

WALT WHITMAN SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER



Volume 7, Issue 9

April 2025

A Note from Mrs. Clemens:

Happy Spring! I hope you all enjoyed Spring Break and our students are rested and ready to go for April! April is a hard month as it is our month of State testing. ***Please make sure your students are at school each day and are well rested each night.*** It will help them to stay focused during the testing times. We will test on Monday, April 7th - Friday, April 18th. It is important, as always, *for students to be in school every day, on time to be successful.*

Please feel free to call or email me at any time. We need to work as a team to ensure the success of our students at Walt Whitman. My email address is: causeydx@milwaukee.k12.wi.us and phone number is 414-604-7705. Please allow 24 hours for me to return your messages.

MPS VISITOR POLICY

We always welcome parents and visitors to our school. MPS has a new policy that all visitors must check in at the office, get a visitors pass, and have an escort to go to a classroom. We ask that you be respectful of the policy and patiently wait for the escort to come. Even if you are dropping off or picking up your child to their classroom, you must have an escort.

ENROLLMENT 2025-2026

Now is the time to enroll for next year! All current students are automatically enrolled. We are looking for a few new students! Help us out! We have openings in all grades except 8th and 4th.

If you do not plan to return to Whitman next year, please let us know.

SEC and PTO

Our School Governance Council meeting will be on Wednesday, April 30th at 5:30 in the library. The PTO meeting will follow at 6:15. ***Please join us and support our school.***

News from the Parent Coordinator:

- Spring sports will start the week of the 21st, except 6-8th softball. please make sure that if your student(s) signed up that they bring back their paperwork and 25 sport fee by april 17th.
- If students have turned in a packet from another sport this year they do not need to fill out another one.
- Reading Night will be on April 24th from 5-7. We will have free books and learning kits while supplies last.

Hope that you all stay safe and warm,

Amanda Sobie

Office Phone: 414-604-7761 Leave a voicemail and I will return your call within 24 hours. My email address below is the quickest way to contact me on any given day.

sobiea@milwaukee.k12.wi.us. I will answer emails until 3:15 on school days.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards for Trimester 2 were mailed home along with Winter Star Reports. If you did not get yours, please contact your child's teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS:

Honor Roll Tri 2 2024-2025

8th GRADE PROMOTION

Our ceremony will be on Wednesday, ***June 12th at 9:00 am at Wedgewood Park Middle School.***

Please save the date! Each family can bring 8 guests since it is a larger setting.

If your child does not follow the school expectations, they will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

LITERACY NIGHT

Join us on Thursday, April 24th for our fun literacy night from 5 - 7 pm! Learn how to engage with your child in Reading and play some fun games! A special session will be available for our English Language Learners.

WHITMAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to **Mrs. Karissa Pugh**, our K5 Teacher who was chosen by our staff as our teacher of the year. Mrs. Pugh provides students a calm, structured learning environment. She is open to working with others and goes above and beyond to help every student find success, no matter their academic or behavioral challenges. **WELL DESERVED!**

PBIS PARENT CORNER:

April is testing month for ALL students.

Students in grades K4 - 3rd will complete the AIMSweb testing while our 3rd - 8th grade students will complete the Forward Exam. Here are suggestions for parents to help!

During the week of testing, you can:

Be punctual. Stay aware of the testing schedule and make sure that your child is at school on time on testing days.

Get healthy sleep. Ensure that your child has gone to bed on time the night before so they're well rested.

Serve up a good meal. Make a healthy breakfast, including protein and healthy fat, to curb hunger during the testing session.

Listen intently. Encourage kids to listen to and follow all directions given by the test administrator. If they have questions, they need to be addressed before testing begins.

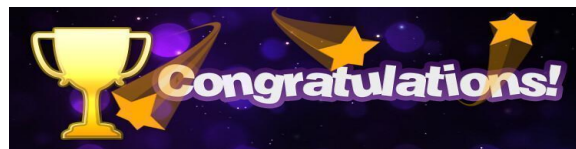
Take a timeout. Teach your child how to take "brain breaks" by stopping for a minute and taking a few deep breaths to help reduce test anxiety.

Plan a treat for when testing is complete. This could be something as simple as a pizza and movie night or a weekend outing to a local park.

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students for winning the Whitman Science Fair. They will represent us at the district Science Fair in May.
3rd - 5th Grade: Malayah R, Zayden H, Ezekiel B, Benjamin L., and Jacob S.

6th - 8th Grade: Stefan C, TJ J, Maddy P, JJ S, Samantha B, and Alessandra M.



MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

These students showed Determination for the month of March. They will have a celebratory Concrete Mixer from Culvers with Mrs. Clemens and be displayed on our PBIS bulletin board.

K4 - Erik Prescott

K5 - Micah Lloyd Berrones

K4/K5 Heese -King Williams

1st - 5th Schultz - Christian Avila

1st - Alijah Gonzalez

2nd - Liam Woerman

3rd - Erin Turner

4th - Kevlynn Martin

5th - Selena Chavez

6th Netterfield- Elijah Farnham

6th Milosz- Bill Chang

7th Johnson - Zoi Perez

7th Abdullahi - Nathaniel Ranic

8th Dunbeck - Valerie Arellano

MS Grant - Jonathan Kulinski-Griswold

5th - 8th Mr Johns - Maceo Allen

The month of *April's PBIS focus* will be **Creativity!**

Fundraisers:

For your planning purposes! We are in our fundraising year of our PLAYGROUND Renovation. We need your help!

1. **Fun Run!** May 9th! This is our big one! Plan to donate and ask your family to help support our goal of raising \$10,000 for our playground.
2. If you work at a place that makes donations, let me know!
3. **Box Tops for Education** - this is an easy one! Just download the app, choose Whitman as your school, scan your receipts.

UPCOMING DATES AND ACTIVITIES:

- 04/30: SEC at 5:30 and PTO at 6:15
- 04/30 - 05/9: Fun Run Fundraiser!
- 05/09: Fun Run!
- 05/26: Memorial Day Break - No School
- 05/30: Spring Concert at 9:00 and 1:00
- 06/12: 8th Grade Promotion at 9:00 at Wedgewood Park Middle School
- 06/13: K4 Bridging at 8:00
- 06/13: K5 Bridging at 9:00
- 06/13: Last day of School

STAY IN TOUCH WITH WHITMAN!

There are several ways to make sure you are keeping up with all the activities and events at Whitman! Please join them all so you do not miss out!

FACEBOOK: @whitman8parents in search bar and join. It is a closed group.

INSTAGRAM: Whitman.k8.mps

WEBSITE: <https://mpsmke.com/whitman>

SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL UPDATES:

Enter the email address on the web page on the right hand side towards the bottom. Anytime something is added to the calendar, you will get an email.

What are we Learning this Month?

<p>K4: Sent home weekly with students</p>
<p>Heese/EC: Reading: Letters Names and Sounds Ww, Jj, Yy, Xx, Kk and recognizing high frequency words Math: Addition up to 5 Science: Plants and Animals SS: All About Work: Why Do People Have Jobs?</p>
<p>K5: Reading: Happy Healthy Me: Identify topic and key details, blend phonemes, high frequency words Math: Composing and decomposing 10 Science: Sun warms the Earth SS: Learning and working together: Our world and our country</p>
<p>1st: Reading: Module 8: Tell Me A Story (Aesop's Stories). Build Knowledge and language, Writing responses, vocabulary. Spelling units 22-25 Math: Shapes, Money, Time, and Measuring. Science: The structure of plants and animals. SS: Past and Present: How we have changed the way we live, communicate, and travel.</p>
<p>2nd: Reading: Module 9: Home Sweet Habitat; compound words, prefixes, figurative language, ask and answer questions about a text Math: Recognize and draw shapes; partition shapes into equal pieces Science: Environments for Living Things SS: People Who Make a Difference</p>
<p>3rd: Reading: Central Idea and text structure Math: Fractions Science: Life Cycles and Inherited traits, SS: American Citizens, Symbols, and Government</p>
<p>4th: Reading: Text-Dependent Questions Math: Division - Multiplying fractions, multiplying whole numbers and fractions Science: Earth's surface SS: Branches of Gov't, Northeast region</p>
<p>5th: Reading: What makes something mysterious, and what drive people to solve mysteries? Locate and refer to relevant details and evidence when explaining what a text says explicitly/implicitly and make logical inferences. Math: Apply understanding of division to divide fractions Science: Systems in space SS: What does the Revolutionary Era Tell us about our Nation Today? Important events and people in the American Revolution, and why these events and people are important, impact they had during the Revolution and how the Revolution impacts our nation today.</p>

Schultz/CAU:

Reading: Topic: Alternate State Testing, Changing Our Land
Recognizing Sight Words, Combining Letter Sounds
Math: Telling Time Skills, Money Skills
Science: Nature Vs. Man-Made
SS: Places In A Community

6th:

Reading: Informational Text, Analyze Central Text,
Explanatory Essays.
Math: Equal and Equivalent
Science: The Characteristics of Cells
SS: World War II

7th:

Reading: Analyze Purpose and Perspective.
Math: Solving Equation and writing Expressions
Science: Ecology and the Environment
SS: Geography and Life in Arabia

8th:

Reading: Analyze Structure and Author's Purpose
Math: Scientific Notation and Pythagorean Theorem
Science: Earth and Human Activity
SS: The Age of Exploration and The Enlightenment

Johns/CAU:

Reading: Alternate state testing and Identifying the main
idea and how to find supporting details.
Math: Adding and subtracting within a 10 frame.
Science: Our solar system.
SS: Finding new and different jobs in the community.

Music:

K-5 Preparing for our upcoming Spring Concert
6th-8th grade Piano: Preparing for our Piano Recital on
May 22nd, 2025 at the Wisconsin Conservatory of
Music! Please bring back your slips signed for our
upcoming recital and return them!

Art: - April Skill Focus: Students will design a small
display space for an art piece using basic shapes,
colors, and textures while experimenting with mixed
media and construction techniques. Through guided
discussions, they will describe their work, connect it to
personal experiences, and explore real-world links
between art and science using 3D construction, mixed
media, or digital media.

Phy Ed:

K-2 - Paddle games, Bean bag toss, Soccer
3-5 - Paddle games, Corn Hole, Soccer
6-8 - Paddle games, Corn Hole, Soccer