



The Whitehall Weekly Wire



Visit our website at: <http://www1.pgcps.org/whitehall/>

Hello Whitehall Family,

News and Information:

- Sept. 3rd – No School- Labor Day.
- Sept. 10th – Grandparents’ Day- More info to follow.
- Sept. 17th- No School- Rosh Hashanah
- Sept. 18th – PTA Meeting 7:00 PM
- Sept. 24th – Picture Day
- Sept. 28th - No School – Professional Development Day for Teachers

KINDERGARTEN

Another successful week in Kindergarten!!! Our students are getting acclimated to the school and classroom routines. Our students are working very hard every day. We would like to thank all the parents for assisting us in this endeavor. Homework already started, remember to turn your journal in every Friday!

For next week here is what we will be working on:

For Reading, we will be working on the following comprehension skills—compare and contrast, noting details, and we will continue with problem and solution. Keep these skills in mind when you are talking about the book/s you read together. They can compare and contrast characters from the same story or from a different story; or compare and contrast two books. Ask them to describe a character or setting of a story with many details or have them illustrate a different setting and add details to it. If you want to know more about reading strategies here is a website that you can visit

<http://www.weeklyreader.com/article/top-tips-teaching-reading-comprehension/>.

For Math, we will start sorting things using 1 or 2 attributes or characteristics. Have your child sort things in their toy box, cereal like fruit loops, buttons, even coins; then ask them how they sorted it and ask how else they can sort it.

For Science, we will explore Living and Non-Living things. We will determine what living things need. We will compare and contrast living and non-living things. This unit will tie in very well with our Health lesson “Growing on the inside.”

For Social Studies, we will begin Unit I *School Helpers*. We will also go into the lesson on *Families*.

Enjoy your long weekend!!! Don’t forget to read every day and log it on your Campbell’s Crew Reading Log.

GRADE 1

We had a fantastic week! The students really enjoyed personalizing their special Writing Journals!

Weekly Topics

This week in Reading, we will continue to review the reading strategies and learn how to apply those strategies to different stories. We will also begin writing our autobiographies. In Math, we will continue to discuss and use different addition strategies in order to find the sum. We will also In Science, we will

continue Chapter One titled, Living and Non-Living Things. We will read and discuss what a living thing is and how animals and plants survive. We will also do an experiment using brine shrimp. In Social Studies, we will identify people from the past and explain how they have made a difference.

Other Important Updates

Please make sure that your child has all of his or her supplies by Tuesday, September 4th. Please make sure that you check and sign your child's responsibility sheet every night. A weekly homework sheet will go home with assignments this coming week. Homework needs to be completed and turned in on a daily basis. Homework that is turned in late will result in a lower grade on the assignment.

We will have a field trip in October to a farm. We are asking all students to bring in a light blue t-shirt by the end of September. We will be sending home a permission slip for the field trip soon. Please make sure that the t-shirt is slightly oversized so that it can fit over a long sleeve shirt if needed.

GRADE 2

We have continued to work in our classrooms this week on routines and procedures. We completed the *SRI assessment* and will continue to read *Dragon Gets By* next week. Our strategy focus will be *summarizing* as we read the selection. We will also be working on *monitoring and clarifying* what we have read. Our spelling words for next week will focus on *homophones*. Our **spelling test** will be on *Friday, September 7, 2012*. Please make sure that your child is reading for *20 minutes* every night. Please make sure that you are initialing the *Campbell's Crew form* which will be turned in at the end of each month.

In Math we will continue to work on different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. We will also add numbers together by making ten and work with fact families. ***Please have your child practice math facts at home.*** We will be sending home math practice sheets.

In Science we made predictions and observed celery to find out if plants need water. We will also identify how seeds travel and how plants are grouped.

In Social Studies we will begin Unit One, *Where We Live*. We will have a discussion about living in a neighborhood and following rules and laws that model good citizenship.

Please remember all books must be covered. Your child should have received a hard back book for Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Health. We have been writing our homework assignment in our agenda books. Please make sure you send in \$5.00 for the agenda book. Thank you to those parents who have already purchased the agenda books!

Thank you for sending your child to school on time and prepared for the day.

GRADE 3

We had another fantabulous week in third grade! We have adjusted well and ready to get into the full swing of things! We will begin our first story titled *Cliff Hanger*. This story is about a boy who has a dangerous adventure while trying to rescue his dog from a cliff. Oh my, this is going to be a good one!! As we read, we will make predictions and identify cause and effect relationships. Our "Power Words" are: trekked, descent, and secure. Our additional key vocabulary terms are: belay, descent, harness, ledge, and rappel. We will have a test on the "Power Words" on or around September 11. Please use and play with these words at home.

In oral and written communication, we will begin cursive writing practice and identify base words. We will also examine complete sentences and sentence fragments. Students will begin an extended expository writing piece.

In math we will continue to apply our knowledge of whole numbers and place value. We will compare, order, and describe whole numbers using $<$, $>$, or $=$. We will also locate points (up to 500) on a number line. Lessons to preview in the textbook are 1-7 and 1-8. Feel free to access the Math and Science

textbooks online, which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2012math>. Also begin practicing basic math facts at home to prepare for upcoming skills.

When we return from Labor Day, we will jump right into Unit B – Earth Science. The content focus is plate tectonics. Students will learn about the physical environment of the earth, observe and locate geological features such as mountains, valleys, rivers, and canyons.

In Social Studies, we will continue to examine different types of maps (ex. physical, political, road, etc.) to learn their purpose and use. We will also become familiar with key map elements used to help us better understand and interpret a map. Students will have opportunities to locate communities, major cities and transportation routes in Maryland and the United States using globes, maps, and atlases.

The math and science textbooks link is <http://tinyurl.com/2012math>.

GRADE 4

This week fourth grade took the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) and students worked very hard to show off what they know. We are very proud of everyone for doing their best.

In reading next week, we will finish up working with the story “Akiak” continuing to practice summarizing and looking at how the character’s actions affect the plot. We will finish the week with the story “My Grandfather’s Journey”. We will work on predicting and inferring and author’s viewpoint. In language arts we will be working with subjects and predicates. A spelling test will be given on Tuesday, September 4th. Please make sure to study your words.

In math we will solve equations using all of the operations (+, -, x, /). There will be a quiz on expressions and equations on Friday, September 8th. Refer to the math textbook chapter 2-10, 2-12, 2-13 and 3-14 to review for this quiz.

In science we will continue with the essential questions, “What is an engineer?” and “What is technology?” We will look at the engineering design process model in order to practice the steps involved in conducting investigations. In health we will be learning about our teeth and how to take care of them.

In social studies, we will continue with map skills including longitude and latitude as well as identifying the differences between political and physical maps.

Thanks to all those who could come to last Thursday’s Back to School Night. If you were unable to attend and did not receive the PowerPoint presentation notes, please contact your child’s teacher.

GRADE 5

Reading/Language Arts - We begin our first theme of the year, which is "Nature's Fury". As drought overtakes the country, and hurricanes hit our coasts, there will be many opportunities to continue to practice our reading strategies (especially "Make Connections"). We will also look at how specific words or phrases add to the overall mood of narrative texts.

Social Studies- Students will be exploring several kinds of maps and will be able to use map skills in order to read and analyze maps. The students will learn the basic map elements tile, scale, compass rose, key/legend.

Science- Students will become familiar with the Scientific Method (Question, Hypothesis, Materials, and Procedure). Students will be able to collect, interpret data, make real world connections, and ask questions for further study.

Math - The students will continue to learn about multiplying whole numbers. They will also estimate their answers and multiply decimals. They will also study their multiplication facts in order to recite them to the teacher in a timely manner.

Specialists’ Section



General/Vocal Music

Music classes are off to a great start! We have been reviewing expectations in music class and are already hard at work singing, moving and learning our music concepts. Third, Fourth and Fifth graders will be starting their patriotic unit, and Kindergarten, First and Second grades will be working on understanding and performing the concepts of Beat and Rhythm.

Parents, please make sure that your third, fourth, and/or fifth grader has a music notebook, and that they know to bring it to every music class along with a pencil. Preparedness is a very important part of your child's daily music grade.

Students in fourth and fifth grade may audition for Chorus. Chorus will meet during recess this year. Auditions will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:45 until all interested students have auditioned.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions (Carolyn.ODonovan@pgcps.org). I look forward to another great year working with your talented children!

Physical Education

Physical Education is an integral and essential component of the education of American youth. Physical activity provides kids opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. Increased physical fitness improves heart/lung function, reduces body fat and decreases the risk of disease associated with unhealthy lifestyles.

In **Physical Education** class this year, children will learn and continue to refine skills and concepts centered around the following themes:

- **Fitness** (heart health, etc.) **Nutrition** (healthy choices, alternatives)
- **Body** (body parts and body shapes) & **Spatial Awareness** (moving through space in various ways)
- **Locomotor Movements** (walk, run, hop, skip, jump, gallop, slide, leap)
- **Effort** (moving with variations in force, speed, and smoothness/control-"flow")
- **Rolling, Balancing, and Weight Transfer & Rhythmic Skills** (moving creatively to even/uneven rhythms)
- **Manipulative Skills** (Throw, catch, strike, swing, push, pull)
- **Relationships** (with self and objects; to partners; to groups)
- **Jumping and Landing** (from different heights, for distances)
- **Chasing, Fleeing, Dodging** (skills used in tag and other group games)
- **Utilize Implements** (bat, ball, racquet) **combined with motor skills to perform tasks**
- **Self-Assessment and Formal Assessments** (using pedometers and heart rate monitor)
- **Sportsmanship & Cooperative Skills** (working together in groups or with partners)

*Please take time to visit our P.E. website: Go to the school website, (<http://www1.pgcps.org/whitehall/>) and click on Physical Education. Also follow us on Twitter @Whitehall_PE

PTA NEWS & EVENTS

Membership

Why should you join the PTA? The answer is simple – to help support Whitehall students and teachers. Your support allows the PTA to sponsor events and activities such as teacher mini grants, Red Ribbon Week, the Art Awareness program, MSA preparation and dance, Spring Fair, and Teacher Appreciation Week.

We need you to be a part of this effort. If you're interested in helping the PTA please go to www.signupgenius.com. Click on "Find a Sign Up" and enter the email address Whitehallptasecretary@gmail.com to view a list of events where volunteers are needed.

FIRST PTA MEETING – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th at 7PM – PLEASE JOIN US!

Fundraisers

Giant and Safeway flyers went home this week. Complete the form and return it to the PTA. Remember, you have to register your card number every year. Please continue to collect box tops, but **do not** send them in yet. We'll let you know when the box is set up for drop off. Market Day and Spirit wear will be coming in September.

Cheron Cooper, PTA President

Whitehall Elementary School

Educating Children Beyond Expectations

3901 Woodhaven Lane * Bowie, Maryland 20715

Phone: 301-805-1000 * Fax: 301-805-1006

Whitehall and You— A Partnership That Matters!

