



# The Whitehall Weekly Wire

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Hello Whitehall Family,



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

Source: [www1.pgcps.org](http://www1.pgcps.org)

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

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### **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. 28<sup>th</sup> - No School – Professional Development Day for Teachers
- Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> - Men Make a Difference Day – 9:30am in Multi-Purpose Rm.

## KINDERGARTEN

### Few reminders:

1. Please make sure that you empty your child's folder daily. Look at their work, celebrate good grades and discuss with your child some of the mistakes they made.
2. Please initial your child's responsibility sheet daily and sign at the bottom on Fridays. Make sure that you return this to your child's homeroom teacher the following Monday.

### Next Week:

**Reading/Language Arts:** We will be working on the following: Making predictions and inferences, and sequence of events. Kindly reinforce Concepts about Print like the difference between letters and words, and beginning of sentence and end of punctuation. In Kindergarten, our focus is on period, question, and exclamation mark. Please read to your child daily to help them understand these comprehension skills. Encourage your child to retell a story in correct sequence. Ask higher order questions—questions beyond the basic who, what, where, and when. Ask “what if” questions, “how” questions, “why” questions.

**Letters of the week:** *Ss*. This is our first phonics lesson. Help your make a list of words that begin with the sound of the letter *Ss*. We will incorporate the phonics lesson with writing sentences using the words of the week. Please continue reinforcing mastery of the letters of the alphabet and the respective sounds.

**Writing:** We will continue 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).

**Words of the week:** *my, like, go*. Students should be able to recognize, write, and use these words in a sentence. These words will appear in their dictation sentence.

**Math:** We will continue with counting objects 1-12. The skills they need to gain mastery are:

- Students should be able to recognize and identify the numerals in random order.
- Students should be able to make sets when given a numeral.
- Students should be able to understand the concept of “one more” or “one less.”
- Students should be able to put the numerals 0-12 in correct sequence.

**Science:** We will continue Chapter 2 “*Growing and Changing*.” We will be learning the life cycle of a bird, frog, and butterfly. We want the students to be able to retell the correct sequence of events in the aforementioned life cycle.

**Social Studies:** We will begin with Communities. This week we will look for road and safety signs around the community. We will also be exploring some road safety such as wearing safety gears while riding bicycles.

**Health:** We will begin the unit on “*Taking Care of ourselves*.” With the cooler days ahead of us comes the different illness that goes with the change of season. This week we will discuss ways how we can take care of our hair.

## GRADE 1

This week in Reading, we will read the stories To Be a Kid, The Box, and Wig in a Box. We will focus on questioning and noting details. In class we will discuss words with the short i sound. Our spelling words will be **job, got, frog, mop, pot, stop, slot, not, mom, and have**. The challenge words will be **knot, mopped, stopping, and gotten**. Our Spelling test will be held on **Friday, October 5th**. In Science, we will review the concepts covered in Chapter 2 in order to take a chapter test. We will have our Chapter 2 test on habitats on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will also begin our new chapter called, How Plants and Animals Live. We will learn how animals get food and what helps animals live in their habitat. In Social Studies we will compare and contrast school items that were used in the past with items that are used in the present. In Math this week, we will continue to explore and use different subtraction strategies in order to find the difference.

### Other Important Updates

Please make sure that you check and sign your child's responsibility sheet **every night**. **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. Please remember that if your child is absent, he or she has the amount of days absent to make up the work that he or she has missed. Work that is not turned in from a child's absence will result in a zero for the missing assignment. **Spelling homework should also be completed and submitted on a daily basis**.

In order to review the concepts covered in our Math and Science chapters, please follow the attached link:<http://tinyurl.com/2012math>. Using this website will help reinforce the concepts covered in class for those subjects areas.

As a reminder, if you have not sent in a light blue t-shirt for our field trip, please do so by **Monday October 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**As stated in the note that went home this past week, the students will be taking the OLSAT on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning. Please make sure your child gets enough rest and a nice breakfast on those days so that he or she can do her very best!**

Thank you for all you do to help your child succeed! Have a great weekend!

## GRADE 2

In Reading, we will explore our new selection *Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night*. We will be working on comparing and contrasting and identify parts of a sentence. We will also be using our reading strategies to complete some theme skills test. Our spelling words for next week will focus on words with the *VCe pattern like in robe and bone*. Our next *spelling test* will be on *Friday, October 5, 2012*. Please make sure that your child is reading for *20 minutes every night* and that you are initialing the *Campbell's Crew form*.

In Math, we will be working in *chapter 3*. We will be counting with tens and ones and writing number words. We will also work on using data to solve word problems. *Please practice math facts at home*.

In Science, we will continue to identify and discuss how birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians adapt to their environment. We will also identify some animals without backbones.

In Social Studies, we review unit one and take a *unit test* on *Wednesday, October 3, 2012*. We will also begin our new unit, *Our Earth*. We will identify land forms and bodies of water.

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

## Grade 3

Our "Taste of China" was a blast! We are now moving on to poetry. We will read a variety of poems. Students will learn about some features of poetry and try writing a poem of their own. We will pay attention to how the poems make us think and feel and how the poet uses words to help us paint a picture in our minds. Our Power Words are: rhythm, hobbles, and shimmering. We will have a test on the Power Words on or around October 9. Please check your child's agenda book for the exact date.

We will continue with our extended narrative writing piece and examine prefixes and suffixes and writing complete sentences. We will have a test on prefixes and suffixes on October 9.

In Math, please continue to work with your child on counting money up to \$100. We will continue working on solid figures and begin congruent figures and transformations. Please make sure your child is practicing their basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts at home. Also, make sure your child is spending time on [www.firstinmath.com](http://www.firstinmath.com)

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

The first Social Studies test (Chapter 1) will be next week. Please check your child's agenda book for the exact date. Also, we will begin discussing urban, suburban, and rural communities (Chapter 2).

We will continue with the Water Cycle (Chapter 5). Students will recognize and describe water on Earth's surface and atmosphere as a liquid, solid, and gas. Also, we will observe and explain what happens to water in each state of the cycle. It is important that students make real-world connections (i.e. clouds, fog, steam, water vapors, and rain/other forms of precipitation) to enhance their understanding of the interactions between hydrosphere and atmosphere. On another note, but related, the STEM Fair project is underway. Students have decided on a question and now they will work on the hypothesis and variables (due date- October 5). We would like the project to be student selected; however, we recognize some projects will require parental involvement. Please consider all factors when selecting an experiment. Before spending any

money or allocating any resources, please ensure your child's question has been approved. The math and science textbooks link is <http://tinyurl.com/2012math>

#### GRADE 4

In reading next week we will be moving out of the reading anthology and into other reading resources so spelling will not be associated with a story from the textbook. While reading a variety of stories, we will be focusing on the traits a character exhibits and how their actions affect the plot of the story. We will be looking at problems and solutions as well as predicting and making inferences. In language arts we will be practicing using dictionary guide words and identifying common nouns. In social studies we will continue looking at how the various regions in the United States are organized. We will continue looking at the Northeast region and how our location helped to shape the industries common to our area.

In math we will continue working with time. We will be converting units of time (ex. minutes to hours, weeks to years, etc.) as well as determining elapsed time. This is a difficult skill for many students so please try having them practice it at home. Ask them to determine how long their soccer game was if it started at 12:30pm and lasted until 1:45pm.

In science we will be reviewing the STEM Fair process by going over the steps for a science experiment. If your child is in need of help for their STEM project, encourage them to bring their science journal from class home next week. We will be adding notes on how the specific steps should be done into our journals. STEM Fair journals have arrived! All fourth grade students now have a journal to record their work into. If a student loses their journal it will be the parent's responsibility to print off a new one from the pgcps.org website. We have no extra copies.

Parents please note that we have had several fourth grade students bringing toys from home to play with at recess. Accidents are occurring and students are getting hurt with these toys. Please help us by making sure your child isn't bringing any toys to school. We have recess equipment provided to us by Mr. Jones for the children to play with. Thanks for your help regarding this matter.

#### GRADE 5

**Math:** The students will learn about angles and equations. They will be able to classify and draw angles using their protractors to the nearest degree. The students will learn how to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division equations. Students should continue to practice their multiplication facts for their weekly timed facts tests.

**Reading:** Students will continue to study non-fiction texts and connect the ways in which text features "enhance" and/or improve the reader's learning experience. Students will also use non-fiction text to identify the main idea and the details that support. Organizational patterns and summarizing will be reviewed with each next text sample.

**Science:** We will be studying interactions of the Hydrosphere and Atmosphere. Students will describe how the water on earth changes by condensation, precipitation, and evaporation and describe the processes that maintain a continuous water cycle.

**Social Studies:** Students will study scarcity and economic decision making. Students will analyze how technological changes affected production and consumption in colonial America.

# 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

LETS GET MOVING WHITEHALL IS COMING!

Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, Whitehall Elementary will begin its annual "Let's Get Moving Whitehall" physical activity initiative. Students will receive activity logs that will go home with them on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the program is for students to become more physically active outside of school, thus improving the quality of their life. Students who participate in at least twenty minutes of activity after school for each day of October will earn a free activity period during the next month. All activity logs must be completely filled out with name of activity, amount of time, and parent signature. In addition, if students participate with a parent or guardian in at least ten of their activities during the month, they will receive a special activity token. This is a great opportunity to motivate your child and help set the foundation for an active and healthy life. Please encourage your child's participation.

In class this week, **primary students** continued their Movement Forms unit. The particular movement form they are concentrating on this week are moving safely through space and pathways. Pathways make the children aware that there are many ways to move through space and different situations in which you do so. What I see a lot of times is children only moving through space a certain way and not really exploring more effective ways to move. These lessons will make them aware of that.

**Intermediate students** are continuing their skills of football unit, where their main skills they are learning are throwing, catching, kicking/punting, and movement skills. Also, in the coming weeks the students will get their first taste of Tennis in P.E. thanks to the United States Tennis Association.

## PTA NEWS & EVENTS

### The NEW 2012-2013 PTA Membership Card

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who came out to our first meeting! We'll be distributing new membership cards to PTA members in the next couple of weeks. This year the Maryland PTA is encouraging everyone to activate their membership cards to help our county and state PTA leadership to more effectively advocate for our schools and there is strength in numbers. To activate your card online, go to [pta.org/activate](http://pta.org/activate). Once on the site, the on-screen instructions outline the process, which fields they are required to complete and which fields are optional. Once a member activates their card, they will receive a subsequent email message in the email account they provide on the card activation page.

**Also, additional membership forms will be coming home next week.** If you have not joined the PTA, please do so at that time. A form for your Giant Bonus Card number is attached to the membership form. **We begin earning Giant rewards on October 5<sup>th</sup> so register your card ASAP.**

**Sign Up Genius**

We've had a lot of questions about how to sign up for volunteer opportunities. If you're interested in volunteering, please go to **www.signupgenius.com**. Click on "Find a Sign Up" and enter the email [Whitehallptasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:Whitehallptasecretary@gmail.com) to view the list of events where volunteers are needed. Activities where volunteers are needed include the Book Fair and Ice Cream Social, Whitehall Clean Up Day, Art Awareness, Parents Night Out, Holiday Shop, Penny Pandemonium, Bingo Night, and Muffins for Moms.

*Spirit wear forms will be available next week. Look for the flyer in your child's folder.*

**Whitehall Elementary School**

**Educating Children Beyond Expectations**

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Whitehall and You— A Partnership That Matters!

