



The Whitt Wolf Call



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

WHITT ELEMENTARY PTA

OCTOBER 2011

Upcoming Events

October

- 10/5 International Walk to School Day
- 10/5 First KC Meeting
- 10/7 First Six Weeks Awards
- 10/7 Whitt Night at the Wylie Pirate Football Game
- 10/12 Picture Day!
- 10/26 Cookie Dough Delivery, 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- 10/27 Family Fun Day at Yogurtville (Murphy)
- 10/28 Wolf Howl, 1:30 p.m.
- 10/28 Fall Frenzy 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 10/24-29 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/31 Halloween Class Parties

November

- 11/8 PTA General Mtg, 6:45 p.m. (3rd Grade Veteran's Day Program)
- 11/7-11 Book Fair
- 11/10 Book Fair Family Night, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Keep up to date with Whitt events:

- Whitt PTA website at www.whittpta.net
- Listen to 89.1 FM WLF Wolf Radio
- Become a “friend” of the Whitt Elementary PTA Facebook page for event reminders.

From the President:

Just as fall brings changes in seasons, the last few weeks have brought forth some changes at Whitt Elementary. We would like to welcome Dr. Katherine Stover as our new Assistant Principal at Whitt. I am excited to work with Dr. Stover and embrace her into the Whitt family!

We have certainly had a busy September, and October is packed with many more fun events. Join us on October 5th for International Walk to School Day! This is a great opportunity to walk to school with your friends and even meet a few new ones along the way. Be sure to mark your calendars for Whitt Night at the Pirate Game on Friday, October 7th. Wear your Whitt Wolves spirit gear, and come on out to help cheer the Wylie Pirates to victory against the Highland Park Scots.

October 24th through the 29th is Red Ribbon Week. Watch for more information coming home on this activity-packed week focused on the importance of saying “no” to drugs.

Our next Wolf Howl will be October 28th at 1:30 p.m. Come join in on the fun as we watch each student who sold at least 10 items from the fall fundraiser help us make “Principal a la mode!” Later that evening, our Fall Frenzy Carnival will be in full swing from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This event entails lots of unique classroom booths, games, inflatables, food, and tons of fun! We will even be hosting a silent auction this year. The last week of October also holds fundraiser delivery, Family Fun Night at Yogurtville, and Halloween class parties!

Each of these events would not be possible without the loving and tireless efforts put forth by our tremendous fleet of volunteers. On behalf of myself and of all of the children at Whitt, I would like to say “thank you” for all you do.

I truly feel blessed to be a part of Whitt Elementary and look forward to seeing you around soon. Have a great October!

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



Volunteer Corner



A Special Thank You...

To the August Volunteers of the Month...Deonna Osborn, Stacie Smith, and Theresa Evetts. The Whitt students, teachers, staff and PTA thank you all for your extra efforts in helping to make Whitt such a great school!

Supply Drive...

Swing by the Staff Workroom and grab a paw print off of the door. We are helping to stock the workroom with much needed supplies!

Fall Activities...

Fall Frenzy is on **Friday, Oct 28th**. We need plenty of parent volunteers to help out with the classroom booths, so be on the lookout for information coming home with your student. Also, our Halloween parties are coming up on Monday, Oct 31st. We'd love to have your help or just come and join the fun!

Party times are:

Kinder, 1st & 2nd grade - 1:15pm
3rd grade - 1:30pm
4th grade - 12:30

We'll have a "ghostly" good time!!
Contact Amy Pinner at whittroomrep@gmail.com

Team Up!

We're in the "final quarter" of our membership drive and it's not too late to help your child's class make a touchdown in our membership contest! Remember that parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, local businesses, and any student in the 9th grade or higher can join the PTA, so ask your family and friends to join up and support all of our students. The membership drive ends 10/15. Contact Amy Embry at whittptamembership@gmail.com.

Join in as the Whitt Wolves participate in our 4th Annual International Walk to School Day Wednesday, October 5.

We will meet at two different rally points (choose which works best for you) at 7:00am.

Rally point A : At the intersection of Clearmeadow and Canyon Crest Drive in Woodbridge near the pool.

Rally point B : At the intersection of Parkwood Drive and Texas Drive in Parkwood Ranch.



The walk will begin at approximately 7:00 with Sachse Police leading the way. We should arrive at Whitt Elementary at 7:25, where Sachse Firefighters and Wylie the Wolf will be cheering on our arrival. Check out www.whittpta.net for a map of the routes. With questions, please contact Angela Warren at whittprograms@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

FAMILY FUN DAY!!

October 27 at Yogurtville in Murphy

What a great way to raise money for the school, and enjoy a yummy treat at the same time! Drop by **anytime** during the day on 10/27, and remember to leave your receipt in the Whitt box!

FALL FRENZY and SILENT AUCTION

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

Games, inflatables, yummy treats, new booths, a DJ, kids in costumes - what more could you want? How about the opportunity to help your child's teacher get money for classroom supplies? Sounds great to us - we'll see you there! Ticket information will be coming home soon, so watch your child's backpack!

By the way, we are having a silent auction at our carnival this year! We are looking for some great donation items. If you have something you'd like to contribute or know of someone who does, let us know at whittcarnival@gmail.com! Thanks for all you do to help us help your children!

BOOK FAIR

Planning Meeting, Thursday, October 13, 7:30 a.m. in PTA Room

Whitt Wolves love Book Fair week! Anyone interested in volunteering for the Book Fair (the week of November 7 - 11th) should plan on attending! For information and to volunteer to help make this a special week for the students, contact Dawn Schuler at whittbookfair@gmail.com

Opportunities

Red Ribbon Week October 24-28

Whitt Wolves are “PAWS”itively drug free and are excited to participate in Red Ribbon Week. Each day of the week will have a theme as we remember to be drug free. On Tuesday, each of the students will receive a red “100% Drug Free” bracelet. Every morning of Red Ribbon Week there will be a raffle for the students to win cool Red Ribbon Week prizes, **BUT** they must wear their bracelets everyday to be eligible for the drawing.

Monday- Student Holiday

Tuesday - I Can, You Can, We Can Be Drug Free (*Proudly wear red and bring canned food to donate**)

Wednesday - Put a Cap on Drugs
(wear cap or crazy hat)

Thursday - Stay in the Game and be drug free (*Wear your favorite team shirt*)

Friday - I'm a jean-ous! I'm drug free.
(*Wear jeans*)

*Canned goods will be collected all week as we have a “pre-drive” for our Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive. The class collecting the most cans this week will receive a prize.

Video Game Safety: A Message from ESRB and PTA

Video games can be a great source of entertainment and learning for the whole family, but it's important for parents to fully appreciate what the experience of playing games today encompasses. Many games include social and interactive elements like chat or online competitions; others can be expanded or altered by downloading player-created content on the Internet. As parents, it is up to us to be informed about what and how our children play and to make appropriate choices on their behalf.

There is an online PDF available free to parents via the National PTA. In this e-booklet, developed by ESRB and PTA®, you will find information about the ESRB ratings, step-by-step guides to set up your parental control settings, as well as information, tips and resources about online video game safety.

Check it out at www.pta.org/Documents/Video_Game_-_FINAL_WEB.pdf

Questions or comments — please contact Lisa Ybarra, Health Education and Youth Protection Chair, at whittthealthed@gmail.com



The National PTA Reflections Program, an arts recognition and achievement program for students, is underway. This year's theme is “Diversity Means,” and students can express themselves creatively by creating original works of art inspired by this theme. Student's entries are due **November 9th**.

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

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

Students have the opportunity to earn local, State, and even National recognition if their work is chosen, so if your child loves to express themselves through art, this could be a really rewarding effort! If you don't already have an registration form, you can pick up one in the front office. You can also access the entry form online at www.txpta.org/programs/reflections. Please contact whittarts@gmail.com with any questions.

Nursing Needle

What causes 25 to 50 MILLION cases of illness and 30,000 to 40,000 deaths yearly and is among one of the most preventable diseases? The answer: Influenza, and NOW is the time to think of prevention.

Each year brings a new season and is highly unpredictable. The CDC recommends that **everyone** 6 months of age and older should get a seasonal influenza vaccine EACH year. The flu vaccine is now available through most physician offices and vaccine clinics.

Influenza infection can make you very sick, cost you time away from work, and infect people around you. Young children and people over 65 can get seriously ill. The flu vaccine itself is made from an inactivated source, which means that you cannot get sick from the shot. The side effects may cause some soreness, fatigue, and flu-like symptoms as your body creates antibodies against the flu.

But getting the actual influenza disease can be so much worse, as the symptoms of fever, chills, weakness, achiness, severe tiredness, runny nose, coughing, and sore throat can keep you in bed for several days. Now imagine that you become infected with the flu and have to miss several days from work. Then your child becomes ill and you miss more days as you care for your child. Suddenly it becomes very costly as you miss time from work. If for some reason you can't miss work or don't have time available to miss, you return to work ill and spread the disease to those around you. People with flu may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after.

Influenza is different from a cold as it is a sudden onset of illness. The fever that accompanies flu is usually over 101 degrees F. Severe tiredness, headache, and body aches are also common complaints. Runny nose, sore throat, coughing will also be common symptoms but will vary from child to child. Some children can have vomiting and diarrhea with the flu. If you believe your child has the flu, see your doctor for testing as antiviral medicines can be prescribed. Keep your child hydrated and resting. Tylenol or Motrin can be used for fever or pain control.

A fever is the body's way of fighting an infection. Fever is not harmful and can range from 101-104 and last 2-3 days. When children are ill, they will get varying degrees of fever. The height of the temperature does not relate to the seriousness of the disease. The most important thing to remember with fever is how your child acts and responds to you. Children need to drink and urinate normal when ill. NOT eating as much as usual is OK. If ever in doubt what a fever might mean, or if your child is acting ill in a way that is concerning, contact your doctor. **Emergency** symptoms to look for when children are ill are severe pain, limpness or refusal to move, wheezing or difficulty breathing, rash or purple spots, or obvious trauma or injury.

To protect yourself and your family, most importantly, get a flu shot. Hand washing, with soap and water, is also key in illness prevention.

Protect yourself and your family:

- Get a flu shot!
- Wash hands with soap and water!
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth - germs are spread this way!

To help slow the transmission of flu:

- Cough and sneeze into sleeves
- Stay away from those who are ill; if someone in your household is sick, try to keep them in a separate area from others.
- Keep surfaces clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant

It is school policy is for students to stay home until they have been fever free, without the use of fever-reducing medications like Tylenol or Motrin, for 24 hours. Please contact 972 429-2568 or Kristin.brandon@wylieisd.net to report your student illness. Illness monitoring takes place to protect the other students and cleaning efforts in the classroom.

It is crucial for our students to attend as many days of school as possible. The vaccine may sting initially, but which is worse, a week in bed or a quick little ouchy?

Get your flu shot and stay healthy,
Nurse Brandon