

EDGERTON ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

By providing the highest quality personalized educational experience, the Whitnall School District engages learners who embrace challenges and are responsible contributing members of a dynamic global society.



Note from the Principal

Dear Edgerton Families,

Happy New Year! It is wonderful to have the students back from break and we look forward to the promise of a new year. With the holidays behind us, we now return to the school normalcy that January brings. The next three month stretch of time offers the opportunity to get a great deal accomplished educationally speaking. Best wishes for 2012!

I would like to remind parents that we have scheduled a parent forum/information sharing meeting on Thursday, January 5th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a professional learning community scheduling model that involves early release. Select staff and I will discuss the recommendation that the Whitnall School District Board is considering for the 2012-13 school year. This recommendation involves a weekly "early release" model for elementary students which means students would be dismissed one hour early each Wednesday. We anticipate that parents may want to hear more information about this recommendation and have an opportunity to ask questions. Thank you to the PTO for rescheduling the monthly meeting to take place on this date, immediately following the forum. If you would like to stay for the PTO meeting, and learn a little more about our supportive parent organization and all they do for the school, please feel free.

Another opportunity to hear more about the early release recommendation and other happenings at Edgerton would be to attend my Principal Coffee on Friday, January 27, 2012 from 8:45 am—9:30 a.m. Hot coffee and refreshments will be served, so plan on stopping in if you can. I look forward to seeing you.

Chris D'Acquisto

Junior Achievement—Volunteers Needed

Junior Achievement (JA) is a hands-on experiential program that teaches the key concepts of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy to students. JA's unique approach allows volunteers from the community to deliver the curriculum while sharing their experiences with students. You can be a JA volunteer for your child's classroom. Classroom volunteers are provided with hands-on activities and attend a two-hour orientation session to prepare for the classroom experience. Volunteers are needed for the following classrooms: Mrs. Podlaski (Kindergarten), Mrs. Walker (Kindergarten), Mrs. Matusin (1st grade), Miss Krause (2nd grade), Mrs. Dudek (3rd grade) and Mrs. Miller (4th grade). You can learn more by visiting the JA website: www.milwaukee.ja.org. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact the school office at 414-525-8911.

Emergency Closing Reminders—Infinite Campus Messenger System

When severe weather or other emergency conditions exist so that it becomes necessary to close the school and/or dismiss early, parents will be notified using our Infinite Campus Messenger system. An email was recently sent to you with instructions on how to set up your preferences in this system to ensure you are receiving messages.

The Whitnall School District also publishes closing information on the Whitnall website and through the local radio and television stations. Please note that Whitnall is not part of MPS (Milwaukee Public Schools). Pay close attention to the closing announcements to be sure it includes the Whitnall School District. There may be instances when MPS is closed and Whitnall will remain open.

Also, an emergency closing card was sent home at the beginning of the year for all parents to fill out. This card informs staff members what procedure students should follow if it becomes necessary to close the school during the day and an adult may not be at home at the time of their early arrival at home. **Please notify the school of any changes in phone numbers as they occur during the year.** Please contact the school office at 414-525-8910 if you should have any questions.

Project Fair 2012

The project fair will be held at Edgerton Elementary on Tuesday, March 13th from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm. This is a special opportunity for students in Grades 1-5 to share talents and knowledge they have acquired by creating a project and written log that will be put on display. Watch for registration information to come home during the third week of January. The registration deadline will be January 31, 2012. Please contact Colleen Roth at croth@whitnall.com for further information.

Hales Corners Library—Read to Zoe



Children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to sign up for a session to read to Zoe, a bearded collie and husky mix. Zoe is insured and has passed the American Kennel Club's "Canine Good Citizen" exam. Zoe loves to listen to children read aloud from a favorite story or book. A child who may be hesitant to read aloud to family or peers is often less stressed when reading to a dog. Programs like this have helped many children reduce their apprehension of reading. In-person registration at the Hales Corners Library begins on January 3rd for Hales Corners residents and January 4th for all others. Sessions are scheduled for Sunday afternoons on January 15, 22, 29 and February 5th. Each child is encouraged to complete two 20-minute sessions to earn a free book and certificate of accomplishment signed by Zoe. Please call the Hales Corners Library at 414-529-6150 for more information.

Principal Coffee

The next coffee with Mr. D'Acquisto is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2012 from 8:45 am—9:30 am. Please stop in to share ideas, ask questions and discuss current and upcoming events at Edgerton Elementary.

News from the Art Room

Thanks to everyone who has been bringing in supplies. I've received some great surprises and have started getting some things I will need for Youth Art Month. **I still need lots of clear plastic bottles (2 liter, 1 liter 18 oz) capped and cleaned.**

Youth Art Month is coming up in March and the Whitnall District Art teachers are intending on celebrating in full force. Whitnall Middle School will be hosting an exhibition featuring students of all ages. Every Edgerton Elementary student will have work displayed since each grade level or classroom will be participating in a collaborative project. In addition, I will be selecting some individual student work to be featured during the exhibition. There will be crafts for sale, including student made ceramic bowls (hopefully with soup included). Proceeds will be donated to our local food pantry and/or Hunger Task Force. Please look for more information to be coming home in the near future.

K4 and K5 Information and Registration

An informational session regarding the District's Kindergarten program will be held on Tuesday January 17, 2012 at 6:00 pm for K4 and 6:30 pm for new K5 students. The session will be held in the Whitnall District Community Room located in the District Office at 5000 S. 116th Street. Building and classroom tours will be available by appointment on Friday, January 20, 2012. Please contact the school office at 525-8910 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment for a tour. Registration for K4 and new K5 students will be held on Tuesday, January 24 from 6:00—7:00 pm in the District Community Room. Please bring your child's birth certificate and proof of residency (utility or tax bill, copy of lease.) Please feel free to contact the school office at 414-525-8910 with any questions you may have.

Looking Ahead

- There will be no school on Monday, January 23, 2012. This day is scheduled as a teacher collaboration and workday.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 9th (4-8 pm) and Friday, February 10th (12:30-4:30 pm). A letter will be sent home with more details and your assigned conference time. The time will be the same as your fall conference. Also, please note that on Friday, February 10th students will be dismissed at 11:20 am.
- The all-school dance will be held on Friday, February 24th from 6:30—9:00 pm at Whitnall Middle School. The PTO is planning an exciting evening, so be sure to save the date!

Mark your calendars!

