

**Monthly Report – September 2007**  
**Ronald J. Farrar, Principal**

**Overview of Activities for September**

- Music Department Instrument Demo Assembly for Grade 5 on September 5
- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on September 10
- Annual PTO Back-to-School Night for Parents on September 11
- Whitin PTO Monthly Meeting at 6:30PM on September 12
- Professional Development Day for All Staff on September 14
- Music Department Instrument Rental Night for Parents on September 14
- Amazing Hero Art Presentation for All Students and Staff on September 19

**Subject/Course/Classroom Activities**

**Music Department:** The Whitin School Instrumental/Band program has a record-setting student enrollment to begin the new school year. At current time, there are 144 students in grades 5-8 who will be participating in band and instrument class lessons. Mr. Rob Hammerton has joined Mrs. Penza in providing instrument lesson classes for the large enrollment of students. Band membership by grade: grade 5 = 44, grade 6 = 46, grade 7 = 36, grade 8 = 18.

Mrs. Penza and Mr. Hammerton are looking forward to a banner year. Best wishes to the Whitin Middle School Bands for a successful school year.

**Amazing Hero Art:** On Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> the Whitin Middle School welcomed world class speed painter Rob Surette to our school. This inspirational cultural enrichment program challenged students to “Be Somebody!” Each student and staff member in attendance will remember the inspirational message of having respect and compassion for each other. Thank you to the Uxbridge Educational Foundation for their grant assisting us in bringing the program to our school. Several of the paintings were purchased for our school by local businesses and families.

**Professional Development Activities**

Uxbridge Public School staff members participated in a variety of Professional Development training sessions on Friday, September 14. These Professional Development activities focused on instruction, assessment, and test analysis. Paraprofessionals participated in specialized training that was presented by Dr. Boyaj.

**PTO Reports and Parent Information:**

**PTO Report:** Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30PM in the school library. A group of Whitin parents attended this meeting. Copies of the PTO meeting agenda are included for your review.

Parent officers of Whitin PTO for 2007-2008:

Laura Derderian	Co-President
Chris Stack	Co-President
Andrea Consoletti	Co-Treasurer
Michaelle Phillips	Co-Treasurer
Maria Morales	Secretary

**Parents Back-to-School Night:** The annual Back-to-School Night program for Whitin parents was held on Tuesday evening, September 12. Back-to-School Night is a popular program for parents that is always well attended. A special parent newsletter relating to Back-to-School Night is included.

**Extracurricular Activities:**

**Interscholastic Sports:** The fall athletic season is underway at Whitin School. Students in grades 5-8 are participating in cross country. Students in grades 7-8 are involved in soccer and field hockey. Each team is off to a “fantastic” start.

Whitin School Athletic Team Coaches:

Cross Country	Dean Tourangeau, Kara Ekstrom, John Raymond
Boys’ Soccer	Nicholas Liberto
Girls’ Soccer	Mike Catalano
Field Hockey	Lauren Bouchard

**Upcoming Events:**

October 1-2	Student Photos with Laprade Studio
October 1	Whitin Faculty Meeting (Library at 2:30PM)
October 4	Celebration of World Smile Day
October 5	Professional Development Day
October 9	Mid-Term Progress Reports
October 10	Whitin PTO Meeting (Room 211 at 6:30PM)
October 19	Grade 8 Class Photo
October 31	Halloween Social for Grades 5-6 (2:30-4:00PM)



WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PARENT NEWSLETTER



Whitin Middle School PTO Meeting  
Wednesday September 12, 2007  
**6:30pm** in the Whitin Library

## Agenda

- ❖ Review August Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Review Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Update on Back to School Night
- ❖ Calendar of Upcoming Events
- ❖ Update on Yankee Candle Fundraiser
- ❖ Update on SpiritWear Fundraiser
- ❖ Update on School Council
- ❖ Plans for Amazing Hero Art Show
- ❖ New Business

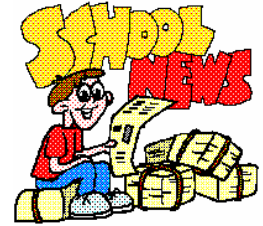
Date: September 10, 2007  
To: Whitin School Faculty  
From: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Mayer  
Re: Faculty Meeting

**Faculty Meeting Agenda for September 10, 2007**

- Whitin Carrot(s)
- Taft Charity for Breast Cancer Awareness – Linda Simonds
- Backpack Donations from Rep. Callahan
- Back-to-School Night Information (Tuesday, September 11, 2007)
- Schedule for Professional Development Day (Friday, September 14, 2007)
- SCAMS Course Offerings
- Hero Art Show Assembly Procedures (Wednesday, September 19, 2007)
- Open Door Initiative & Non-Negotiables Signs
- Safety Updates
- School Council/PTO Update



# WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2007



## **School Year Off to a Good Start**

The new academic year at Whitin Middle School appears to be off to an exceptional start. Most teachers were in school during the last few weeks of August organizing their classrooms and preparing materials for students. Teachers and administrators have established clear and positive directions and expectations for students during the first week. School spirit is high and the cooperative attitude of students and staff is noteworthy.

## **Message from Whitin PTO**

The Whitin Middle School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) extends a sincere welcome to all parents. We are looking forward to a productive and successful school year. The first meeting of the Whitin PTO is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30pm in the school library. Parents are encouraged to become involved in PTO sponsored events during the upcoming school year.

The first PTO fundraiser for the year is underway. Brochures and order forms for Yankee Candle will be sent home with students on Tuesday, September 4. This fundraiser will help sponsor key programs, activities, field trips, and buses throughout the year. We continuously accept donations.

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm.

## **Back-to-School Night is September 11**

On Tuesday evening, September 11, the Whitin School PTO will sponsor the annual Back-to-School Night program for parents to begin the new school year. Refreshments will be served in the school cafeteria beginning at 6:15 PM. A brief orientation for parents will be presented by school staff members at 6:45 PM. The Back-to-School Night program will run from 7:00 to 8:30 PM and will allow parents to follow their child's daily class schedule. A special Parent Newsletter relating to Back-to-School Night will be sent home to all parents in a few days.

## **No School for Students on September 14**

There will be no school for all Uxbridge Public School students on Friday, September 14. Teachers and school staff will be participating in a full-day program of professional development training; teachers will be attending a variety of workshops, seminars, and special training sessions. Once again, there is no school for students on Friday, September 14.

## **School Wide Event**

Whitin Middle School welcomes artist Rob Surette to perform his Amazing Hero Art presentation on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The show will be presented to all grades in the school gymnasium. During the presentation, Mr. Surette will speed paint 10 gigantic portraits including Abraham Lincoln, Mother Teresa, Walt Disney, and Martin Luther King, all relating to the theme of "Be Somebody." A special thank you to the Uxbridge Education Foundation for their generous grant to help fund this exciting event.

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal  
Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

August 29, 2007

DATE: September 4, 2007  
TO: Whitin School Faculty  
FROM: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Mayer  
RE: **Common Planning Time Meetings**

**Agenda for Common Planning Meetings**

- School Opening Issues (IEP's - Staff ID's - Team Newsletters – Furniture)
- Faculty Meeting on September 10
- Plans for Back-to-School Night on September 11
- Professional Development on September 14 (ISSPs)
- Strategic Planning Goals (Action Plans & Timelines)
- Teacher Professional Development Goals Due by September 13 (Suggestions for goals)
- Evaluation Phases
- Status Report on Whitin Middle School Website
- Reminder About Certification/License Renewal/DOE information
- Bullying Lesson Update
- Fire Drill Procedures/Improvements/Suggestions
- PTO Comments
- Department of Education Statistics Survey
- Other

# Whitin Middle School Parent Teacher Organization - PTO

## Back-to-School Night Program – Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday evening, September 11, 2007, the Whitin Middle School PTO will sponsor its annual Parents' Back-to-School Night Program to begin the new school year. Appetizers and refreshments will be served in the Whitin School Cafeteria beginning at 6:15 PM. A brief orientation for parents will be presented by school administrators at 6:45 PM. The Back-to-School Night Program will run from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, and will allow parents to follow their child's daily class schedule. Baby-sitting services will be provided for children in grades 6 and below by members of the Uxbridge High School Student Council in the Whitin Library.

Members of the Whitin PTO need parent volunteers to provide various appetizers and refreshments for Back-to-School Night. Assorted appetizers may be brought by parents to the Whitin School Cafeteria after 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 11. Parents who intend to bring appetizers are asked to complete the form below. Parents who will need baby-sitting services should complete the form on the reverse side of this bulletin.

The officers of PTO, along with school administrators and teachers, look forward to meeting you on Tuesday evening, September 11. Please come to enjoy refreshments, visit classes, and support your child's school experience. Remember to wear your sneakers for physical education class.

-----  
Please return reply form by Friday, September 7.

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Parents Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Fresh Fruit Tray

\_\_\_\_\_ Cup Cakes

\_\_\_\_\_ Soda

\_\_\_\_\_ Veggie Tray

\_\_\_\_\_ Chips & Dip

\_\_\_\_\_ Juice or Water

\_\_\_\_\_ Cheese & Crackers  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cookies/Brownies

\_\_\_\_\_ Dessert (kind)

\_\_\_\_\_ Financial Donation \_\_\_\_\_

# Bulletin To Parents - Page 2

## Whitin Middle School Back-to-School Night Program

### Schedule for Tuesday Night, September 11, 2007

6:15 - 6:45 PM Appetizers and Refreshments in Whitin School Cafeteria

6:45 - 7:00 PM Orientation for Parents by School Administrators

7:00 - 8:30 PM Back-to-School Schedule: Parents Attend Classes

The Back-to-School Night Program for parents will be held at Whitin Middle School on Tuesday, September 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. This special program will provide parents with an opportunity to follow their child's daily class schedule. Parents will attend 10-minute classes to hear teachers discuss course goals, curriculum content, homework requirements, academic expectations, and grading standards.

#### **Please Note ...**

It is important for parents to know their child's homeroom number before they arrive at school on Tuesday evening, as parents will be reporting to homerooms at 7 o'clock to pick up class schedules.

#### **Baby-Sitting Available ...**

Baby-sitting services will be provided in the Whitin Library for children in grades 6 and below by members of the Uxbridge High School Student Council. Parents who will need baby-sitting services should complete the form below.

-----

### **Request for Baby Sitting**

Please return reply form by Friday, September 7.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children Needing Baby-sitting Service \_\_\_\_\_

Date: September 10, 2007  
To: Whitin School Faculty  
From: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Mayer  
Re: Back-to-School Night Information

### **Back-to-School Night Schedule**

6:15-6:45 PM Refreshments for Parents and Teachers (Cafeteria)  
6:45-6:55 PM Brief Orientation Session for Parents (Cafeteria)  
7:00-7:10 PM Parents Report to Student's Homeroom (Receive Schedule)  
7:10-8:20 PM Parents Attend Mini-Classes Per Schedule

### **Information for Teachers...**

- Ms. Mayer will provide each homeroom teacher with a schedule to distribute to each parent.
- Please make copies of the schedule and provide them to each parent who reports to your homeroom on Tuesday evening.
- Take attendance during your homeroom period.
- Back-to-School Night is your chance to impress parents. Good Luck!
- See Mr. Farrar or Ms. Mayer if you have any questions about Back-to-school Night.

## Whitin Middle School 2007-08 Back-to-School Night Evaluation

Dear Families,

Thank you for attending tonight's event. Whitin Middle School continually strives to meet the needs of its students and their families. Please take a moment to complete this informational evaluation to help us improve our program for upcoming years.

Thank you,

The Staff of Whitin Middle School

Please circle the number that best describes how you feel about each statement.

1= Strongly Disagree



4= Strongly Agree

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of my child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

1. Whitin School was clean and well-maintained.

1

2

3

4

Suggestions/comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Going through my child's schedule period-by-period was a good way to get to meet his/her teachers.

1

2

3

4

Suggestions/comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Each of my child's teachers clearly explained the goals and expectations of that class.

1

2

3

4

Suggestions/comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The 6:00-8:30 time frame for Back-to-School night was convenient for my family and me.

1

2

3

4

Suggestions/comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(over)*

5. The climate of the classrooms I visited appeared inviting.

1

2

3

4

Suggestions/comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. My child appears to have a positive feeling about Whitin School after the first two weeks.

1

2

3

4

Suggestions/comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Whitin School's curricula and other offerings appear varied enough to meet my child's academic, social and emotional needs.

1

2

3

4

Suggestions/comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Feedback:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this informational evaluation. We will use this feedback to guide our decision making for future events.

*Please return to the box by the front door as you leave.*