volunteers and Potential Volunteers!

There will be lots of wonderful ways that you will be able to help out at Whitt this year. Committees are forming for some of the bigger events, and there will be great general volunteering opportunities as well. Anyone interested in more information should contact Tammy Alexander at [whittvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:whittvolunteers@gmail.com). For those who have already expressed interest, don't forget to get your background check form filled out and turned in to the front office as soon as you can. This is going to be a FUN year!

## Party Time!

Don't forget to return your \$10 party donations. We depend on this money to help make all of our kids' classroom parties successful and fun for all! Return it and the form with your child's teacher and grade by September 12th to help your child's class win an ICEE popsicle party! For more information, email Amy Pinner at [whittroomrep@gmail.com](mailto:whittroomrep@gmail.com).

## LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Collect labels and lids from participating products and earn FREE educational merchandise for the school. For more information, contact Rene Rose at [rkrose814@gmail.com](mailto:rkrose814@gmail.com). For a complete list of participating products and point values, please visit [www.LabelsForEducation.com](http://www.LabelsForEducation.com).



## Calling Dads, Grandfathers, Uncles...

Have YOU heard about the Watch D.O.G.S. program?

**WATCH D.O.G.S.**® (Dads of Great Students) is a K-12 program that invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other father figures to volunteer at least one day all day at their child's/student's school during the school year. Dads, grandfathers, uncles and honorary father figures are welcome to join. Watch D.O.G.S. volunteers perform a variety of tasks during their volunteer day including monitoring the school entrance, assisting with unloading and loading of buses and cars, monitoring the lunch room, or helping in the classroom with a teacher's guidance by working with small groups of students on homework, flashcards, or spelling. It's a great way to help the school and show your kids how special they are to you! We'll be having sign-ups following the general PTA meeting on Sept. 13th or contact Cathryne Chatmon at [whittwatchdogs@gmail.com](mailto:whittwatchdogs@gmail.com). We look forward to a great year and hope you will join us!



All parents and teachers want to see children succeed. It is our greatest responsibility to help all youth strive for and realize their full potential. More than 30 years' worth of research has proven that children do better when their parents are involved both at home and at school. Grades and test scores climb. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.

Help your child's teacher to "make a touchdown" in our membership drive and become a member of Whitt Elementary's PTA. Please fill out the form on the Whitt PTA Website ([www.whittpta.net](http://www.whittpta.net)) and return it with your dues payment to school with your child.

For more information, please contact Amy Embry at [whittptamembership@gmail.com](mailto:whittptamembership@gmail.com)

Let's go for the **GOLD** with Box Tops this year! Last year Whitt Elementary raised \$1,610!! Thank you to all the

parents and students who worked so hard to help us have a great year. This year's Box Tops will be all about the Olympics. Look for your collection sheets to be coming home in late September. Great prizes will be awarded to our overall Gold, Silver and Bronze collectors. We will have three collection periods this year.

Remember every Box Top is worth 10 cents and that money adds up quickly. Keep an eye out for double Box Tops



on your favorite Box Tops brands in stores right now. Also, another easy way to earn Box Top money is to go to

[www.rewardyourschool.com](http://www.rewardyourschool.com)

and register your Kroger card and choose Don Whitt Elementary as your school. Whitt earns \$.50 for each new registration. You can also print coupons on your favorite Box Tops products when you go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Remember, we are all winners with Box Tops 4 Education!! For more information, email Hilary Barnett, at [whittffn@gmail.com](mailto:whittffn@gmail.com) or Stephanie Bush at [beansmommy30@gmail.com](mailto:beansmommy30@gmail.com).



### Family Fun Night!! September 22, 5:00-7:30PM

This is a great way to raise money for the school, and parents get a night off from cooking!!

Some of your favorite teachers will be there to support the cause and there will be prizes for the class who has the most participants!!!

Remember - drive thru orders count, too! Just mention Whitt Elementary when ordering.

### FALL FRENZY and SILENT AUCTION

October 28, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Fall is just around the corner so that can only mean one thing...it's time to start planning our Annual Fall Frenzy Carnival. We've also moved our Silent Auction to the same night!! Watch your child's backpack for more information coming soon...

We'll see you there! For questions about how you can help us make this event a big success, contact Suzi Kennon, Carnival Chair, at [whittcarnival@gmail.com](mailto:whittcarnival@gmail.com)

## Texas PTA Family Engagement Month Parents, Can You Spell Love? Excerpt from The Voice, Texas PTA, August 2011

Someone once asked a child, "So how do you spell love?" He replied, "T-I-M-E." It's a busy world for parents and other adults raising children - holding down a job, answering texts and emails, grocery shopping, preparing meals, kids' extracurricular activities and dealing with "life" in general. And the years just fly by from the time our sons and daughters start kindergarten to the moment they walk across the stage on high school graduation day. In just a flash the child who needs us for almost everything becomes the independent person we trained them to be, entering college or starting a career.

Studies repeatedly affirm that family engagement is critical in the life of a child, not only with his or her academic achievement, but with developing social skills. Students' self esteem and self worth are contingent upon the interaction within the family unit.

Texas PTA wants to remind all parents and other caregivers of children to stop for just a moment and give our kids some T-I-M-E. September is Texas PTA's Family Engagement Month! It's a time to put aside all of the distractions and make time for the family. And it is so simple. Go have lunch at school with your child. Plan a special family dinner with everyone expected to attend. Dust off an old family recipe and cook together. Plant a tree with all family members participating. Brainstorm and come up with a weekend activity that all family members will enjoy. Go visit a relative that your children have not seen in a while. Pull out some old family photos and sit around the table talking about your family's roots.

Show your children that love is spelled T-I-M-E.



### Diversity Means...

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflection

Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by the theme Diversity Means.

Students may submit an entry in any of these six arts areas:

- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts
- Dance Choreography
- Film/Video Production

You can pick up a registration form in the front office of the school. You can also access the entry form online at [www.txpta.org/programs/reflections](http://www.txpta.org/programs/reflections). More information will be coming home shortly.

**Remember Fridays are Spirit Days at Whitt Elementary school! Order your Whitt Spirit Wear today - order forms can be found on the Whitt PTA website at [www.whittpta.net](http://www.whittpta.net).**



# Nursing Needle

## Welcome back new and returning Wolves!

Let's prepare for a new and exciting year focused on good health by including nutrition and fitness.

There is a daily activity in which kids come home from school and head directly to the kitchen looking for something to eat. How do parents ensure that children get nourished but still have room for a healthy dinner? Depending on your child's age and after-school routine, you may not always be able to control what he or she eats. But putting forth some effort, a good healthy plan can make a satisfying and nutritious difference.

To make steps toward developing a healthy plan, first determine your child's eating schedules on a normal weekday. Some younger kids get a mid-morning snack, while others eat one later in the day. When is lunch? Does the daycare serve snacks? When is dinner planned? All this information will help you determine your child's schedules and how to plan snacks accordingly.

The next step is to create a list of healthy options and determine what snacks kids would like to have at snack time. Together, come up with a list of healthy options and be sure to include a variety of fruits and vegetables. Now cookies and potato chips should not be

forbidden, but low nutrient snack should not be available every day. If possible, take your children with you to the grocery store and spend some time reading through the nutrition fact labels and comparing products. Pay attention to the amount of protein, fiber, calcium and snacks low in sugar, fat and salt. When kids are involved in the process they are more likely to learn to make healthy food choices.

Making healthy snacks easily available by packing them in their lunches or backpacks or by just having them visible and ready-to-eat at home is an easy choice for kids. Kids are more inclined to eat what's handy. Older kids may like to make their own snacks, so provide the ingredients and a few simple instructions. And to wash it down, it's best to stick with water or skim or low-fat milk.

Continue to follow the Nursing Needle in the months to come for more information about great nutrition and fitness information.

*Stay  
Healthy,  
Nurse Brandon*

## Attendance Reporting

To report an absence, please call:

**972 429-2568**

or email

**[kristin.brandon@wylieisd.net](mailto:kristin.brandon@wylieisd.net)**

Report your student's name,  
teacher, and reason for absence.



## Please join us as the Whitt Wolves participate in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5.

Communities are using the *Walk or Bike to School* campaign as the first step to change community culture and create environments that are more inviting for everyone, young and old. Here are some reasons to support walking and biking to school:

- To enhance the health of kids
- To improve air quality and the environment
- To create safer routes for walking and bicycling

Watch your child's backpack for more information.