



WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

120 Granite Street
Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
Main Office: 508-278-8640
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NELMS Spotlight School



Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Puliafico, Assistant Principal

Operational Report – September 2009 Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Overview of Activities for September

- Whitin PTO Monthly Meeting at 6:30PM on September 2
- Music Department Instrument Demo Assembly for Grade 5 on September 4
- Music Department Instrument Rental Night for Parents on September 11
- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on September 14
- Annual PTO Back-to-School Night for Parents on September 15
- Crisis Team Meeting on September 25

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Community of Caring News: Community of Caring is a school wide program built around five core values that empower young people to be responsible and caring members of a community: Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Trust, and Family. These five values serve as a foundation and umbrella for Whitin activities and initiatives. There are over 20 Whitin faculty members who have offered to serve on the Community of Caring Committee. Whitin teacher, Nadine Clifford is the Chair of this Committee.

One of our first activities is our “Caught Doing Good” celebration. Each staff member has a pack of “Caught Doing Good” raffle tickets. These tickets are handed out to students caught doing something good for someone else. Students who turn in their ticket will receive a certificate at the end of the month.

Music Department: The Whitin School Instrumental Music program continues to attract strong numbers of students with a total enrollment of 163 students. (Membership by grade: Grade 5 – 47, Grade 6 – 58, Grade 7 – 26, Grade 8 – 32). The grade five instrument demonstration and rental night have been held and all lessons, grades 5-8 are underway. Intermediate and Advanced Band rehearsals have begun and the Beginning Band will start full band rehearsal in late October. All bands are directed by Mrs. Kathleen Penza. This year, instrumental lessons are being taught by Mrs. Penza and Mr. Rob Hammerton. Mr. Hammerton also teaches 1 ½ days at the ELC and co-directs the Whitin School Chorus with Mrs. Rapoza, our general music teacher. Mr. LaPete is not available to teach instrumental music lessons at the Middle School this year due to the increasing enrollment in music courses at Uxbridge High School. Recruitment for chorus is on-going and participation is increasing. Best wishes to the Whitin Middle School Music Department for a successful school year.

Performance highlights for the year include:

11/8 – Veteran’s Day Parade (Intermediate and Advanced Bands)

12/15 & 16 – Winter Concerts (all bands and Chorus)

3/9 – Celebration of the Arts and “Music and Meatballs” – Chorus, Jazz Band

4/13 – Choral Concert w/UHS Chorus

5/31 – Memorial Day Parade (all bands)

6/4 – Great East Festival (Intermediate and Advanced Bands and Chorus)

6/8 & 9 – Spring Concerts (all bands and Chorus)

Study Island Report: Whitin students have been scheduled during the school day to participate in Study Island lessons with their teachers. Following is an overview of the program taken from Study Island’s site. “Study Island is an online standards mastery and test preparation program built from state standards and available in all fifty states. One of District Administration’s Readers’ Choice Top 100 Products of 2008, Study Island is used by over 9 million students in 19,000 schools and now has high school, reading intervention, K1, and GED products. Rooted in foundational and statistical research, the dynamic self-paced program allows teachers to customize instruction to students’ needs while allowing students to study in standard test format, interactive game mode, or using interactive response systems. Study Island is currently compatible with eInstruction, Promethean, and TurningTech.

The program is divided into sections based on subject (math, reading, etc.). Each subject is made up of approximately 15-30 topics. Each topic corresponds to a standard (or multiple related standards) from your state curriculum. Topics consist of a lesson and a bank of practice questions with explanations. It is helpful to view the lesson before answering the questions in the topic. Please note that the program is not designed to teach the material, but rather to reinforce what has already been taught. The goal of the program is to “pass” every topic. If a student passes every topic, he or she has demonstrated proficiency in all areas tested.”

School-Wide Reading: Research has shown that reading and literacy has a direct effect on academic success, yet middle school students are reading less and less. For this reason, the district supports school-wide reading time. For at least 15 minutes every Friday, students at Whitin Middle School will be Dropping Everything and Reading. This is the third year the program has been in place. Teachers and students report positive results.

Whitin Whalers Climate Committee: Throughout the year, a group of Whitin teachers will meet to promote and sustain the positive culture in the building. This group has been busy planning events for the entire Whitin staff. The effort and commitment by these individuals is appreciated.

PTO Reports and Parent Information:

PTO Report: Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 2 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 2009-2010:

Laura Derderian	Co-President
Nancy Hanson	Co-President
Andrea Consoletti	Co-Treasurer
Michaelle Phillips	Co-Treasurer
Tracy Wagner	Secretary

Parents Back-to-School Night: The annual Back-to-School Night program for Whitin parents was held on Tuesday evening, September 15. 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, Jen Hill, Debbie Sawyer
Boys Soccer	Chris Couture
Girls Soccer	Samantha Manning
Field Hockey	Lauren Moore

Extra-Curricular Activities: Whitin Middle School proudly offers many after school activities for students to become involved in. These include intramural sports, interscholastic sports, and a variety of clubs. Currently running activities include:

Cross Country	Chorus
Boys’ Soccer	Robotics
Girls’ Soccer	Student Council

Upcoming Events:

October 2	Curriculum ½ Day
October 2	Celebration of World Smile Day
October 5	Whitin Faculty Meeting (Library at 1:45PM)
October 5-6	Student Photos with Laprade Studio
October 6	Mid-Term Progress Reports
October 7	Whitin PTO Meeting (Library at 6:30PM)
October 8	Odaiko Drumming Assemblies
October 13	Professional Development Day
October 30	Halloween Social for Grades 5-6 (1:50-3:30PM)



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Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Puliafico, Assistant Principal

Date: September 14, 2009
To: Whitin School Faculty
From: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Puliafico
Re: Faculty Meeting

Faculty Meeting Agenda for September 14, 2009

- Back To School (September 15)
- Curriculum ½ day (October 2)
- School Photographs (October 5 & 6)
- Odaiko New England Assembly (October 8)
 - Grades 6 & 7: 10:00 am in the Gym
 - Grades 5 & 8: 11:00 am in the Gym
- Juvenile Officer
- Taft School
- Safety Plan
- Community of Care
- Phone Programming

The Uxbridge Public Schools believe in equal employment and educational opportunities for its employees and students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, or sex in compliance with Title VI and Title IX or disability, in compliance with section 304/ADA or sexual orientation in compliance with G.L. c 151 and 157c.

Whitin Middle School PTO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Attendance

Lisa Ahern, Lisa Anderson, Amanda Ayers, Sue Bell, Deb Blackburn, Nadine Clifford, Andrea Consoletti, Laura Derderian, Ron Farrar, Nancy Hanson, Kay Klos, Nancy Lemire, Karen Mages, Anne Maloney, Linda Page, Kathleen Penza, Alexandria Petrillo, Michaelle Phillips, Amy Puliafico, Kim Rexford, Lisa Rooney, Jen Semle, Moe Stewart, Tracy Wagner

Review of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from June meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was accepted with a balance of \$14,136.81.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

9/1 Professional Dev./ No School
9/2 Classes Begin
9/4 Instrument Demo 5th Grade
9/7 Labor Day/ No School
9/8 School Committee Meeting
9/11 Instrumental Night
9/15 Back to School Night
10/2 Early Release Dismissal at 10:17am
10/5 Pictures Gr. 5
10/6 Pictures Gr. 6,7,8
10/7 Next PTO Meeting

Whitin School News

- Enrollment at Whitin is at 656 students
- Holly Earl new head of ELC
- Dr. Boyaj new principal of Taft
- Tara Bennett new principal of UHS
- Eric Arnold new Assistant Principal of UHS
- George Zini new Superintendent of Schools
- Doors open at 7:10 with a start time of 7:25
- On 9/10 there is a meeting with the superintendent, principals, and chief of police in regards to a school resource officer in the middle school and the high school.
- Curriculum Director position is now a part-time interim person
- Soccer coaches have been interviewed for the middle school positions
- Mr. Zini wants all to know about Community Forum for new High School on 9/9 at 7pm.
- New Program this year (Community of Caring)

Staff Breakfast

The PTO hosted a breakfast for all staff on their first day back to school. It was well received.

Back to School Night

9/15 from 6:00-8:30
6-6:30- Social
6:45 Mr. Farrar to talk

Jobs for Parents

We need two parents to volunteer their time; one for sign and one for bulletin board

- Kris Holt will volunteer to change sign as needed
- Kim Rexford has volunteered to change bulletin board as needed

Helping Hands

Teachers will send in requests as help is needed and parents can volunteer to help. Teacher requests were announced at the last meeting. Volunteer positions are still available. Check with Laura Derderian for list of teachers who are requesting help.

Box Tops

- Monthly contests will be held with 1 prize (a \$25 GC) per month
- Summer Contest - All box tops are due by 9/11

There will be a Grand Prize of a \$25 GC and a spirit wear sweatshirt for the person who collected the most box tops all summer. Three rand drawings will also be done for a prize of a \$25 GC.

We still have \$175 worth of box tops left over from last year.

Town Loop Challenge

- November 14, 2009
- 3.4 mi. walk/run
- 170 participants last year, hoping for more this yr.
- 22 sponsors last year, hoping for more this year
- This is a school wide/district wide fundraiser

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

- Fundraiser starts on 8/8
- Going home 9/4
- Ends 9/18
- Pick-up date 10/28

Magazine Fundraiser

This fundraiser will take place in mid/late October

Meeting Day/Time

Our meetings will stay the same for this year. First Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Whitin Library.

New Business

3 teacher requests

- Mrs. Roche looking for Lego kits for robotics club-PTO purchase 3 last year for them. More information on this is needed and it will be voted upon at next meeting.
- Mrs. Mistler(Art Teacher) is looking for PTO to purchase two objects that are needed for her classroom. It was voted on and we agreed to purchase the items.
- 5th Grade Soc. Studies and Science teachers looking for \$ to purchase magazines for their class. More information is needed and it will be looked at again at next meeting.

Spirit Wear

- This fundraiser will run from 9/14-9/25
- Prices about the same as last year
- sweatshirts (hoodies and zip), t-shirts, flannel pants, and shorts will be offered

Japanese Drumming Group

A grant was awarded for this program. It will be coming to the school on 10/8. This program will be for the entire Whitin School. The grant is covering \$1,000 of this program. \$150 is being requested for the difference. PTO voted and agreed to pay the difference.

Other Programs

- **Shaws Rewards/ Stop and Shop does this program too**
- **Hannaford's Helps has started**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Next PTO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2009.

**Submitted by,
Tracy Wagner
Whitin PTO
Secretary**



WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009



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 through out the summer 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.

Community Of Caring

In conjunction with Uxbridge High School, Whitin Middle School has adopted a program entitled Community of Caring. This program is based on the five civic values of Trust, Responsibility, Family, Respect, and Caring. The teachers have been educating the students on these characteristics, how they play a role in school and society, and will continue to incorporate these themes throughout the year. Please look for more information on Community of Caring at this year's Back to School Night.

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 was held on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30pm in the school library with 22 members in attendance. All of our monthly meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Parents are encouraged to become involved, and you also will meet other parents and staff while helping out in your child's school.

The first PTO fundraiser for the year is underway. Brochures and order forms for Yankee Candle were sent home with students on Tuesday, September 4th. This fundraiser will set our budget to help with key programs, activities, field trips, and buses throughout the school year. **As a reminder, we are only accepting checks for Yankee Candle orders.** Please do not send in any cash. We continuously accept donations.

Our school has several on-going fundraisers, Box Tops and various others. Information regarding Box Tops came home on September 4th. Please look for more information about our fundraisers and collections at this year's Back to School Night.

Would you like to be notified via email for PTO meeting reminders and information? We will have an email sign-up at the PTO table on back to school night. Please stop by and say hello.

Check out our school's web page at www.uxbridgeschools.com. Under the PTO tab there are updates and reminders.

Back-to-School Night is September 15

On Tuesday evening, September 15, 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 was sent home earlier this week.

Note from the Nurse...

A reminder to parents of Grade 7 students- Massachusetts State Law requires all students entering grade 7 to have a tetanus booster and a current physical on file. Please send your child's physical form in as soon as possible. If you are without a health care provider, please contact me for assistance.

Any student trying out for a Whitin Middle School sport is required to have a current physical on file **before** the first tryout. Please contact Mrs. Donahue if you have any questions.

Notes from the Music Room:

Welcome back! We are anxious to start making music with your children again! Instrumental lesson schedules have been developed for grades 6,7, & 8 and lessons begin this week. Intermediate and Advanced Band rehearsals will begin the week of September 14th. There are two teachers on the band staff this year, Mrs. Kathleen Penza and Mr. Robert Hammerton.

The Grade 5 students attended an instrument demonstration on Friday, September 4th. They were very enthused and we are looking forward to a large enrollment in the beginner band this year. The instrument rental night will be held on Friday, September 11th at 7:00 PM in the Whitin School cafeteria. Any parent with questions about the program should contact Mrs. Penza (kpenza@uxbridge.k12.ma.us) or Mr. Hammerton (rhammerton@uxbridge.k12.ma.us).

Whitin Middle School Music Department is presently recruiting students to take part in this year's Chorus. Directors Mrs. Rapoza and Mr. Hammerton would like to encourage any student who has a love for singing to join the Whitin Chorus. The Chorus typically performs in a fall and spring concert, our district wide Celebration of the Arts and for our School's Memorial Day celebration. This year we are also looking to have the chorus participate in the Great East Festival along with the Whitin Band.

Chorus rehearsals will take place Tuesdays after school from 1:45PM to 2:45PM. Chorus will also meet by grade level once a week for one period during the school day.

Students who are interested in chorus can participate in both chorus and band as well as on sports teams. We will work together with the other teacher(s) on scheduling to allow students to be able to participate in both.

Students can sign up with Mrs. Rapoza (room 213), Mr. Hammerton (room 111) or their homeroom teacher.

Pandolfo Family Charity Bike Run

On September 20, 2009, the Dick Cotter Foundation is sponsoring a charity bike run & BBQ in memory of CathyAnn Pandolfo, a Whitin paraprofessional, who was killed in a motorcycle accident. All proceeds from the benefit will help support her family during this difficult time. If you would like to participate, make a donation, or get more information, please email bikerun920@aol.com or stop by the Whitin School Office. Tickets will also be on sale at Wal-Mart in Northbridge on Sunday, September 13.

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal
Amy Puliafico, Assistant Principal

September 9, 2009

Whitin Middle School Parent Teacher Organization - PTO

Back-to-School Night Program – Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday evening, September 15, 2009, 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 9:00 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 14. 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 15. Please come to enjoy refreshments, visit classes, and support your child's school experience. Remember to wear your sneakers for physical education class.

Over for more information

Please return reply form by Friday, September 11.

Grade _____

Number of Parents Attending _____

Name _____

I will bring:

Phone

Email

_____ Fresh Fruit Tray

_____ Cup Cakes

_____ Soda

_____ Veggie Tray

_____ Chips & Dip

_____ Bottled Water

_____ Cheese & Crackers

_____ Cookies/Brownies

_____ Dessert (kind) _____

_____ I can help with set-up

_____ I can help with clean-up

_____ Financial Donation _____

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Whitin Middle School Back-to-School Night Program

Schedule for Tuesday Night, September 15, 2009

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 - 9:00 PM Back-to-School Schedule: Parents Attend Classes

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. Our Middle School Student Council members will be wearing orange and shirts. Look for them to help you find classrooms and answer questions this evening.

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.

Please check the Whitin Middle School web page for school and PTO information/updates found on www.uxbridgeschools.com

Request for Baby Sitting

Please return reply form by Friday, September 11.

Parent Name _____

Phone _____



Number of Children Needing Baby-sitting Service _____



Whitin Middle School

October 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 ½ Day Early Release World SmileDay 	3
4	5 LaPrade Photos Grade 5 Mid Term Marks Close	6 LaPrade Photos Gr. 6, 7 & 8	7 PTO Meeting 6:30 Library	8 Assemblies Drummers	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day No School 	13 Professional Day No School	14 Progress Reports Sent Home	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Social Gr. 5 & 6 2:00-3:30pm	31 Halloween 