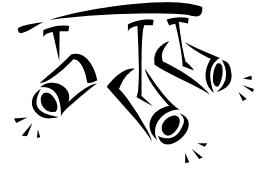




## WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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



NELMS Spotlight School

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Puliafico, Assistant Principal

### **Operational Report – December 2008** **Ronald J. Farrar, Principal**

#### **Overview of Activities for December**

- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on December 1
- Whitin Parents PTO Monthly Meeting on December 3
- Grade 6 Story Teller Assembly on December 9
- Curriculum Half Day on December 11
- Grade 7 Field Trip to IMAX on December 12
- School Council Meeting on December 12
- First Whitin Basketball Game on December 12
- Whitin National Geography Bee on December 15
- Progress Report Cards Sent Home to Parents on December 15
- Whitin Middle School Winter Concerts on December 16 and 17

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

**Key 3 Staff Training:** On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a representative from Key 3 visited and facilitated a discussion with our professionals on implementation strategies that can be used in the classroom. The Key 3 representative spent a full day meeting with our teachers. We look forward to an additional training session scheduled in February.

**Grade 6 Story Teller:** Grade 6 students enjoyed an assembly on December 9. This assembly enhanced students understanding of different world cultures, world geography, social interactions and diversity through stories, music, and motion. The students enjoyed the presentation and made connections to the classroom content. A special thank you to both the Whitin PTO for financially supporting this event and grade 6 teacher, Mrs. Prince, for organizing this event.

**Grade 7 Field Trip:** Grade 7 students enjoyed a field trip to see Everest at the IMAX Theater in Providence on December 12. This activity supplemented social studies curriculum and literature readings being completed during class.

**Student Council Activities:** Whitin Student Council supported Troops' Holiday in a Shoe Box Campaign. To quote one Soldier, "It's a comforting thing to know someone you may never have met is thinking about me." Student Council Members gathered supplies and boxed items to be shipped to our soldiers. Thank you to both our students and Mrs. O'Brien for organizing this event.

**Whitin Middle School Food Collection:** Following is a message from The People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge: “We would like to thank all of the students, parents and staff of the Whitin school for supporting the food pantry and its families. These families are our neighbors and our friends, and through all of your efforts you have made life a little easier in their time of need. Thank you for everything you do! If you or someone you know is in need of our services please contact the food pantry at 508-278-5506. Have a safe and Happy Holiday season!”

**Whitin Geography Bee:** The Whitin School 2009 Geography Bee is underway. This year, the winner is grade 8 student Wade O’Neil. We are very proud of Wade and are hoping that he qualifies to the state and national levels.

**Band and Chorus Concert:** The Whitin School chorus and bands performed to a full-house in the Whitin School on the evenings of December 16 and 17. This year’s outstanding holiday concerts featured songs by the chorus and music selections by the Beginner Band, Intermediate Band and Advanced Band. Congratulations to Kathleen Penza, Rob Hammerton, Nick Lapete, and Jeanne Rapoza for leading two outstanding musical concerts.

**Additional Band Notes:** Whitin Middle School Grade Eight Instrumental Ensembles performed at the Uxbridge Senior Center on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. They entertained the Uxbridge Seniors with songs of the season and then joined them for lunch.

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

**PTO Monthly Meeting:** Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 3 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**

**Faculty Meeting:** The monthly meeting for Whitin School faculty was held on Monday, December 1. A variety of curriculum related topics were discussed along with a budget update. A copy of the faculty meeting agenda is attached.

**Whitin Whalers Climate Committee:** The Whitin Whalers continue to be an effective and positive influence in our school. This committee has been a great asset to our school. The Whitin Whalers have been instrumental in helping to sustain the positive school culture at our middle school.

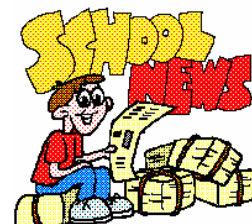
**Conserve, Re-Use, Recycle:** Members of the Whitin School have continued to find ways to become more efficient during our current budget freeze. The current budget “freeze” covers all non-essential budget requests. Budget requests by Whitin School staff for essential texts, materials, supplies, or services must be discussed with Mr. Farrar. Budget requests determined by Mr. Farrar to be essential will be forwarded to Central Office for final consideration.

**Upcoming Events:**

January 5	Faculty Meeting
January 7	PTO Meeting
January 9	School Council Meeting
January 16	Professional Development Day
January 19	Martin Luther King Birthday Celebrated
January 8	Variety Show Auditions
January 23	Social for Grades 5-6 and Dance for Grades 7-8
January 20	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Mid-year)



WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PARENT NEWSLETTER  
December 2008



**Mid-Term Progress Reports**

This week is the mid-point of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter marking period at Whitin School. Teachers in each class will be busy calculating grades and completing progress reports. Progress reports will be sent home on or around Monday, December 15.

**Monthly PTO Meeting on December 3**

Thank you to all who participated in the Whitin School Magazine Drive. It was a great success. Both classroom and individual awards were provided. Laurelyn Anderson, Grade 7 student, was awarded Principal of the Day.

**Shop to benefit the Whitin PTO:**

Shop at the  
Mendon Country Gift Barn  
On  
December 13 and 14, 2008

Mention the Whitin Middle School PTO and we will receive 5% of the purchase price.

Thank you for supporting the Whitin PTO!

The next monthly meeting of the Whitin Middle School PTO is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at 6:30pm in the Whitin School library. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Whitin PTO has an Email Group: If you would like to be added to the Yahoo group, please email Kris Holt at [jholt15@charter.net](mailto:jholt15@charter.net). You will receive periodic emails regarding upcoming PTO events. This is a great way to stay informed! You may unsubscribe at any time.

**Holiday Gift Wrapping**

Let us help you with your Holiday Gift Wrapping ... and you will help the Uxbridge Special Education PAC this holiday season. Bring your packages to 15 Mendon Rd. (across the street from Lynch's ) on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 4pm - 8pm. Stay and enjoy some refreshments while gifts are being wrapped or drop them off and pick up later. 2 small boxes for \$1 - 1 shirt box for \$1 - large box for \$2. All proceeds help support programs offered by the USEPAC and our annual scholarship.

**Band Notes**

**Winter Concert:** Due to the large enrollment in our music programs, the Whitin Middle School Music Department will be hosting **two separate winter concerts this year.**

The schedule is as follows:

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 - 7:00 PM - BEGINNER BAND AND WMS CHORUS**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 7:00 PM - INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED BANDS**

**SNOW DATE FOR BOTH CONCERTS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.**

**LOCATION FOR ALL PERFORMANCES - WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA.**

**Quilt Raffle:** The Music Department is sponsoring a quilt raffle to benefit the music programs in the Uxbridge Public Schools. For the fourth year in a row, a beautiful quilt has been handmade and donated by Mrs. Gabrielle Caron for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and are available from Music Department staff and students.

The quilt will be on display and tickets will be sold at the High School Concert on December 10<sup>th</sup> and at the Middle School concerts on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The winner will be announced at the December 17<sup>th</sup> concert.



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NELMS Spotlight School

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Ronald J. Farrar, Principal  
Assistant Principal

Amy Puliafico,

Date: December 2008  
To: Whitin Staff  
From: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Puliafico  
Re: Team Meeting

### **Team Meeting Agenda for December 2008**

- Budget
  - FY '09 (Conserve, Re-use, Recycle)
  - FY '10
- Principal Advisory Group
- Crisis Team Update
- Curriculum Day, December 11<sup>th</sup> (5-6-7-8)
- Key 3 Training Sessions
- Geography Bee Schedule
- Upcoming Events

December 1	Whitin Faculty Meeting – 2:30 in Library
December 3	PTO Monthly Meeting – 6:30PM in Library
December 5	Mid-Point of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Progress Reports (Due by 12/10)
December 9	Grade 6 Assembly - Story Teller Presentation (9-10 AM)
December 11	Curriculum Half-Day
December 12	School Council Meeting – 8:10 AM in Library
December 12	Grade 7 Trip to IMAX in Providence, R.I.
December 15	Whitin Basketball Season Begins
December 16, 17	Band and Chorus Winter Concerts – 7:00PM at Whitin
Reading Times:	12/5 @ 8:15, 12/12 @ 9:15, 12/19 @ 10:15

Teaching Tips on Back...

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

## Agenda




- ❖ **Review November Meeting Minutes**
- ❖ **Review Treasurer's Report**
- ❖ **Calendar of Upcoming Events**
- ❖ **Update on SpiritWear Fundraiser**
- ❖ **Update on Magazine Drive Fundraiser**
- ❖ **Update on School Council**
- ❖ **Update on Library Book Fair Nov 12-19**
- ❖ **Introduction of Classroom Request Form**
- ❖ **New Business**



# Whitin Middle School

## January 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 No School	3
	5 Classes Resume Faculty Meeting 2:30	6 School Committee Meeting 7:00pm UHS BB – Grafton @ Graftone	7 PTO Meeting 6:30pm	8 Variety Show Auditions Gr. 5&6 2:30-4:00	9 Reading Time 1:15pm BB – Blackstone Millville @ Whitin	10
	12 Variety Show Auditions Gr. 7&8 2:30-4:00	13 BB – Millbury @ Millbury	14	15 Variety Show Callbacks	16 Prof. Development No School BB – Northbridge Middle School @ Whitin	17
	19 No School 	20 Marks Close 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr Inauguration Day BB – Miscoe Hill @ Whitin	21	22	23 Reading Time 8:30am Social – Gr. 5&6 Dance – Gr. 7&8 7:00-9:00pm BB – Oxford @ Whitin	24
	26 Chinese New Year 	27 BB – Grafton @ Whitin	28	29 BB – Blackstone Millville @ Blackstone	30 Reading Time 9:15am	31