

# Whiting Wire



Whiting Lane School 47 Whiting Lane West Hartford, CT 06119 Telephone 860-233-8541 Fax 860-236-9367

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Interim Principal

Greetings from the Interim Principal

September 8, 2016

*There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.*  
– (from C.S. Lewis, *Letters to an American Lady*)

## WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SO MUCH FUN! GOOD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN!

Whenever I begin a new school year, I can't help but consider that, no matter what fate holds in store during the adventure before us, if each experience is faced with the right collaborative attitude, nothing can make things less than awesome! Trust me on this one. I'm putting stock into 46 years of experience; a good number of them right here in our little community. There is no doubt in my mind that Whiting Lane School sustains all the ingredients for perfection - great teachers, great students, great support staff and, oh yes, great families. It is mind-boggling to me how one school can maintain the highest levels of educational practices while consistently fostering a culture of belonging. If we can't reinforce our Superintendent Tom Moore's call for *Clear Paths, Bright Futures, No Limits*, then it simply cannot be done anywhere. Think about it. There really aren't too many places in our world where the merging of talent comes together so forcefully and serves to benefit all involved so well.

Feminist that I am ;-), I am overjoyed to have **Andrew O'Toole and Chris Haddad** serving as **PTO co-presidents!** They have already demonstrated their leadership capacity as they dished out a scrumptious luncheon to welcome back our staff. Our entire PTO truly provides a model of how this critically important group so selflessly assists in ensuring "Bright Futures" for all of our children. Who rocks it better than the WL PTO? Not many, if any, I'm thinkin'!

Have you noticed our new and very cool **permanent art installation** in the main lobby? Once again, the extraordinary talents of **Stefanie Marco-Lantz** grace our entrance with a whimsical work that will definitely make you "SMILE!" Hint: look for the hidden messages ☺

The Whiting Lane School Code reminds us to "always take care of each other." One way that we can bring that into the greater community is to consider taking part in the **Be the Match** donor drive. West Hartford Public Schools will be hosting a marrow donor registry drive at Town Hall to raise awareness about the need for marrow donors. The event will be held on Thursday, September 15th from 2 pm to 6 pm. Now, don't get all squeamish. All that's involved is a cheek swab sample taken from the inside of the mouth. If a participant registers and matches a patient, most donations are done through an automated blood donation. Even I would do it but donors need to be between the ages of 18 and 44. This is a great way to pay life forward!

Why did I *really* return to Whiting Lane, you may be asking? To be directly involved in the **10TH ANNUAL "FALL INTO FUN" ADULT SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISER!** I'm looking forward to a big turnout at **India and Jay Liddell 's home on Saturday, September 24th, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm** For 10 years, this incredibly impressive evening has provided a boatload of fun for all in attendance and, most importantly, a significant source of funding for resources we would never otherwise be able to afford. If you care, you will be there!

That's about it for now. Keep practicing "The Code" with your children and good things really will happen!

Until next time...

**Nancy**

Nancy DePalma, Interim Principal



## From the Health Room

### Hearing and Vision Screenings

The school nurses will be conducting hearing and vision screenings during the months of September and October. If a child does not pass the initial screening, we will rescreen as soon as possible. If the child still does not pass the second screening, you will get a Referral Letter from the nurse. You will then be expected to contact your child's primary care provider and make arrangements to have him or her evaluated as soon as possible.

A failed vision screening can indicate the need for glasses to correct vision and/or to prevent permanent vision loss in the case of children with amblyopia.

A failed hearing screening can indicate a temporary hearing loss due to significant ear wax buildup, congestion due to an upper respiratory infection, or it could indicate a permanent hearing loss.

It is extremely important that any vision or hearing loss be corrected as soon as possible because even a small loss can have a significant impact on learning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 860-233-8541.

Nancy Driska, RN and Karen Fiori, RN  
Whiting Lane School Nurses

### Attention Parents of Bus 25 Students

The classroom teacher(s) **AND** main office must be notified if there is a change to a bus student's afternoon dismissal plan on any given day. Bus 25 students report to the Auditorium at dismissal and check in with the bus monitors. The adult picking up must sign out the bus student(s) in the main office and pick up from the Auditorium after connecting with the bus monitors.

This helps us ensure that every bus student has been accounted for at the end of the day.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

## ELC Lottery Applications



The Early Learning Center at Whiting Lane School and Aiken Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year. The program is family centered and has half day sessions that meet four days a week.

A lottery will be conducted in January.

To be considered for the program, children must be three years old by September 1, 2017, toilet-trained by the start of the school year and exhibit age-appropriate language, social and play skills. All applicants must participate in a play-based screening prior to being considered for the lottery selection.

If you are interested, please contact Pam Macca at 860-233-1455. The application process will close on **November 30, 2016.**

## Thank you!!!



A special thanks to Andrew O'Toole, Chris Haddad and all their volunteers for organizing the delicious "Welcome Back to School" luncheon.

We have an assortment of serving dishes and utensils that were left behind - please check the table outside the office.

## Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night will be held from **6:00 - 7:40 pm** on **Thursday, September 22, 2016.**

The Curriculum Night schedule is attached to this newsletter.

## From the Cafeteria

If you want your child to be able to buy ice cream or snack, you must specify "open account" and set a "daily limit" when you apply money to your child's account. Please write your child's full name on the memo line of the check (made payable to WHNS) or on the envelope if you send cash. The cafeteria must be notified in writing if you want to change the daily limit on your child's account.

## Whiting Lane/ELC Student Directory

Your family copy of the 2016-2017 school directory will go home this week in your youngest child's backpack.

Because the directory is sent to the printers in early August, some changes, corrections and/or additions may need to be made - please share any updates with the school office.

If you need an additional/replacement copy, please stop by the main office - the cost is \$5 for a second copy of the school directory. We are grateful to our generous PTO for covering the printing costs.

## Important Reminders to Parents:

### Emergency Forms

Please return completed emergency forms to the office if you haven't done so already. It is very important that we have the correct home/work/cell phone numbers so we can contact you in case of an emergency. Please call the school office at 860-233-8541 if any of your contact information changes during the school year.

### Before/After School Supervision

Children must **not** arrive at school before **8:20 am** as there is no supervision on school grounds prior to that time.

Students may arrive early only if they are attending specific school scheduled and supervised activities.

Children are dismissed at **3:20 pm** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and at **2:00 pm** on Wednesday.

Parents/guardians are responsible for prompt pick up of their child if he/she is not taking the bus or walking home.

### No Dogs Allowed

Dogs are **not** allowed on school property, especially during arrival and dismissal times.

Students may be allergic and/or very scared of dogs.

## Newsletter

Our next publication will be the "mini" newsletter.  
Publication Date: **9/22**

## Dates to Remember

9/8	7:00 pm	PTO Meeting/Library
9/11 - 9/14		Eid al-Adha* (Islam)
9/12	10:00 - 10:20 am	PBIS Assembly/gym
9/13	7:45 am	Grade 5 Choir
9/14	7:45 am	Grade 4 Choir, Grade 5 Band
9/15	5:30 - 7:00 pm	Back to School Picnic
9/16	7:45 am	Grade 5 Strings
9/19	3:20 - 5:00 pm	Chess Club/café
9/22	6:00 - 7:40 pm	Curriculum Night
9/23	8:40 am - 1:40 pm	Grade 4 to Westmoor Park
9/24	6:30 - 10:00 pm	"Fall into Fun" Adult Social
9/26	3:20 - 5:00 pm	Chess Club/café

\* All holy days begin at sunset the day before



## PTO News

You're invited to the first Whiting Lane PTO Meeting of the school year...

**Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm**  
**Whiting Lane School Library**

Please come share your ideas, learn about the school and find ways we can work together to support and enrich the learning experiences for our students and teachers. We look forward to working with you to make this a great year!

### Sign Up to Receive PTO Emails

Stay in touch with the Whiting Lane PTO by signing up to receive PTO email blasts. This will keep you updated about upcoming events and other school announcements.

Please visit [www.whitinglanepdo.net](http://www.whitinglanepdo.net), enter your email address and then hit subscribe.



## Whiting Lane School Code Crew 2016 - 2017

This year we have 16 new fifth grade Code Crew Leaders. We are so excited that these students are showing the kind of personal maturity it takes to become a leader.

At the end of 4th grade, students wrote a letter of interest that highlighted their qualifications and explained why they should be chosen for this important role.

Code Crew members are committed to take on the big responsibility of helping younger children exit the building safely, doing the work required of them in 5th grade and coming to school on time and consistently.

Please help me in welcoming this year's Code Crew Team:

Kikoh M., Cody B., Mariah C., David L., Jose G., Izu N., Norah P., Gabe S., Storm B., Dayana L., Dario G., Tommy N., Cassidy G., Kinsey W., Tommy C. and Malaika K.

## School Picture Day



Whiting Lane Picture Day is **Thursday, September 29th**.  
ELC Picture Day is **Friday, September 30th**.  
Absentee/Retake Day is **Thursday, November 10th**.

Order forms from Geskus Photography will be sent home with your child at a later date.

## Informational Flyers/Booklets

Please check the parent self help rack in the main office for the following informational flyers and booklets:

- ⇒ August/September Lunch Menu
- ⇒ 2016-2017 School Year Calendar
- ⇒ "Fall into Fun" Invitations
- ⇒ WHPS *Connections*
- ⇒ Musical Instrument Rental Agreement
- ⇒ YMCA Fall 2016 Program Registration Form

## Recognition of Religious Holidays

The following calendar reflects dates for religious holidays during the 2016 - 2017 school year.

<b>July</b>	7/6 Eid al-Fitr* (Islam)
<b>August</b>	8/15 Obon (Buddhism)
<b>September</b>	9/11 - 9/14 Eid al-Adha* (Islam)
<b>October</b>	10/3 - 10/4 Rosh Hashanah* (Judaism) 10/12 Yom Kippur* (Judaism) 10/14 Dussehra/Durga Puja (Hinduism) 10/30 Diwali/Divali (Hinduism)
<b>November</b>	
<b>December</b>	12/25 Christmas (Christianity) 12/25 - 1/1/17 Chanukah* (Judaism)
<b>January</b>	1/6 Epiphany/Three Kings Day (Christianity)
<b>February</b>	
<b>March</b>	
<b>April</b>	4/11 - 4/18 Passover* (8 days) (Judaism) 4/14 Good Friday (Christianity) 4/14 Holy Friday (Orthodox Christianity) 4/16 Easter (Christianity) 4/16 Pascha (Easter) (Orthodox Christianity) 4/17 Bright Monday (Orthodox Christianity)
<b>May</b>	5/10 Visakha Puja (Buddhism) 5/27 - 6/25 Ramadan* (Islam)
<b>June</b>	6/25 end of Ramadan* (Islam)

\* All holy days begin at sunset the day before.



## Chess Club



The fall program for students in Grades K-5 will be held on **Mondays** in the Whiting Lane cafeteria. The first session will be held on **September 19, 2016** from **3:20 - 5:00 pm**.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact instructor Alex Lumelsky at [alexander.lumelsky@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.lumelsky@gmail.com).

## From the Art Room



I am very excited to be back and look forward to teaching art to our talented Whiting Lane students! I have a few tips that will help your children keep their clothes tidy during art class. I always mention to students not to wear their best outfits on their "art day." They should wear darker clothing if at all possible.

Your child should have their OWN personal smock. The best smocks are large short sleeved men's button-down dress shirts (or I will cut the long sleeves to fit your child). The smock should be large enough to cover your child past their waist. Plastic smocks are not recommended - they are very warm to wear and restrict movement.

If you have a 5th grader, I ask them to bring in one shoe (no boots, furry slippers, or puffy snow boots) to transform into an art sculpture. They can donate the shoe's mate to the art room if they like. I will also ask the 5th graders to bring a popular "snack food" to create another sculpture. The student does not have to eat the snack food as they are used for realistic demonstrations. **We do not allow any peanut or peanut product snack food items.**

Ms. Hop

## A Message from the Gym



Hello! Sneakers are a requirement to participate in Physical Education class. We ask that your child wear sneakers for both safety reasons and to perform at his or her best. Other footwear does not provide the support that your child needs to participate in physical activities. Please talk with your child or their teacher about which days they go to PE class. Examples of footwear that are not allowed: boots, flip flops, flats, dress shoes or cros.

Please remember to have your children wear comfortable clothes that allow them to move freely. Please do not have your child wear dresses or jeans on the days they have PE.

Thank you,  
Dylan Geisler and Judy Wilcox

## Whiting Lane Back to School Picnic

**Thursday, September 15, 2016  
5:30 - 7:00 pm**

Please bring along a picnic dinner and blanket and meet up with new and old school friends for some family fun with music and dancing provided by DeeJay.

We hope to see you all there!

## Notes from the Music Room



Dear Parents,

Welcome to "Notes from the Music Room!" You can ask your students about what they are learning in music class. Every month the students learn about a different musician. Ella Fitzgerald is the musician of the month for September. Please ask your student(s) what they learned about her!

We have also sung many songs in music class. Here is a song for each grade that you can ask your student(s) to sing for you!

Kindergarten - "The Wheels on the Bus"  
Grade 1 - "Rain Rain Go Away"  
Grade 2 - "See Saw"  
Grade 3 - "Mouse Mousie"  
Grade 4 - "I've Lost the Farmer's Dairy Key"  
Grade 5 - "Black Snake"

Thank you,  
Ms. Rooklidge

## "Fall into Fun"

The 10th annual adult social to benefit Whiting Lane School will be held on **Saturday, September 24th** from **6:30 - 10:00 pm** at India and Jay Liddell's home (26 Fernwood Road). This year is an 80's theme.

Silent and live auctions, food and some adult beverages are included in the price.

Tickets are: \$25 per person (\$35 at the door).

Your "Fall into Fun" invitation went home last week in your child's backpack. RSVP's are appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome!

Please contact Kiley Mattsson at [kileymattsson@yahoo.com](mailto:kileymattsson@yahoo.com) or Molly Smith at [samandmollysmith@gmail.com](mailto:samandmollysmith@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to make a donation.

## WHITING LANE SCHOOL CURRICULUM NIGHT

This is an informational presentation for parents only.

**\*\*Thursday, September 22, 2016\*\***

Classroom teachers will make presentations according to the following schedule:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
4	Room 2	6:00-6:30
5 Individual Classrooms:		
	Mrs. Hannan- Rm. 5	6:00-6:30
	Mrs. Torres- Portable 1	
	Mrs. Puglielli-Portable 2	
K	Room 20	6:35-7:05
1	Room 14	6:35-7:05
2	Room 10	7:10-7:40
3	Room 9	7:10-7:40

Special Area presentations will be as follows:

<u>SPECIAL AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Physical Education	Gym	6:00 - 7:10
Art	Art Room (lower level)	6:00 - 7:10

Music Information:

Chorus / Instrumental/Vocal Hall in front of Auditorium 6:00 - 7:10

Library / Media Center Library 6:00 - 7:10

Due to the individual nature of their programs for each child, the teachers in the following programs will not make K - 5 presentations, but will be available as follows:

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
ESOL	ESOL Room 8	6:00 - 7:10
Literacy Support	Literacy Center	6:00 - 7:10
QuEST	Room 1	6:00 - 7:10
Speech & Language	Offices near Cafeteria	6:00 - 7:10

Special Needs:

Ms. Hill	Kindergarten Mtg.	6:35-7:05
Mrs. Murphy	Grade 1 Mtg.	6:35-7:05
Mrs. Thumma	Grade 2-3Mtg.	7:10-7:40
Ms. Lacroix	Grade 3 Mtg.	7:10-7:40
Mrs. Farooque	Grade 4 Mtg.	6:00-6:30
Ms. Blanchard	Grade 5 Mtg.	6:00-6:30

Early Learning Center Room 27 6:00-6:30

updated 9/2/16