



The Whitehall Weekly Wire

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Hello Whitehall Family,



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[Whitehall Elementary Receives National Blue Ribbon Schools Award](#)

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**Thanks for your continued support of our Vision of
“Educating Children Beyond Expectations”**

Morning Arrival Procedure Change

All kindergarten students will now line up in front of their teachers doors in front of the school. All first graders will line up along the black fence. If any student comes to school after 9:05 then they are to come through the front doors.

News and Information:

- 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 great week!!! Thank you for assisting us with the new morning drop-off procedures. This week, all classes started to practice reading rotations. The students are really getting into their routines.

Few reminders:

1. No School on Monday!!!
2. Some students from all three classes are still missing their green shirts. Please try to turn them in as soon as possible. Thank you.

Next Week:

Reading/Language Arts: We will continue with recognizing the letters of the alphabet. We would like to ask your assistance with this skill. We would like the students to be fluent in identifying both uppercase and lowercase. Fluency means the students do not have to start from Aa and recite the alphabet to get to identify the given letter. They should automatically be able to identify the letters at random.

Writing: We will start doing dictation. This means that students should be able to write letters dictated to them. When using a sentence, the students should be able to put the words in correct sequence, to make sense and then illustrate the sentence (to see if they comprehend what the sentence means).

These are the words for the week: ***I, a, see, can.*** Students should be able to recognize, write, and use these words in a sentence. Your child may not be able to spell some words. Let them use drawings to indicate the word they are trying to spell (***I can see a*** . This is what we call rebus); or have them stretch the word so they can hear the most dominant sound to spell the word (ex. your child might spell ***cat*** with just ***ct*** and this is okay). The more we spell for them the more they will depend on us to spell the words.

Math: We will continue with counting objects 1-10. This will include learning how to write the numbers, count and make sets as accurately as possible, sequence the numbers, and counting on from a given number. To help your child with these skills, use items around the house for counting such as cereals, coins, etc. Use number cards for sequencing and correct number formation. We will have our Module 2 assessment on September 21st (Friday) on the aforementioned skills.

Science: We will begin Chapter 2 “***Growing and Changing.***” This unit is a continuation of our lessons on living things. We will examine how animals and plants change. We will also learn how different animals move and about the different parts of the plant and its function.

Social Studies: We will continue with School Helpers (secretary, custodian, nurse, librarian, cafeteria helper, and even other teachers in the building); and the unit on Families. Read books about school helpers and families. Discuss what the school helpers do in our school. We will learn what families do together and how each member can help each other.

Health: We will begin the unit on, “***Caring.***” We will also be working on how to resolve conflict between friends.

GRADE 1

We had a fabulous week! Thank you to our special guests who were able to make it to Grandparents Day! The students really enjoyed creating their kissing hands and conducting their interviews!

Weekly Topics

Next week in Reading, we will read Ten Dogs in the Window, Nan and Fan, and We Can. We will review the reading strategy summarizing and the skill compare and contrast. The Spelling words for next week are **an, man, tan, fan, Dan, ran, land, and, sand,** and **has**. The Challenge words for next week are **grand, bland, stand,** and **plan**. We will have our **Spelling Test on Friday, September 21st**. In Science, we will read about and discuss plants and animals that are found in ocean and desert habitats. In Math, we will use more complex addition strategies in order to solve various types of problems. We will use the number line in order to find the sum. We will also use multiple addends in order to find various sums. In Social Studies, we will read and discuss the importance of rules at home and at school.

Other Important Updates

We will have a field trip in October to Green Meadows 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 reminder about the t-shirts and a permission slip soon.

Please make sure you check your child's folder every night for important papers that need to be filled out and returned. All papers that have been graded can stay home. Please review graded papers with your child and save his or her work. This will be a helpful tool when studying for different assessments.

In order to help your child prepare for different assessments, please review all graded papers. We will also have class reviews to help your child study. Students can also access our science book and math books online by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/2012math>. Your child can practice online or you can print out the material and study with them. This is an excellent resource and a way for you to keep up on your child's math and science.

The first grade team looks forward to having another great week!

GRADE 2

In Reading, we completed *Julius* and we will begin our new story, *Mrs. Brown Goes to Town*. We will be making, adjusting, and confirming predictions as we read. We will also work on comprehension strategies, critical thinking, and identifying the setting and its importance in the story. Our spelling words for next week will be words with the *VCe pattern*. Our next *spelling test* will be on *Friday, September 21, 2012*. Please make sure that your child is reading *for 20 minutes every night*.

In Math, we will continue working in *Chapter 2*. We will be using a number line to count back and find the differences using doubles facts. We will also find the sum by making ten. *Please have your child practice math facts at home*.

In Science, we will continue to discuss how different plants adapt to their environment. We will also continue to explore why plants need light. We will *review our study guide* on *Friday*, and take our first *Science test* on *Tuesday, September 18, 2012*.

In Social Studies, we will compare communities and have a discussion about our state and our country.

Please remember all books must be covered. Your child should be bringing their agenda book and green take home folder back and forth to school daily. Please check for important papers and notes from the teacher. Ask your child about their school day.

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

Grade 3

Happy Friday! We really enjoyed reading *Cliff Hanger*. Now, we are off to our next adventure with *The Ballad of Mulan*. This story is an exciting legend about a brave Chinese girl who goes off to war on her father's behalf. As we read, we will monitor our understanding of the text and infer character traits. Our Power Words are: endured, triumphant, and swift. Our additional key vocabulary terms are: armor, comrades, farewell, troops, and victorious. We will have a test on the Power Words on or around September 25. Please check your child's agenda book for the exact date.

We will continue with our extended expository writing piece and examine multiple meaning words. We will also go over kinds of sentences and capitalization and punctuation.

In Math we will begin exploring number patterns and skip counting. We will also look at picture patterns and create some of our own "growing patterns." Comparing different amounts of money will also be an activity for next week. Please make sure your child is practicing their basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts at home.

This week, we will continue to describe the geography and history of a community. Students will investigate how communities are alike and different. While learning about communities, students will see the impact people make on their environment. We will discuss how people demonstrate good citizenship by modifying, protecting and adapting to the area in which they live.

We've enjoyed learning about the Earth and its changes (Chapter 8). We will have our 1st Science test on Wednesday, September 19th. As mentioned previously, our Science curriculum does not cover each chapter in order; however similar concepts are studied together to enhance students' learning. We will begin Chapter 5 – Water cycle. Students will recognize and describe water on Earth's surface and atmosphere as a liquid, solid, and gas.

GRADE 4

In reading, we will be using the story, "Titanic" in order to practice monitoring and clarifying what we are reading. By practicing this reading strategy we can build our comprehension and understanding of all text. We will also be focusing on the skill of locating the main idea and details as both a summarizing technique and as an organizational text structure. In language arts, we will be working with syllabifying words into parts and combing sentences.

In social studies, students will be having a quiz on map skills (hemispheres, longitude & latitude, as well as political and physical maps). The quiz will be on Thursday, Sept. 20th. A review guide will come home on Tuesday.

In math, we will finish up with graphing by working with line graphs. We will have a quiz on Friday, Sept. 21st. Students can use their math textbook to review for the quiz by going back to Ch. 4, lessons 7, 9 and 10.

In science, we continue our unit on Earth Science as we finish up our lesson on weathering and erosion. Students will have a quiz on Wednesday, Sept. 19th on Ch. 9 Les. 2.

STEM Fair is coming soon. Please be on the look out for your "Question Packet". It will be coming home on Sept. 18th. Start thinking of your question now! Questions will be due to the classroom teacher on Sept. 24th.

GRADE 5

Reading/Language Arts - Students will continue reading stories related to "Nature's Fury". We will focus on non-fiction text features and how (and why) they are added to enhance comprehension of the text/information. We also deal with sequencing events (including an author's use of flashbacks and sequence phrases), in addition to finding the main idea of a text.

Science - Students will be studying materials and processes that shape a planet. Students will observe and classify a collection of minerals based on their physical properties and explain how rocks are formed. Students will describe how erosion, weathering, and deposition change the earth's surface.

Social Studies - Students will study the individual/group participation in the Political System. Students will analyze the importance of civic participation (voting, volunteering, petitioning elected officials) as a citizen of the United States.

Math - Students will continue to review division and practice their multiplication facts. The students will learn how to compare and classify quadrilaterals such as a rectangle, square, rhombus, parallelogram, and trapezoid. The students will also create a composite figures booklet using those quadrilaterals.

Specialists' Section



General/Vocal Music

Please visit the Whitehall Music page online at <http://odonovanmusic.wikispaces.com>. This brand new site is under construction, but will be added to throughout the year.

Music classes are such fun! Our Fourth and Fifth graders will be singing patriotic songs in order to create a recording of a song of their choice. Second and Third graders have been singing and moving with patriotic

songs, and are getting ready to make recordings too. First grade is singing and moving as they learn about pitch, and Kindergarten is hard at work learning about the different kinds of voices we have and moving in place and through space.

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 still 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).

Physical Education

This week in class, the goal of all lessons in the **primary grades** was to show the students that exercise is not the only way to become healthier. I wanted to stress to the kids that being active and getting healthier could also be done in fun and exciting ways. So for our first lesson the children learned two games, quick draw and push-up hockey. Both games are aimed to increase their upper body strength by holding the knee pushup position. In quick draw, students are facing each other in the knee pushup position. They both flip a card at the same time and whoever flipped the higher card wins. The person with the lower card does the number of pushups that are shown on the card. The second game played was pushup hockey. While holding the knee pushup position, students have to try to hit the ball through their partner's arms to score a goal. During the second lesson, classes played a game called uninterrupted. Kids had to get from one end of the playing area to the other with out getting tagged by one of the two taggers. If they made it, students could pick up a Popsicle stick. Next week, primary grades will begin their Movement forms unit. During this unit students will be introduced to basic movement concepts, spatial skills, and locomotor movements.

Intermediate grades concluded their fitness pre-testing. Pre-testing is to see where the students begin the year in the fitness categories of Aerobic Capacity and Muscular Strength, Endurance, and Flexibility. In May when students take the post test, they will be expected to improve on these numbers. I engaged in an extended conversation about how to improve on fitness scores from now until May. The prevailing opinion throughout third, fourth, and fifth grade was that activity was essential for improvement. Next week, students will begin their Skills of Football unit. During this unit, students will focus on the skills needed to succeed in a leisure setting. Students will also have an exploration assignment of the physical education website.

PTA NEWS & EVENTS

PTA MEETING – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th at 7PM – Multipurpose Room

Our first meeting is coming up and we invite you to come out to learn more about what the PTA is planning for this school year. We'd also like to hear any new ideas you may have to make this year a successful one. During the meeting, we'll discuss the proposed budget, incentives for students, fundraisers, and more. All parents and teachers are welcome regardless of their membership status. Hope to see you there!

Fundraisers

The container for Box Tops is now in front of the office so students can put their box tops directly into the box. Remember to include your child's name and class. The class with the most Box Tops by October 19th will earn an ice-cream party.

The deadline for registering your Giant card is fast approaching so send in your card numbers asap. You can email your information to whitehallpta@gmail.com. Include your name, phone number, and full card number.

Whitehall Elementary School

Educating Children Beyond Expectations

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