



WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT | ISSUE 4 | VOL 1 | WINTER 2010

The Viewpoint

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION! 1960-2010

PAGE 1 Authentic Learning at WHS

PAGE 2 School Board Update

PAGE 3 Stormwater Management

PAGE 4 Fall Athletic Schedules

PAGE 6 Elementary and Middle School News

PAGE 7 Falcon Math Team Takes 1st

Preparing Students for our Dynamic Global Society: Authentic Learning

Anthony Brazouski
Whitnall High School Principal

In the Whitnall School District, many changes are taking place to better prepare our students to compete in modern society. With most of the employment opportunities available in our world far-removed from the factory floor by advancements in technology, automation, medicine, transportation, information acquisition, and communication, students need to develop new skills to compete in a global economy.

The global business market

The idea that “as the United States economy goes, so goes the world economy” has been dashed upon the rocky shores of North America as a storm of creation, innovation, and inquiry, arriving from the East, closes in and quickly begins to pass onto land.

While more and more American students enter our universities needing remedial classes, unwilling to dig deep into reading or challenge themselves with math, companies abroad find nowhere within their boundaries to place their highly-trained and highly-skilled citizens. Instead, they are able to place their graduates as employees of U. S. companies.

How American education is adapting

As educators, it is our collective responsibility to help U.S. students not only function, but also to fully contribute as global citizens in this new world economy.

A new approach, far from the traditional factory-based (memorize and test) classroom model is the concept of authentic learning: the engagement of a student with the content to inspire critical thinking, evaluation, analysis, and application of the basic knowledge.

cont'd. on pg. 2

Storm Water Management & Athletic Facility Needs Being Evaluated

Since early 2010, a citizen-based subcommittee of the school board (known as the Facilities Subcommittee) has been studying issues related to storm water management, particularly at the High School site. Serious water issues are negatively impacting the instructional programs and causing damage to our athletic facilities and fields.

>> Turn to page 3 to learn more from the Facilities Subcommittee





School Board Update

Bill Osterndorf, Whitnall School Board President

We occasionally get questions about the role of the school board. One of the most common questions is, *“What does the school board do?”* The school board is responsible for setting major policies, making final decisions on budgets, taking final action on major initiatives in the district, and overseeing the Superintendent. Part of the school board’s role is to help all of the people involved with the schools work together to create and achieve a common vision.

Another common question is *“What do I do if I want to become a school board member?”* School board members are elected by the public and act on the public’s behalf. The public elects either two or three members to the school board in April of each year. The board meets at least once a month. During busy times like the budget season in spring the board may meet more often. Board members are expected to be involved in the schools in a variety of ways and to attend a variety of school events. It can be a demanding job, but it’s a great job, since it’s an opportunity to both help kids and serve the community.

A third common question we receive as school board members is *“Why do my property taxes constantly go up?”* School board members are trying to focus is on doing what’s best for kids while using your tax money carefully. This year, the school district’s annual meeting (where any resident who decides to appear can vote on the tax levy) voted for a 1.3% increase in property taxes to help fund our schools. This increase in property taxes offsets things like losses in state funding, increases in operating costs, and other factors that affect our schools. Please remember that the property tax bill you receive includes a number of other units of government beyond the school district. If one of those units of government has a significant increase in taxes, your overall property tax bill may go up, even if the portion for the school district basically holds steady.

Our school district has many important challenges in front of it, and your school board members welcome your input on these challenges.

Authentic Learning, cont’d. from pg. 1

This approach emphasizes the concepts and contexts that underlie the patterns of content knowledge. Does history repeat itself because society has forgotten the “facts” of the last war or are there concepts of human psychology, power, and territory that tie such events together? Is reading, the processing of words, phrases, and sentences on pages or screens, truly the end or is it the means by which further ideas and insights, through critical thinking and dialogue, come to light? As civilizations advance, problems increase in complexity, but complex problems lead to critical analysis and eventual discoveries and advances.

What this means for our students

The difference is not that the content of traditional education (the historical, mathematical, and grammatical basics) changes. What’s different is how that knowledge is applied to the real experiences of the modern world, which no longer needs passive employees who can take in and parrot back basic information. Instead, a modern dynamic global society embraces change, spontaneity, resourcefulness, and the processing and rethinking of current ideas and knowledge to drive advancement and innovation.

WHERE’S LOWELL?

Superintendent Chats begin December 7; PTO visits begin in January

This winter, Superintendent Lowell Holtz will be hosting “chats” at the Hales Corners Library on Tuesday’s. Library chats will be from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., December 7, 14 and 21, and then Tuesday’s in January beginning with January 4, 2011. He is looking forward to meeting many senior citizens, and families who bring their kids in for story hour.

Look for Dr. Holtz at the Edgerton PTO meeting January 6 at 6:30 p.m., at the WHS Parent Forum January 11 at 6:30 p.m., and at the WMS PTO meeting on February 7 at 6:30 p.m. He will also be at the HCE PTO meeting on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!



MISSION: 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.

Attend the Public
Information
Meeting, Thurs.
December 9

Storm Water Management and Athletic Facility Needs Being Evaluated

Q: Why is the district considering a high school site renovation project?

A: Identified in the district's long-range facilities plan, storm water and drainage issues on the High School site are critical issues. There have been minimal improvements to the grounds and athletic fields since the early 1960's, despite significant growth and area development. Water issues threaten to impact the High School building when water backs up and runs into the new gym. Poor drainage and standing water limits the use of our athletic fields for physical education, extra-curricular programs, athletics, and community use.



Q: What condition are the athletic facilities and fields in today?

A: Despite ongoing maintenance efforts, our outdoor facilities are aging, outdated, and inadequate. Constant water and drainage issues leave our fields in wet, poor condition throughout the year. The football field and surrounding track were built in 1962. Over the last fifty years, use of our athletic fields and facilities has grown substantially. For example, in 1961 we had four outdoor athletic teams with 102 participating students. Today we have 23 outdoor athletic teams, involving more than 400 students. Additional school programs now utilize our athletic facilities on a regular basis including physical education, marching band, poms, cheer and dance. Community use is extended as much as possible for softball, tennis, youth football, and the YMCA.

Q: Is our track even usable right now for competitive events?

A: No. The High School track has not been used competitively since 2000 due to its poor condition (cracked, peeling, uneven surface) and size. The existing track only has six lanes (WIAA recommends eight lanes for competition) and the field event areas are undersized and poorly located. In recent years, our track athletes haven't even been able to practice on our home track, instead traveling to neighboring districts.

Q: What is being considered?

A: The Facilities Subcommittee reviewed a series of potential options to address the storm water needs and improve our athletic facilities and fields. The school district is also looking at the impact any site project will have on instruction. Major recommendations include replacing the entire storm water management system, relocating the varsity football/soccer field just west of its current location and installing all weather, multi-purpose field turf, and building a new eight-lane running track. The bleachers would be expanded and a new concession/restroom/storage facility would be constructed. The preliminary concept would also relocate the softball field to the High School site, and renovate both the baseball field and the tennis courts. Other site improvements include renovating student parking areas, improving site access, and rebuilding the buildings and grounds garage.

Q: How much will this project cost?

A: Preliminary estimates for the scope of work recommended by the Facilities Subcommittee range between \$7-8 million. However, the school board is committed to minimizing the financial impact to taxpayers and is currently exploring many different funding options. Private fundraising, corporate donations, grants, and sponsorships are also being researched as methods to reduce the impact to district residents.

Q: When will the school board make final decisions?

A: Before making any decisions, the district is sharing this information with the broader community for additional input. The school board anticipates making a decision about moving forward with a high school site renovation project by the end of January 2011. Please attend the December 9 public information meeting in the community board room.



WINTER 2010 — HOME SCHEDULES

Girls Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12-10-10	New Berlin West	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
12-10-10	New Berlin West	5:45PM	JV	Home
12-10-10	New Berlin West	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
12-17-10	South Milwaukee	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
12-17-10	South Milwaukee	5:45PM	JV	Home
12-17-10	South Milwaukee	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
12-29-10	Milwaukee Pulaski	7:00PM	Varsity	Home
12-29-10	Milwaukee Pulaski	5:00PM	JV	Home
01-14-11	Cudahy	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
01-28-11	Greendale	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
01-28-11	Greendale	5:45PM	JV	Home
01-28-11	Greendale	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
02-02-11	Milwaukee Riverside University	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
02-02-11	Milwaukee Riverside University	5:45PM	JV	Home
02-04-11	Wauwatosa West	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
02-04-11	Wauwatosa West	5:45PM	JV	Home
02-04-11	Wauwatosa West	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
02-15-11	Waterford	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
02-15-11	Waterford	5:45PM	JV	Home
02-15-11	Waterford	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
02-18-11	New Berlin Eisenhower	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
02-18-11	New Berlin Eisenhower	5:45PM	JV	Home
02-18-11	New Berlin Eisenhower	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
03-02-11	Greenfield	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
03-02-11	Greenfield	5:45PM	JV	Home
03-02-11	Greenfield	5:45PM	Freshman	Home

Boys Swimming/Diving

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
01-05-11	Wauwatosa West	5:00PM	Varsity	Home
01-05-11	Wauwatosa West	5:00PM	JV	Home
01-12-11	Greenfield	5:00PM	Varsity	Home
01-12-11	Greenfield	5:00PM	JV	Home
01-20-11	Burlington	5:00PM	Varsity	Home
01-20-11	Burlington	5:00PM	JV	Home



WINTER 2010 — HOME SCHEDULES

Boys Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12-03-10	Thomas More	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
12-03-10	Thomas More	5:45PM	JV	Home
12-03-10	Thomas More	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
12-07-10	Brown Deer	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
12-07-10	Brown Deer	5:45PM	JV	Home
12-07-10	Brown Deer	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
12-14-10	Shorewood	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
12-14-10	Shorewood	5:45PM	JV	Home
12-14-10	Shorewood	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
12-21-10	Greenfield	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
12-21-10	Greenfield	5:45PM	JV	Home
12-21-10	Greenfield	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
01-21-11	New Berlin Eisenhower	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
01-21-11	New Berlin Eisenhower	5:45PM	JV	Home
01-21-11	New Berlin Eisenhower	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
01-25-11	Wauwatosa West	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
01-25-11	Wauwatosa West	5:45PM	JV	Home
01-25-11	Wauwatosa West	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
02-08-11	Waterford	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
02-08-11	Waterford	5:45PM	JV	Home
02-08-11	Waterford	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
02-11-11	South Milwaukee	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
02-11-11	South Milwaukee	5:45PM	JV	Home
02-11-11	South Milwaukee	5:45PM	Freshman	Home
02-23-11	Greendale	7:30PM	Varsity	Home
02-23-11	Greendale	5:45PM	JV	Home
02-23-11	Greendale	5:45PM	Freshman	Home

Boys Wrestling

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12-01-10	GD/STM	7:00PM	Varsity	Home
12-01-10	GD/STM	7:00PM	JV	Home
12-08-10	Cudahy/St. Francis	7:00PM	Varsity	Home
12-08-10	Cudahy/St. Francis	7:00PM	JV	Home



Elementary and Middle School News



EDGERTON STUDENTS GIVE BACK WITH HEAVENLY HATS

Student Council would like to thank all students and families for their overwhelming support in our first two service learning projects. 43 students participated in the Math-A-Thon for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital by returning pledges totaling \$2250. All children in grades K5-5th received a Math-A-Thon booklet to practice their grade level math skills. This project has not only benefitted research and treatment of childhood cancers, but also our students had the opportunity to polish their math skills, whether they were able to donate to St. Jude Hospital or not. We ended our week of Math-A-Thon with our annual Heavenly Hats Hat Day (photo at left). Each child was asked to bring \$1 as they wore their favorite hat all day in school. We donated \$192 to the Heavenly Hats Foundation™ in Green Bay, WI. Since it was founded in 2001 by 10-yr old Anthony Leanna, Heavenly Hats has distributed more than one million brand-new hats to cancer patients throughout the US.

RACHEL’S CHALLENGE AT WMS

A special event took place at Whitnall Middle School on November 17. Students and community members attended a program called “Rachel’s Challenge.” The program was started by the father of Rachel Scott, the first student killed in the shooting at Columbine High School. The presentation focused on building a climate free of bullying and violence and replacing it with kindness and acceptance. Students attended the assembly, and there was a training for staff and student leaders to determine needs and set future plans in motion. More information is available at www.rachelschallenge.org.

HALES CORNERS ELEMENTARY - HEALTHY SNACKS

A snack break helps students get a mid-morning energy boost and fuel up for learning. We also want to help our students learn healthy eating habits, and keep our kids with food allergies safe. At Hales Corners Elementary, this means we have established these school-wide snack suggestions:

- Fresh fruit
- Fresh vegetables
- Raisins
- Applesauce – unsweetened
- Fruit cups with low sugar content
- Cheese
- Meat slices
- Crackers that do not contain nuts or tree nut oil nor were manufactured in that environment.

Thanks for your help in promoting a healthy and safe school environment!

Community Connections

Thanks for coming out to celebrate Whitnall’s 50 Years of Excellence at our first annual Block Party on September 18. Music, food, mascots and the marching band made it a great day!



The Viewpoint



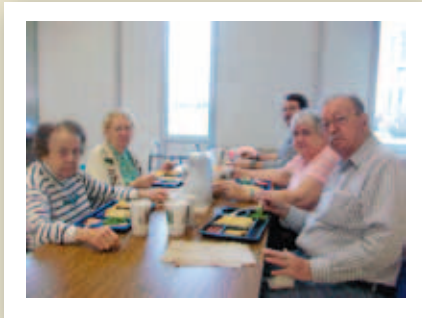
WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Newsletter
5000 S. 116th Street
Greenfield, WI 53228
Ph. 414-525-8400

**Attend the stormwater
management information
meeting Dec. 9
6:30 pm**

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Feedback on the newsletter? Send to newsletter@whitnall.com.
Send your suggestions and comments to the Board of Education and Superintendent:

TJ Anderson.....349-9361
Mike Clarizio.....525-1477
Suzette Larson425-7042
Bill Osterndorf.....327-2584
Stephanie Richter.....262-844-2997
Bernard Shaw425-0465
Nancy Zaborowski427-9604
Dr. Lowell Holtz, Superintendent: 525-8411



Senior Lunch Program

Seniors in our district can enjoy lunch at the high school, Monday through Friday at 10:45 a.m. on school days. The cost is \$2.30 for one of three options: the regular lunch, the world flavor meal or a deli meal. Ala carte options are available for an additional charge. Seniors are welcome to stay as long as they like!

Questions? Contact Jim, the food service director at (414) 525-8431.

The Whitnall School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap as required by WI Statute 118.12.

DECEMBER

December 7	7th grade Band/Concert Band, 7:00 p.m. WHS Auditorium
December 9	8th Grade Band/Sinfonietta, 7:30 p.m., WHS Auditorium
December 9	Community Meeting - Storm Water Info, 6:30 p.m. Board/Comm. Room
December 10	WMS Holiday Dance, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
December 13	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Board/Community Room
December 14	WHS Jazz Band Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m. WHS Auditorium
December 16	EES Holiday Concert, Gr. 2-3, 2:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. HCE Holiday Concerts, Gr. 2, 9:15 a.m., Gr. 3, 10:00 a.m. WHS Choir/Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m.
December 23	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break until Jan. 3

JANUARY

January 3	School Resumes
January 10	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Board/Community room
January 18	2011-2012 K4-K5 Information Night, K4 at 6:00 p.m. and K5 at 6:30 p.m., Board/Community Room.
January 21	End of 2nd Quarter
January 24	NO SCHOOL Teacher Inservice/Workday School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Board/Community Room
January 25	2011-12 K4-K5 Registration Night 6:00-7:00 pm, Board/Comm.Room
January 27	WHS 8th Grade Open House, 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

February 5	WHS Winter Formal 7:00 p.m.
February 11	WMS Local Solo & Ensemble Festival, 3:00-6:30 p.m.
February 11	WMS Valentine Dance, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
February 14	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. WHS Library
February 17	HCE PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
February 18	EES All School Dance, WMS 6:30-9:00 p.m.
February 24	WHS & WMS Conferences 4:00-8:00 p.m.
February 25-28	NO SCHOOL
February 28	School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Board/Community Room