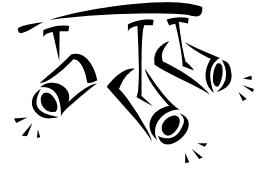




WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

120 Granite Street
Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
Main Office: 508-278-8640
Fax: 508-278-8639



NELMS Spotlight School

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

Monthly Report – January 2008 **Ronald J. Farrar, Principal**

Overview of Activities for January

- Professional Development Day Focused on Best Teaching Practices on January 2
- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on January 7
- Whitin School Council Meeting at 1:00PM on January 9
- Social for Grades 5-6 and Dance for Grades 7-8 on January 18
- NELM Leadership Academy Visit on January 23
- Curriculum Planning Half-Day on January 25
- Report Cards Sent Home to Parents on January 31

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

NELMS Leadership Academy Visit: On January 23, 2008 a group of 25 administrators, classroom teachers, and support staff visited and observed our middle school as part of our agreement as a NELMS Spotlight School. This day allowed our guests to visit classrooms, meet with teacher leaders, administration, and support staff. Our guests spent a full day immersed in our building and were impressed by our culture. They confirmed why we are a Spotlight School.

Curriculum Planning: A curriculum planning half-day was held during the afternoon on Friday, January 25. Whitin School faculty members worked on a variety of curriculum projects including: Curriculum mapping, vertical math meetings, common assessments, website design, MCAS preparation, curriculum units, and ISSP review.

PTO Reports and Parent Information

PTO Monthly Meeting: Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at 6:30PM in the school library. A group of parents have been attending PTO monthly meetings. Copies of PTO meeting agenda and monthly Parent Newsletter are attached for your review.

General School Information

Monthly Faculty Meeting: The monthly meeting for Whitin School faculty was held on Monday, January 7. Some topics included: professional development, Study Island, Crisis Team, and upcoming events. Copy of the complete faculty meeting agenda is attached.

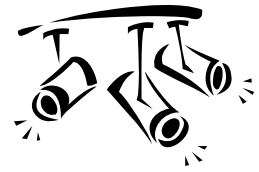
Upcoming Events:

February 4	Monthly Whitin Faculty Meeting
February 6	Variety Show 2:30 and 7:00
February 8	Whitin Parent Teacher Conferences Afternoon Only
February 13	PTO Monthly Meetings
February 18 – 22	Winter Vacation
February 27	School Council Meeting



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NELMS Spotlight School

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

DATE: January 7, 2008
TO: Whitin School Faculty
FROM: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Mayer
RE: Faculty Meeting

Faculty Meeting Agenda for Monday, January 7, 2008

- Carrot a Day...
- Familiar faces, Different places
- Permanent Substitute Position
- January 2nd Professional Development Day Follow-up
 - Yellow Book
 - Instruction for All Book
 - Feedback
 - New Year's Resolution
- January 25th Professional Planning
- ISSPs & Study Island
- News from the Library
- Computer Replacement and Installation
- Crisis Team / Safety
- Important Upcoming Events
 - Variety Show Auditions: January 8th & 10th
 - Social & Dance: January 18th
 - Grades Close: January 22nd
 - Grades Due: January 25th
 - Report Cards: January 31st



WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
PARENT NEWSLETTER
January 2008



Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

Second Quarter Ends on January 22

The 2nd quarter report card period at Whitin School ends on January 22. This means that students will be taking mid-year quizzes and tests during the next few weeks. It is also likely that varied class assignments and projects will be due during the next few days. Parent involvement and support can be very helpful at this time of year; parents can help by encouraging students to study for tests and by monitoring completion of assigned classwork. Report cards will be sent home during the last week of January.

Parent Conferences on February 8

Mid-year parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for the afternoon on Friday, February 8 (11:30 AM – 2:30 PM). **This day is a half-day for students.** Conference sign-up forms will be sent home to parents in report card envelopes during the last week of January. Priority for conference time on February 8 will be given to parents of students who are struggling with their schoolwork.

Monthly PTO Meeting on January 9

The next monthly meeting of the Whitin Middle School PTO is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9th, 2008 at 6:30pm in the Whitin School library. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Social for Grades 5-6

An after-school social for students in grades 5-6 is planned for Friday, January 18, from 2:30-4:00 PM. The cost for admission is \$3.00. The social will feature cookie decorating and hot chocolate in the cafeteria, in addition to games, activities, and contests in the gym. Parents are asked to pick up students at 4:00 PM when the social ends.

Dance for Grades 7-8

A school dance for students in grades 7-8 is scheduled for Friday, January 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Price of admission is \$5.00. Students and parents are reminded that the School Dress Code shall be enforced – page 24 of Handbook. Parents are asked to pick up students at 9:00 PM when the dance ends.

Early Dismissal for Students on January 25

Whitin students will be dismissed from school at 10:45 AM on Friday, January 25. Teachers will be attending afternoon meetings to work on various curriculum projects.

(Over for more information)

Note from the nurse...

Tips for exercising in winter weather

- **Wear layers** of clothing you can peel off as you warm up.
- **Use mittens** or cotton socks to protect your hands.
- **Wear a hat** since 90% of your body's heat is lost through your head.
- **Wear synthetic fabrics** that keep moisture away from your skin.
- **Wear brightly colored** or reflective clothing so drivers can see you.
- **Drink plenty of fluids** to prevent dehydration.
- **Don't risk injury.** If it's snowy or icy, exercise indoors.
- **If you have** a heart-related illness or asthma, talk to your doctor first.

Source: American College of Sports Medicine

A Note from Guidance...

Research shows that bullying and harassment incidents usually peak during the middle school years. The Whitin School Guidance Counselor and Adjustment Counselors want to remind parents and students to please inform staff members if this is occurring. We make every effort to protect the victim and to handle these situations carefully, as to not make matters worse. In order to create and maintain a positive school culture, we need the input from parents and students about harassment and bullying issues.

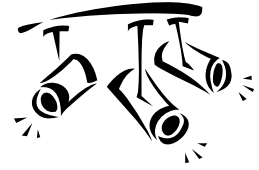
Parenting Skills Group: Parenting Emotionally Healthy Children

Wayside Community Counseling Center in Milford is sponsoring a free 7 week class discussing parenting skills for raising emotionally healthy children. This class will begin on January 8 and will meet on Tuesday mornings from 10 am – 11 am. For more information call Kelly MacDonald at (508) 478-6999 ext. 138.



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NELMS Spotlight School

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Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

NELMS Leadership Academy Visit

January 23, 2008

- 8:30-9:00 Welcome – Introductions – Orientation
(Library)
- 9:00-9:30 Tour of School – Led by Faculty and Student Guides
- 9:30-10:15 Attend Grade 8 Team Meeting
(Room 117)
- 10:15-10:45 Meet with Grade Level Curriculum and Instruction Leaders
(Library)
Ann Lane – Grade 5
John Raymond – Grade 6
Kim Landini – Grade 7
Deb Wallace – Grade 8
- 10:45-11:30 Lunch
- 11:30-12:15 Classroom Visits
- 12:15-1:00 Meet with Subject Area Curriculum and Instruction Leaders
(Library)
Joyce Fraine – Science (PreK-6)
Kara Ekstrom – Math (PreK-6)
Wayne Borden – English (7-12)
Maureen Scagnelli – Special Ed. Team Chair (5-8)
Kathleen Penza- Music (District Wide)
Dean Tourangeau – P.E./Health (District Wide)
Celeste Lavigne – Beginning Teacher Institute Coordinator
- 1:00-2:00 Meet with Principal & Other Staff – Question & Answer
(Library)

Whitin Middle School PTO Meeting
Wednesday January 8, 2008
6:30pm in the library

Agenda

- ❖ **Review December Meeting Minutes**
- ❖ **Review Treasurer's Report**
- ❖ **Calendar of Upcoming Events**
- ❖ **Update on School Council**
- ❖ **Update on Magazine Drive Fundraiser**
- ❖ **Ideas for This Year's Grade 8 Class Trip**
- ❖ **Plans for Social and Dance in January**
- ❖ **New Business**

WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday December 12, 2007

Attendance

Andrea Consoletti, Laura Derderian, Michelle Ferrara, Kay Klos, Kristin Laverty, Sandy Petrillo, Michaelle Phillips, Chris Stack, Tracy Wagner, Amy Mayer, Ron Farrar

Review of Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2007

Minutes from the November meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was accepted with a balance of \$23,200.96

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Dec 11 Whitin Band Performance at Senior Center 11am-1pm
- Dec 13 School Play - "A Christmas Carol"
Two shows 3pm and 7pm - snow date is Dec 18
- Dec 19 Winter Concert at High School 7pm - snow date is Dec 20
- Jan 2 Professional Development Day - No School
- Jan 3 Resume classes
- Jan 7-11 Variety Show auditions - Two shows scheduled for 2/4 and 2/5
- Jan 18 Social for Grades 5 and 6 / 2:30pm - 4pm
Dance for Grades 7 and 8 / 7pm - 9pm
- Jan 21 Martin Luther King Holiday - No School
- Jan 25 Curriculum half day
- Feb 8 Conferences

Update on Spiritwear Fundraising

Spiritwear Day is scheduled for this Friday Dec 14. It was decided that another Spiritwear Fundraiser will not be done unless needed in the spring.

Update on Magazine Drive

Retail sales totaled \$11,464 – PTO made 40% - \$4,585 profit

Mailing sales totaled \$3,000 - \$1,200 profit

High energy - 150 students participated –6th grade most participation, next was 7th grade, least was 8th grade .

The many prizes were confusing - have ideas on how to make better - will definitely revisit next year on how to run and distribution of gifts.

Pizza parties on Thurs 12/20 for classrooms as follows- no drinks needed have plenty of donated water from Hannaford's;

8th - Legere / Wallace

7th - Halacy

6th - Ekstrom

5th - Fraine

Update on School Council

There was no December meeting. The next scheduled meeting is Jan 9. We are all set with parent and non-school member.

Update on Scholastic Book Fair

The profit was \$1,340.18. The school received a letter from the company complimenting us. Could possibly be done again in the spring but not during MCAS.

Classroom Request Form

Trying to get online – leave copies with secretaries – explained to teachers already

Hannaford Helps

Anyone can still turn in Hannaford Helps coupons to the school until December 14.

New Business

Need to think of next fundraiser – any ideas? Bulbs?

We are still collecting BoxTops.

The Coat Drive ends Dec 19.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday January 9, 2008 at 6:30pm in the library.

Submitted by,
Maria Morales
Secretary