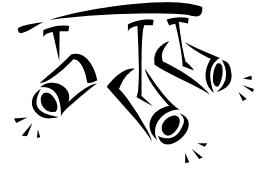




## WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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 – May 2008** **Ronald J. Farrar, Principal**

#### **Overview of Activities for May**

- Curriculum Planning Half-Day on May 2
- Teacher Appreciation Week Celebrated May 5-9
- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on May 5
- Whitin Middle School PTO Monthly Meeting on May 14
- Spring 2008 MCAS Testing for Grades 5-8 from May 12-28
- Annual Memorial Day Flying Squadron School Visitation on May 23
- Grade 8 Class Trip to Physics Day at Six Flags Park on May 23
- Grade 6 Science Fair Expo on May 28
- Grade 5 Spelling Bee on May 30
- Whitin Bands Trip to Great East Music Festival on May 30

#### **Subject/Course/Classroom Activities**

**Monthly Faculty Meeting:** The monthly meeting for Whitin School faculty was held on Monday, May 5. The faculty meeting agenda included attention to the following topics: Whitin faculty reviewed plans for MCAS testing, mid-term progress reports, and Teacher Appreciation Week activities. A copy of the complete faculty meeting agenda is attached.

**Class Field Trips/Activities:** Each grade will enjoy a field trip during the last few weeks of school. Following is a list of trips:

Grade 5: Field Trip to Mystic Seaport on June 6

Grade 6: Mount Wachusett Hike June 4

Grade 7: Field Trip to Boston Museum of Science on June 10

Grade 8: Physics Day at Six Flags New England on May 23

#### **PTO Reports and Parent Information**

**PTO Monthly Meeting:** Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 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.

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

May 29	Grade 7 Greek Day Activities
May 29	Grade 6 Science Expo (7:00-8:30 PM)
May 30	Whitin Bands Trip to Great East Music Festival
May 30	Grade 5 Spelling Bee in Caf. at 9:00 AM
June 2	Band and Chorus Members to High School (AM)
June 2	Whitin Faculty Meeting (Library at 2:30)
June 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Move-Up Night (Whitin at 7:00 PM)
June 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Move-Up Day
June 4	Grade 6 Field Trip to Wachusett Mountain
June 4	Whitin Bands and Chorus Concert (UHS at 7:00 PM)
June 5	Grade 7 Math Probability Fair
June 6	Grade 5 Field Trip to Mystic SeaPort
June 6	Grade 8 Debates in the Gym at 7:00 PM
June 9	Grade 8 Dinner Dance at Arrow Head (6:00-10:00)
June 10	Grade 7 Field Trip to Boston Museum of Science
June 11	Whitin PTO Meeting in Library at 6:30 PM
June 12	Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony in Gym at 6:00 PM
June 13	Final Day (Early Dismissal for Students)



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NELMS Spotlight School

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

Date: May 5, 2008  
To: Whitin School Faculty  
From: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Mayer  
Re: Faculty Meeting

### **Faculty Meeting Agenda for May 5, 2008**

- Teacher Appreciation Activities
  - Monday, May 5           Whitin Calendar & Fruit Bowl
  - Tuesday, May 6         Gift from PTO
  - Wednesday, May 7     PTO Catered Luncheon
  - Thursday, May 8       Gift from Student Council
  - Friday, May 9          Staff Appreciation Breakfast
  
- MCAS Testing Schedule May 12-28
  - Schedule Attached
  
- Progress Report Timeline
  - May 6         Grades Close
  - May 8         Enter Grades into IPASS
  - May 13        Progress Reports Go Home
  
- Professional Development Team Update
  
- Grade Six Science Expo: Thursday, May 29
  
- Upcoming End of Year Events:
  - May 23       Flying Squadron
  - May 23       Grade 8 Six Flags Trip
  - May 30       Grade 5 Spelling Bee
  - May 30       Great East Festival for Band
  - June 2       Move-up Night for Grade 4 Parents
  - June 3       Move-up Day for Grade 4 Students
  - June 6       Grade 5 Field Trip to Mystic Seaport
  - June 6       Grade 8 Debates
  - June 9       Grade 8 Dinner Dance
  - June 12      Grade 8 Promotion Night

Whitin Middle School PTO Meeting  
Wednesday May 14, 2008  
**6:30pm** in the Whitin Library

## Agenda

- ❖ Review April Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Review Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Calendar of Upcoming Events
- ❖ Update on School Council
- ❖ Update on Teacher Appreciation Week (May7-11)
- ❖ Plans for Grade 4 MoveUp Night/MoveUp Day
- ❖ Update on Fundraisers
- ❖ Election of Officers
- ❖ Budget Update
- ❖ New Business

**WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Wednesday April 09, 2008

**Attendance**

Andrea Consoletti, Laura Derderian, Ron Farrar, Kay Klos, Kristin Laverty, Nancy Lemire, Anne Maloney, Amy Mayer, Maria Morales, Michaelle Phillips, Chris Stack, Tracy Wagner

**Review of Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2008**

Minutes from the March meeting were accepted as written.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was accepted with a balance of \$38,603.41.

**Calendar of Upcoming events**

April 11 Social and Dance POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 9  
April 14 Report Cards distributed  
April 16-18 Spirit Days (Hat Day, Twin Day, Spiritwear Day)  
May 2 Curriculum Half Day  
May 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week  
May 7 School Council Meeting  
May 9 Social (Grades 5 and 6) / Dance (Grades 7 and 8)  
May 23 Flying Squadron Assembly

**MCAS Test Schedule**

MCAS schedule received. All grades will be tested between May 12 -May 28.

**Update on Superintendent's Gala**

The pair of two tickets donated by the Whitin PTO were raffled at the school. The winners were Kara Ekstrom and Kerry Bradshaw. The gala had a good turnout. The band was very good.

**School Council**

The update on the parent/student handbook continues.

**Grade 8 Class End of Year Activities**

Arrowhead Acres has been booked for the Dinner Dance. The cost is \$4,017. Nancy Hanson is still looking for pictures of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to display. She will be sending out another notice with report cards. The decision was to pass on

selling flowers at promotion night. We need to ask parents to bring in baked goods for promotion night.

### **Plans for Social and Dance**

The social and Dance were moved to May 9

### **Plans for Teacher Appreciation**

The schedule for Teacher Appreciation Week May5-9 is as follows:

Mon - Laura to order fruit tray from Uxbridge Food Service

The calendars have been ordered from Amsterdam. \$395 for 100 calendars

Tue - The gift is deluxe sticky pad portfolio \$3.95 each for 100.

Wed - Chris to finalize with Colleen's Catering. Andrea, Chris, Laura Will be there.

Thu - Student Council will be providing a gift for teachers

Fri - Laura to order breakfast from Uxbridge Food Service

### **Update on Spring Sports Program**

Baseball, Softball, and Track are offered. Complaint on track was that there was no consistent place to pick up the kids after practice.

### **Plans for Grade 4 MoveUp Night / MoveUp Day**

MoveUp Night is scheduled for Monday June 2 at 7pm for parents.

MoveUp Day is scheduled for Tuesday June 3 during school for kids.

Laura and Chris will speak about PTO.

### **Plans for Fundraisers**

For the fall, there will be the Yankee Candle and the Magazine fundraisers. Laura will take over Yankee Candle Fundraiser.

### **Budget Update**

Mr. Stefanilo will be speaking at the Taft School on school issues prior to town meeting.

### **New Business**

- Spring Fundraisers were both extremely successful.  
Flower bulbs - \$1,838 profit  
Cookie Dough - \$4,615 profit  
Pickup date for cookie dough is Wednesday April 30
- Suzanne Legere requested bus money to take 36 students to the Math Meet on April 15. Cost \$220 was approved.
- 2-\$100 gift certificates will be given to the secretaries on Secretary's Day April 25. \$200 was approved.
- Laura will look into when is Nurse's Day

- Andrea will look into selling tshirts at the school store.
- We are waiting for the welcome packet from Shaws for the new fundraiser.
- Mr. Farrar expressed thank you on behalf of teachers for the PTO support on Mrs. Esposito's passing.
- First Steps Math Training discussed. This is for students who are struggling. Gives assessment, reinforcement, and training.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday May 14, 2008.

Submitted by,  
Maria Morales  
Secretary



# WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER May 2008



Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

## **Early Dismissal for Students on May 2**

Whitin Middle School students will be dismissed from school at 10:45 AM on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Teachers in all the Uxbridge Public Schools will be attending afternoon meetings to work on various curriculum assignments and projects.

## **Mid-Term Progress Reports**

Next week marks the mid-point of the final quarter at Whitin Middle School. Teachers will be spending the next few days averaging grades and completing progress reports for all students. Parents can expect children to bring home Progress Reports by Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **MCAS Test Schedule**

All Whitin students in grades 5-8 will be participating in MCAS testing during the three-week period from May 12 to May 28. The complete MCAS test schedule for Whitin students is attached.

## **Social for Grades 5-6**

An after-school social for students in grades 5-6 is planned for this Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 2:30-4:00 PM. The cost for admission is \$3.00. 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, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## **Monthly PTO Meeting on May 7**

The next monthly meeting of the Whitin Middle School PTO is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 6:30pm in the school library. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

### **\*\*Save your Shaw's receipts\*\***

We are joining a new and easy program to help our school raise money. The Shaw's Receipts Rewards program allows us to collect receipts from any Shaw's or Star Market across the U.S. to redeem for funds for our school. Please collect your receipts from family, friends, neighbors or anyone else and send them into school. There is no limit of receipts we can collect so please start saving them today.

## **Band Notes**

The Whitin Middle School Music Department will be very busy during the month of May preparing for the Memorial Day Parade, the Great East Festival, and the Spring Concert. All 120 band members and a flag squad of 10 will march from The Whitin School to the Town Common

on May 26<sup>th</sup> representing our school in the Memorial Day Parade. They will certainly do a fine job! On Friday, May 30<sup>st</sup>, the Intermediate and Advanced Bands will travel to Agawam Jr. High School to compete in the Great East Festival. After a performance and clinic in the morning, they will spend the remainder of the day at Six Flags New England. This trip is made possible through their fundraising efforts throughout the year and a generous donation from the Whitin PTO to pay the transportation costs. We wish them great success! The Spring Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Uxbridge High School Auditorium. The Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Bands will perform as well as the Whitin School Chorus.

### **Calendar of End-of-Year Events**

May 23	Memorial Day Event: The Flying Squadron
May 23	Grade 8 Class Trip to Six Flags New England
June 4	Spring Concert at the High School at 7 pm
June 6	Grade 5 Class Trip to Mystic Seaport
June 6	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Debates
June 9	Grade 8 Dinner Dance at Arrowhead Acres
June 10	Grade 7 Class Trip to Boston Museum of Science
June 12	Grade 8 Promotions and Awards Ceremony
June 13	Final Day of School



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### UXBRIDGE FLYING SQUADRON

#### 134th ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOL VISITATION

Friday, May 23, 2008

**8:45 AM:**  
**Grades 5-6-7 (Gym)**

Opening Exercises

Pledge to Flag – Ronald J. Farrar  
National Anthem  
Whitin Grade 6 Band

Welcome Address

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Whitin Grade 6 Band

“America the Beautiful”

Gettysburg Address:

Andrew Reardon

Moment of Silence:

Playing of Taps: Verity Hirsch  
Demitri Chokshi-Fox

Flying Squadron:

Jack Cossen, Captain  
Rev. Carl Delorey  
William Albin  
Patrick Fettuccia  
John Jeskevicius  
Alan Keeler  
Henry Kosiba  
Ernest Picard

Recessional

“Success”  
Whitin Grade 6 Band



WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PARENT NEWSLETTER  
May 2008



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF GRADE 8 STUDENTS

### **Grade 8 Dinner Dance – Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

This year's grade 8 dinner dance will be held at Arrowhead Acres (Pavilion 2) on Route 98 in Uxbridge on Monday, June 9, from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. There will be music and dancing throughout the evening. Parents are requested to pick up their children promptly at 10:00 PM following the dinner dance.

The dinner dance is free for all grade 8 students. This event represents the last opportunity for 8<sup>th</sup> graders to meet socially as a class. Students should not come with a date. Every student will be encouraged to socialize with every other student. There can be no outsiders or guests attending the dinner dance.

There will be a photographer at the dinner dance taking candid photos. The photos will be available for viewing and purchasing approximately 2 weeks after the dance.

Students have been reminded that there are: no flowers, no prom gowns, no tuxedos, no dates, no guests, no hats, and no limousines. School rules and regulations relating to student conduct and dress code will be enforced at the dinner dance.

Appropriate dress for boys includes slacks with shirt and tie, collared shirt, or knit crew-neck. Suits are acceptable but don't expect the suit jacket to stay on for too long. Shoes are preferable; sneakers are allowed. Inappropriate attire for boys includes jeans, shorts, sandals, and T-shirts.

Proper attire for girls includes dresses, skirts, or dress slacks. Girls who are planning to wear dresses with "spaghetti straps" should bring a shawl or light jacket. School officials are trying to avoid dresses that are too revealing. Inappropriate attire for girls includes low cut dresses and bare midriffs. Grade 8 girls have been told that the rule for proper attire is "better safe than sorry."

### **Grade 8 Promotion and Awards Ceremony**

The Whitin School Grade 8 Promotion and Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 12, at 6:00 PM in the Whitin Middle School Gymnasium. This event serves to recognize grade 8 students for their participation and achievement in a wide variety of academic, co-curricular, and athletic activities. Also, members of the grade 8 class will receive Promotion Certificates as part of this evening's ceremony. Parents and relatives are encouraged to attend.

The Whitin PTO is planning to fund the rental of folding chairs for use in our school gym. Hence, we expect to be able to accommodate the attendance of about 500 parents/guests at the Promotion Night Ceremony. This means that three (3) parents/guests per student may attend the ceremony. Your understanding and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated.

Parking will be at a premium for parents and guests who attend the Promotion Night Ceremony. Following are some options and procedures relating to parking on Thursday evening: (1) autos may be parked only along the school side of Granite Street, (2) early arrivers may find parking space in the rear of the school, (3) there should be plenty of parking at Taft and at UHS, (4) the Whitin School front circle shall be reserved only for handicapped parking.

Refreshments will be served in the Whitin School Cafeteria following the ceremony. Parents are asked to please donate baked goods. These may be brought to the Whitin School Cafeteria on promotion night.

### **Final Day for Grade 8 is June 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Promotion and Awards Ceremony represents the final and culminating event for our grade 8 students. For this reason, the final day of school for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Reminder: Parents Are Asked to Please Donate Baked Goods***

***A Special Thanks to Parents for Four Wonderful Years***

***Best Wishes to Students for a Successful High School Experience***



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NELMS Spotlight School

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

**BULLETIN TO PARENTS OF GRADE 4 STUDENTS  
May 14, 2008 – Advance Copy**

Each year, the Whitin School in conjunction with the Taft School provides several activities for students and parents which are designed to ease the transition from elementary school to middle school.

**Monday, June 2 - Grade 4 Parents Orientation Night - 7:00 PM**

The annual orientation program for parents of grade 4 students will be held in the Whitin School cafeteria from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on Monday, June 2. Parents of current fourth graders will learn about Whitin School policies, procedures, curriculum and instructional programs. Several Whitin staff members will be present to discuss special services and activities. A question-answer session will be included in the program, and a tour of grade 5 classrooms and related facilities will be provided for parents. Hopefully you will be able to attend this orientation on Monday evening, June 2.

**Tuesday June 3 - Move-Up Day for Grade 4 Students**

Move-up day activities for grade 4 students are planned for Tuesday, June 3 in accordance with the following schedule:

- 8:55 - 9:10 Half of grade 4 (4 classes) will walk with teachers from Taft to Whitin
- 9:10 - 9:30 Orientation in Cafeteria with Principal and some faculty
- 9:30 - 9:50 Visit to grade 5 classrooms to meet with teacher(s)
- 9:50 - 10:00 Students walk back with teachers to Taft School
- 9:25 - 9:40 Half of Grade 4 (4 classes) will walk with teachers from Taft to Whitin
- 9:40 - 10:00 Program as listed above repeats for second group

Staff members at the Whitin School are looking forward to meeting parents and grade 4 students at these upcoming orientation programs. If you have questions, please feel free to contact either of us at our respective schools.

Ronald J. Farrar, Whitin Principal  
Amy Mayer, Assistant Principal

Paula Montessi, Taft Principal.  
Lori Fafard, Assistant Principal



**Parental Response Form**

- I will attend the Parent Orientation at the Whitin School on Monday, June 2, 2008
- I will be unable to attend on Monday, June 2.
- I give permission for my child to walk from Taft to Whitin.




Student's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

# WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>2</b> Gr. 4 Move-up Night 6:30-8:00pm  Faculty Meeting Library 2:30pm	<b>3</b> Gr. 4 Move-up Day  School Committee Meeting 7:00pm	<b>4</b> Spring Concert at UHS Band & Chorus  Gr. 6 Field Trip Wachusett	<b>5</b> Gr. 7 Probability Fair	<b>6</b> Gr. 5 Field Trip Mystic Seaport 8:00-3:30pm  Gr. 8 Debate	<b>7</b>
	<b>9</b> Gr. 8 Dinner Dance	<b>10</b> Gr. 7 Field Trip Museum of Science	<b>11</b> Whitin PTO Meeting 6:30pm Library	<b>12</b> Gr. 8 Promotion Ceremony Last Day for Gr. 8 Students  Room 110 Field Trip West Lynn Creamery	<b>13</b> Last Day  Early Dismissal 10:45am	<b>14</b> 
	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Summer Begins 	<b>21</b>
	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
	<b>30</b>					