



# 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 – October 2009** **Ronald J. Farrar, Principal**

### **Overview of Activities for October**

- World Smile Day Celebrated at Whitin on October 2
- Whitin School Monthly Faculty Meeting on October 5
- Student Photos Taken by Laprade Studio on October 5
- Whitin PTO Monthly Meeting at 6:30PM on October 7
- Odaiko New England Program Assemblies on October 8
- Professional Development Day for All Staff on October 13
- Whitin School Crisis Team Meeting on October 30
- Whitin Middle School Spirit Day on October 30
- Halloween Social for Students in Grades 5-6 on October 30

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

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

Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:30PM in the school library. A group of Whitin parents attended this meeting. Copies of the PTO meeting agenda and monthly Parent Newsletters are attached for your review.

#### **Study Island Update:**

Whitin students have been participating in Study Island. Study Island provides students with additional academic support based on state standards. Attached are statistical reports for each grade related to Math, Science and ELA for your review.

#### **Cultural Assembly at Whitin School:**

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, students and teachers at the Whitin Middle School participated in a unique educational performing arts event with Odaiko New England in a program entitled Taiko Thunder. This program was presented under the auspices of Young Audiences of Massachusetts. Funding for this program came from the Uxbridge Education Foundation and the Whitin PTO.

#### **Whitin Middle School Band Information:**

1. **Homecoming Football Game at UHS, Friday, 10/16** - report time to UHS Auditorium, 6:00 PM. Game time - 7:00 PM. Participating students will have received their uniform shirts and jackets by Friday a.m. Students will be given lyres and music flip books when they arrive at UHS.

**\*\*Weather forecast** is not promising! If it is rainy, we will not perform - moisture is very bad for the woodwind instruments. If postponed, we will move our performance to Saturday, October 31st - 12:00 PM report time, 1:00 PM kick-off.

**\*\*A decision** regarding Friday night's performance will be made no later than **5:00 PM on 10/16**. An email will be sent. If you will not have access to your email and need a phone call, let me know.

**2. Veteran's Day Parade** - The Veteran's Day Parade is scheduled for **Sunday, November 8th at 2:00 PM**. There will be two marching practices - Tuesday, November 3rd and Thursday, November 5th. Both will be held from 1:45 - 2:45 PM. All Intermediate and Advanced Band students are expected to participate in the parade. If your child has a family commitment and cannot attend, please let me know ASAP. Uniform will be black pants, band shirt, band jacket, WMSB baseball cap. However, if it is cold, students can bundle up with sweat shirts under their jackets and can wear a winter hat instead.

**3. Band Uniforms** - A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Jolicoeur and Mrs. Rienzo who organized the uniforms and jackets for distribution this year. Students participating in the football game are receiving their uniforms and jackets this week. Other students will receive theirs during the next couple of weeks. If you cannot find your orange WMSB hat, there is a \$7.00 replacement charge. Students are being given the same shirt they had last year. Please have them try it on. If a larger size is needed, return the shirt and I will exchange it for a larger one. Please only wear the band jacket for band events unless you have purchased your own.

**4. Band Jackets available for purchase** - If you are interested in buying a band jacket for your child, I have attached an order form. Orders and payment are due by 10/23.

**5. Other important dates -**

**November 16 - Annual Quilt Raffle ticket distribution**

**November 23 - Whitin Music Department Bake Sale during Parent/Teacher conferences**

**December 15 - Winter Concert (Beginner Band and Chorus)**

**December 16 - Winter Concert (Intermediate and Advanced Bands)**

**December 17 - Snow Date for both Winter Concerts**

**6. Practice!!** - Please encourage to develop a regular practice routine at home. Our contact with your child during the week is limited and at-home practice is essential for progress.

**7. Private Lessons** - We are currently recruiting teachers for our private lessons program. We hope to get this up and running soon. More information will follow.

### **General School Information**

#### **World Smile Day Celebration**

On Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Whitin students and staff celebrated World Smile Day with various activities. The theme of the day was "one act of kindness will lead to another." Students and staff wore the colors of the smile, yellow and black, and student council sponsored a food drive to support the Uxbridge Food Pantry.

### **Extracurricular Activities:**

The full program of extracurricular clubs and student activities is underway at Whitin School. Following is a listing of after-school activities and advisors:

Intramurals	Dean Tourangeau
Student Council	Cathleen O'Brien
School Newspaper	Debra Prince
Yearbook	Mike Flanagan – Cathy Chauvin
Destination Imagination	Karen Knapik
Lego Robotics	Gretchen Roche
Bands	Kathleen Penza
Chorus	Jeanne Rapoza
Drama	Cathleen O'Brien

### **Upcoming Events:**

- November 2 – Monthly Whitin Faculty Meeting
- November 3 – UHS presentation to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students
- November 4 – Whitin PTO Meeting at 6:30 PM
- November 8 – Whitin Marching Band in Veterans' Day Parade
- November 11 – Veterans Day Holiday – No School
- November 15 – Town Loop Challenge
- November 16 – Report Cards Sent Home
- November 16-24 Scholastic Book Fair in Whitin Library
- November 23 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 26 – Thanksgiving Day



# WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER October 2009



## **School Photos on Monday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 6**

Following is the school photo schedule for this year:

Grade 5 student photos will be taken on Monday, October 5.

Grades 6-7-8 photos will be taken on Tuesday, October 6.

Parents will have many portrait package options to choose from. Order envelopes from Laprade Studio were given to students last week. Completed order envelopes, with check enclosed, must be brought to school by students on their picture day. The date for retakes or makeups will be forthcoming.

## **Mid-Term Progress Reports**

Last week was the mid-point of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter marking period at Whitin School. Teachers in each class have been busy completing Progress Reports for all students. Teachers are listing mid-quarter grades, and entering comments about class behavior, participation, homework, and effort. Parents can expect children to bring home Progress Reports by Wednesday, October 14.

## **Learn to Ski or Snowboard**

The Whitin Middle School Ski Club is having an information and sign up night on Wednesday, October 21 and Thursday, October 29 at 7 pm in the Whitin School cafeteria. The ski club is open to all students in grades 5-8, no prior skiing or boarding experience necessary, lessons are available. The Ski Club departs for Wachusett Mountain each Tuesday afternoon for 8 weeks starting January 5. Transportation is by deluxe motor coach. For more information come to the information meeting, email [uxbridgeskiclub@verizon.net](mailto:uxbridgeskiclub@verizon.net) or call Mark Francis 508-278-3583.

## **No School for Students on October 13**

There is no school for students on Tuesday, October 13. Teachers in all Uxbridge Public Schools will be attending professional development activities to work on various assignments and projects. Parents are also reminded that Columbus Day is celebrated on Monday, October 12; there is no school for Uxbridge students on October 12 & 13.

## **PTO News**

Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the school library. Parents are encouraged to become involved. You also will meet other parents and staff while helping out in your child's school.

Our first fundraiser, Yankee Candle, is scheduled for delivery on Wednesday, October, 28. Pick up will be after 1:45 pm in the cafeteria. Thank you for your support in participating in this fundraiser.

Reminder: Save your magazine subscriptions!! The magazine drive is coming!!

## **Music Notes**

On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Intermediate and Advanced Band students are invited to join with the UHS Pep Band to perform under the lights at Uxbridge High School's Homecoming Football Game! This is an exciting opportunity for students to experience what playing in the high school pep band is all about and to enjoy the excitement of high school football!

The WMS Jazz Band is open to students in grades 7 & 8 (grade 6 students by invitation). Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 1:45 – 3:00 PM. Students will be preparing to perform at the annual Music and Meatballs Fundraiser on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Additional performances are being planned. Interested students should sign up with Mrs. Penza.

The WMS Chorus is underway. In addition to weekly in-school section rehearsals, the full chorus rehearses from 1:45 – 2:45 on Tuesday afternoons. The WMS Chorus is co-directed by Mrs. Rapoza and Mr. Hammerton.

## **Student Assembly on October 8**

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, students at the Whitin Middle School will participate in a unique educational performing arts event with Odaiko New England, appearing in a program entitled Taiko Thunder. In this lively program students explore the ancient Japanese art form of taiko drumming and its importance in Japanese culture. This program is presented under the auspices of Young Audiences of Massachusetts. Funding for this program comes from the Uxbridge Education Foundation and the Whitin PTO.

### **Note from the Nurse...:**

There are still several students who have not turned in their physical and immunization form for seventh grade. This was due at the start of the school year. Please send in your child's health form as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty obtaining health care please call me at 278-6361. Thank you for your cooperation.

We are waiting for information from DPH and Uxbridge Board of Health on the release of H1N1 vaccine for our students. As of today we do not expect delivery of the vaccine until mid October. More information regarding flu clinics for the schools will follow.

**Check out the school's webpage at  
[www.uxbridgeschools.com](http://www.uxbridgeschools.com).**

**Halloween Social for Grades 5-6 on October 31 – More Information to Follow**

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal  
5, 2009  
Amy Puliafico, Assistant Principal

October



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NELMS Spotlight School



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Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Amy Puliafico, Assistant Principal

Date: October 5, 2009  
To: Whitin School Faculty  
From: Mr. Farrar & Ms. Puliafico  
Re: Faculty Meeting

## **Faculty Meeting Agenda for October 5, 2009**

- School Photographs (October 5 & 6)
- Progress Report Timeline:
  - Grades Entered by Wednesday, October 7
  - Progress Report go home Wednesday, October 14
- Odaiko New England Assembly (October 8)
  - Grades 6 & 7: 10:00 am in the Gym
  - Grades 5 & 8: 11:00 am in the Gym
- Fire Prevention Assemblies for Grades 5 & 6 (October 9)
- Professional Development Day (October 13)
- Juvenile Officer
- Community of Caring
- Lunch Counts
- CORI Requirements: Parent Involvement

Whitin Middle School PTO Meeting  
**Wednesday, October 7, 2009**  
6:30pm in the Whitin Library

**Agenda**

- Review September Meeting Minutes
  - Review Treasurer's Report
- Calendar of Upcoming Events/Whitin School Update
  - Update Yankee Candle Fundraiser
  - Update Magazine Fundraiser
    - Update Spirit Wear
    - Update on Box Tops
  - Town Loop Challenge Update
  - Halloween Social/ Dance??
  - Plans for Vendor Fair??
    - New Business

Whitin Middle School PTO  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 7, 2009

**Attendance:**

Lisa Ahern, Lisa Anderson, Sue Bell, Andrea Consoletti, Laura Derderian, Ron, Farrar, Nancy Hanson, Sandra Horan, Kay Klos, Nancy Lemire, Karen Mages, Anne Maloney, Kathleen Penza, Michaelle Phillips, Sue Pickering, Kim Rexford, Moe Stewart

**Review of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes from September meeting were accepted as written.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's report was accepted with a balance of \$24,390.57.

**Whitin School News:**

- Juvenile officer started today, 10/07/09. The focus will be to build a relationship with the officer.
- World Smile Day, 10/02/09 was a huge success.
- Pictures were taken on 10/5 and 10/6. Make-up day to be announced.
- Japanese Drumming Assembly is on 10/08/09.
- Friday 10/02 there was a fire prevention assembly and it was major league baseball day.
- No school Monday, 10/12 Columbus Day and Tuesday, 10/13 Professional Day.
- Retirement Party for Paula Montessi on Thursday, 10/15.
- NFL Day on 10/16, also Boss's Day.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:45-3:30.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Spirit Wear Update:**

- 84 orders submitted (147 items)
- Orders coming in on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Extra pants and sweatshirts were ordered for the school store

**Yankee Candle Update:**

- \$11,412.14 in sales
- \$200.00 more for paying bill early
- Some parents added tax in/ may want to revamp for next year
- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> is pick up date after school until 7:30pm

**Magazine Drive Update:**

- Board met with Ruth before PTO meeting
- Kickoff Monday, 10/19
- Kids receive prizes with this fundraiser ( Principal for a day)
- Sale Ends 11/04
- Sign-up is available for volunteers

**Box Tops Update:**

- Back to school contest brought in \$310.00
- Total brought in for the end of Oct. \$490.60
- Prizes are left over from the magazine drive last year. Enough for the entire year.

**Town Loop Challenge Update:**

- Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Postcards have been made with a picture from last year
- All Sponsors paid \$100.00 ( Their logo was put on back of shirts)
- 2 spots left for sponsors
- Sandy Horan ( Skadoodles Daycare) would like to be a sponsor
- Taft PTO and Parents for a Safe Graduation will be joining us. The work will be divided up by the 3 groups. \$ will be split 1/3 evenly with all 3 schools.
- Mr. Borden and Mr. Halacy are the two teachers helping to organize this event.
- Everyone who walks/ runs gets a t-shirt
- Next meeting on 10/20 at 7pm in room 208
- Volunteers are needed ( Need to be at school by 10am morning of the race)

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social:**

Volunteers are needed. (1:00pm in Café.) Popcorn and ice cream will be served.

**Vendor Fair:**

Not happening this year.

**Bake Sale for Band:**

Mrs. Penza would like to hold a bake sale and raffle for the band on the Monday before Thanksgiving.

**New Business:**

- Book Fair week before Thanksgiving, Laura and Mrs. Brown are working on a schedule.
- Teacher Requests: Art- Looking for \$154.57 instead of \$146.00. PTO approved.
- Debbie Prince –Travel Science Trip for all of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade on 12/14. PTO approved.
- Anti-Drug Campaign- \$165.15 for rewards for kids that pass. PTO approved.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Stadium Theater- Math Play- looking for \$750 for busses 11/13. PTO approved.
- Judy Donahue looking for \$ for reduced lunch kids . PTO voted to start with \$100 and reconsider at a later date.
- A Parent approached Laura in regards to bathrooms (broken doors, dirty floors, dirty toilets). Parent wants to know if other parents can come in and fix the problems. Ron Farrar will discuss with the maintenance crew first before anything else. Problem is district wide. This will be discussed with Laura at a later date.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Whitin Library.**

Submitted by,  
Tracy Wagner  
Whitin PTO  
Secretary

**5th Graders: Study Island Statistics**  
**5th Grade - MA Standards Mastery and MCAS Preparation**

	Weekly Stats (09/27/2009-10/03/2009)	
Subject	Questions	% Correct
Math - on-grade-level	982	67.5%
ELA - on-grade-level	60	71.7%
Science - on-grade-level	218	56.0%
<b>All Sections - on-grade-level</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>65.7%</b>

**6th Graders: Study Island Statistics**  
**6th Grade - MA Standards Mastery and MCAS Preparation**

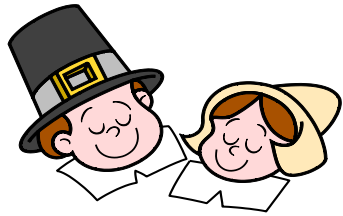
	Weekly Stats (09/27/2009-10/03/2009)	
Subject	Questions	% Correct
Math - on-grade-level	28	82.1%
ELA - on-grade-level	0	N.A.
<b>All Sections - on-grade-level</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>82.1%</b>

**7th Graders: Study Island Statistics**  
**7th Grade - MA Standards Mastery and MCAS Preparation**

	<b>Weekly Stats</b> (09/27/2009-10/03/2009)	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>% Correct</b>
Math - on-grade-level	1,472	67.5%
ELA - on-grade-level	1,789	66.6%
<b>All Sections</b> - on-grade-level	<b>3,261</b>	<b>67.0%</b>

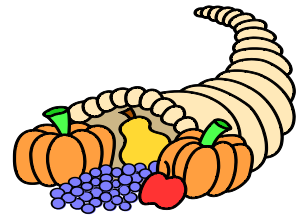
**8th Graders: Study Island Statistics**  
**8th Grade - MA Standards Mastery and MCAS Preparation**





	<b>Weekly Stats</b> (09/27/2009-10/03/2009)	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>% Correct</b>
Math - on-grade-level	710	67.0%
ELA - on-grade-level	2,110	75.6%
Science - on-grade-level	155	67.7%
<b>All Sections</b> - on-grade-level	<b>2,975</b>	<b>73.2%</b>



# Whitin Middle School

## November 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Daylight Saving  Time Ends	<b>2</b> BVT Tour 10:30am Grade 8 Students  Faculty Meeting 1:50pm Library	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> PTO Meeting 6:30 Library  Gr. 8 Parent Presentation at UHS 6:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Reading Time 7:55  Marks Close	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Veterans Day Parade 2:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> No School 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Reading Time 9:00	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Report Cards Go Home 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Reading Time 9:55  Grade 7&8 Dance 7:00-9:00pm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Parent/Teacher Conference 11:00-1:40 & 6-8  ½ Day for Students 10:00am Dismissal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Early Dismissal 10:10am	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving  No School	<b>27</b> No School	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					