

# Whitman Window

## **Whitman Elementary**

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Expanded Opportunities**
- **Success For All Students**
- **Responsible Citizens**

Walt Whitman Elementary School

Debbie Brown, Principal

6557 S. Acoma St.  
Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: 303-347-4725

Fax: 303-347-4747

Attendance: 303-734-5870

Web Page: <http://whitman.littletonpublicschools.com>



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**August/September 2008**

Dear Whitman Friends and Families,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! We hope that your summer was full of fun, new memories and relaxation.

Our new school is getting off to great start with our most recent CSAP scores. I am so very proud of our results. Not only did we experience some incredible gains, our school report rating from the state will change from average to high! We experienced significant gains in 8 of 10 tests for CSAP. Our gains ranged from 9% to 32%! One of the many remarkable things about our performance is the fact we accomplished this in one school year! I do attribute these incredible gains to our focus on writing. Students are required to write in all of the testing areas on CSAP (Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science). The clear focus and commitment of the teaching staff was a major contributing factor as well. We will continue our focus on writing instruction as we teach students how to "read like a writer". We will continue to work with our outside writing consultant from last year and we have been given additional coaching support from our district. I know we will continue to grow and achieve at Whitman!

As you know parent partnerships are vital to the success of students. Whitman is committed to ensuring parent partnerships. With that in mind, our curriculum night will be held on **Tuesday, August 26 from 6:30-8:00**. Formal presentations by the classroom teachers will be held, you will have the opportunity to hear from your child's teacher regarding the goals and objectives of the grade level curriculum. You will also be provided other details of the classroom such as homework, communication and student responsibility.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon at Whitman.

Sincerely,



# WHITMAN DATES TO REMEMBER

**Walt Whitman  
Elementary School  
6557 S. Acoma St.  
Littleton, CO 80120**

**Debbie Brown, Principal**

**Phone Numbers:**

Main: 303-347-4725  
Attendance: 303-734-5870  
Fax: 303-347-4747  
SACC: 303-347-4935

**Web Site:**

<http://whitman.littletonpublicschools.net>

**PTO Board Members**

**President:**

Dawn Goard 303-738-8825  
mail@aceradon.com

**VP:** Position Open

**VIPS:**

Karen Adam 303-734-0940  
Lori Hatanaka 303-798-7427  
Maggie Caylor 303-794-5814  
Shirley Feaster 303-798-6665

**Treasurer:**

Kelly Shiller 303-347-9678

**Secretary:**

Karla Hoodmaker  
303-347-9255

**WAC**

WAC meets on the  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month  
4:00 pm in the conference room

**Chairperson:** Holly Womack,

**Parent Reps:** vacant

**PTO Liaison:** Dawn Goard

**Littleton Public Schools**

**Board of Education:**

303-347-3515

**24 hr Info/Action Line:**

303-347-3500

**Job Line:** 303-347-3500

**Transportation:** 303-347-4775

August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Registration Day 7:00-2:00 pm
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open House 4:30-6:00 pm
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> day of school 9:06 am-12:03 pm
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee and Kleenex for Kindergarten Parents 9:06 am and 10:30 am
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	PTO Executive Board meeting 9:00-11:00 am
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum Night 6:30-8:00 pm
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Holiday no school
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten Vision and Hearing Screening
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	PTO BBQ 5:00-7:00 pm PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 pm
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Whitman Accountability Meeting 4:00 pm
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Early Dismissal 1:03 pm
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fall Fundraiser begins
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Whitman BINGO Night @ Englewood Elks Lodge 6:00 pm



## Lunch Schedule 2008-2009

PreK, K, 1 - lunch at 11:45 am & recess at 12:05 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade - lunch at 12:00 pm & recess at 12:20 pm  
4<sup>th</sup> grade - recess at 12:00 pm & lunch at 12:20 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade - lunch at 12:10 pm & recess at 12:30 pm  
5<sup>th</sup> grade - recess at 12:20 pm & lunch at 12:40 pm

## Recess Schedule 2007-2008

Primary 10:25 - 10:40 am  
Primary 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm  
Intermediate 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm

## Student Lunch Charge Information 2007-2008

Students K-5 will be allowed up to three (3) charges for full lunch meals. Once the loan has been repaid in full, the student will again be allowed to charge 3 meals.

Parents will be notified via phone each time their child charges a lunch. The phone message will contain a warning letting them know that when there are three charges on account, their child will no longer be allowed to charge. This will give parents a minimum of three days to replenish the student's account wither by brining a check or cash to a member of the kitchen staff before school or by making a payment with a credit card on the internet at [schoolpassport.com](http://schoolpassport.com).

An alternate meal of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt. of 1% unflavored milk, two slices of cheese and (4) saltine crackers will be provided for any student with 3 outstanding charges who does not bring money to cover the charges and has no lunch from home.

A-la-carte items will not be charged to accounts that show even one outstanding charge.

Adults will not be allowed to charge lunch or ala carte items.



## Are you planning to enroll your child in SACC on late start mornings?

As you are aware, beginning this fall all LPS schools will provide time for teachers to meet together to have frequent, consistent, and data-driven conversations about student achievement. These meetings are called Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). There are 10 late-start days built into next year's calendar that allow time for PLCs to take place.

### The 10 late-start days for PLC work are:

- Wednesday, August 27, 2008
- Wednesday, September 10, 2008
- Wednesday, September 24, 2008
- Wednesday, October 8, 2008
- Wednesday, November 12, 2008
- Wednesday, December 3, 2008
- Wednesday, January 14, 2009
- Wednesday, February 4, 2009
- Wednesday, February 25, 2009
- Wednesday, April 8, 2009

*The school will NOT provide supervision for children who arrive early. Parents may choose to enroll their children in the tuition-based School Age Child Care (SACC) program at the school on late-start mornings.* In order to plan appropriate supervision in the SACC program, we need to know how many children will be enrolled on those days.

Please call Dawn Wright, SACC Manager, at 303.347.4935 or e-mail him/her at [dwright@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:dwright@lps.k12.co.us) as soon as possible if you plan to use SACC services on late-start days for fall.

## AT-LARGE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (DAC)

The District Accountability Committee (DAC) needs members to fill at-large seats for a two-year term, beginning this fall. An application form is attached.

The DAC has some responsibilities mandated by Colorado statute and advises the Board of Education on various topics. Members regularly receive information about district programs and activities and serve as a communication link with schools and the community.

If you have any questions please call Kerry Schaper, 303-347-3396.

## 2008-2009 PTO/School Activities & Events

### August

Aug 14 Back-to-School Kick-Off 7am-2pm  
 Aug 18 NEW! – Welcome/Open House 4:30-6 pm  
 Aug 19 First Day of School – Early Dismissal  
 Aug 19 Coffee & Kleenex – 9:06am & 11:06 am  
 Aug 21 PTO Board Meeting 9:15-11:15 am  
 Aug 26 Curriculum Night – 6:30-8:00pm  
 Aug 27 Late Start Day – 11:06am

### September

Sept. 1 No School – Labor Day  
 Sept. 5 Kindergarten Vision Screening  
 Sept. 8 BBQ/PTO Meeting – 5:00 8:00 pm  
 Sept. 10 Late Start – 11:06am  
 Sept. 19 Early Dismissal – 1:03 p.m.  
 Sept. 22 Fall Fundraiser Kickoff 2:45pm (Gym)  
 Sept. 24 Late Start – 11:06 am  
 Sept. 26 Family Bingo Night – 6-9 pm  
 (Englewood Elks Lodge)

### October

Oct 1 School Pictures Day  
 Oct 3 Fall Fund Raiser Ends  
 Oct 6 PTO Board Exec. 9:15-11:15 am.  
 Oct 8 Late Start 11:06 am  
 Oct 16 Staff Luncheon 12:00-1:00pm  
 Oct 16-17 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grades)  
 Oct 20-24 Classified Employee Appreciation Week  
 Oct 24 Family Night - TBD  
 Oct 31 Halloween Parties 9:15am-10:30am

### November

Nov 7 Early Dismissal – 1:03 pm  
 Nov 10 -13 Vision and Hearing Screening  
 Nov 10 PTO Meeting 6-8  
 Nov 11 Picture Retakes  
 Nov 12 Late Start 11:06 pm  
 Nov 14 Family Night TBD  
 Nov 21 Family Feast – Pie Sale 11:50am-1:00pm  
 Nov 26-28 No School - Thanksgiving

### December

Dec 3 Late Start – 11:06  
 Dec 8-12 Scholastic Book Fair  
 Dec 10 Scholastic Book Fair Night 6-8pm  
 Dec 19 Non-Student Day  
 Dec 22 Jan 2 Winter Break

### January

Jan 5 Return from Winter Break  
 Jan 12 PTO Meeting 6-8  
 Jan 14 Late Start – 11:06am  
 Jan 19 No School – Martin Luther King  
 Jan 22 Family Night TBD

### February

Feb **TBD** Kindergarten Registration  
 Feb 4 Late Start 11:06 a.m.  
 Feb 10 Class Pictures  
 Feb 13 Valentine Parties 9:15-10:30am  
 Feb 13 Early Dismissal 1:03 pm  
 Feb 16 No School – President’s Day  
 Feb 20 PTO Board 1:15-2:15  
 Feb 24 Science Fair 6-8 pm  
 Feb 25 Late Start – 11:06am

### March

Mar 5 Staff Luncheon 12:00–1:00pm  
 Mar 5-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grades)  
 Mar 9 PTO Meeting 9:30- 11:00 am.  
 Mar 18 Tattered Cover Night 6-8pm  
 Mar **TBD** Direct Donation Fundraiser  
 Mar **TBD** Destination Imagination  
 Mar 23-27 Spring Break

### April

Apr 3 Carnival/Silent Auction 6-8  
 Apr 8 Late Start – 11:06am  
 Apr 10 Carnival /Silent Auction Snow Date  
 Apr 15 Family Night TBD  
 Apr 19-25 Volunteer Appreciation Week  
 Apr 22 PTO Board 9:15-11:15 am.  
 Apr 23 Volunteer Breakfast  
 Apr 24 Early Dismissal 1:03 pm  
 Apr 27 No School

### May

May 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week  
 May 7 Field Day – Grades Pre K - Kindergarten  
 May 8 Field Day – Grades 1-5  
 May **TBD** Lakeside Night  
 May 11 PTO Meeting 6-8  
 May 12 Art Fair/Ice Cream Social 6-8  
 May 15 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Continuation 2:00-3:43pm  
 May 22 Last Day Early Dismissal 2:03 pm

## 2008-2009 School Calendar

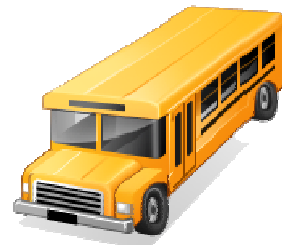
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open House 4:30-6:00 pm
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	First day of school - 9:06 am -12:03 pm
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum Night 6:30-8:00 pm
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Labor Day (Monday)
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Early Dismissal (Teacher Planning) - 1:03 pm dismissal
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
October 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - K-5 Parent-Teacher conferences
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Early Dismissal (Teacher Planning) 1:03 pm dismissal
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	End of First Trimester
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Awards Assembly 2:45 pm in gym
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Report Cards go home
November 26-28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING VACATION</b> (Wednesday - Friday)
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
Dec. - Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK</b>
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL-MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (Monday)</b>
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	End of Second Trimester
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Early dismissal 1:03 pm (Teacher Planning)
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENTS' DAY (Monday)</b>
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Awards Assembly 2:45 pm in gym
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Report Cards go home
March 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - K-5 Parent-Teacher conferences (Thursday - Friday)
March 23-27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK</b> (Monday-Friday)
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start 11:06 am
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Early Dismissal 1:03 pm (Teacher Planning)
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Teacher In-Service (Monday)
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Awards Assembly 2:45 pm in gym
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last Day of school - 2:03 pm dismissal

# Student safety is a priority at Whitman

Your child's safety is very important to us and we are asking for your help with the following:

1. Please use the "horseshoe" (the parking lot) for **all drop offs and pick ups**. We are working on providing supervision by a staff member in the mornings before school to help supervise students. If the weather is nice all students are to go directly to the playground until the bell rings. The primary playground can be accessed from this side of the building. We do have staff members posted on both the primary and intermediate playgrounds in the mornings before school. If we are having inclement weather, students will enter the building through the north entrance.
2. There is **no parking, loading or unloading** in the front of the building before or after school. This area is designated for LPS school buses only. This bus lane must remain clear for LPS buses.
3. If you are dropping your student off on the south end of our building where the primary playground is located and you would like to watch your child before the bell rings, please park your car in the parking lot and walk with your child to the playground.
4. If your child attends Wolf Pack before or after school we are asking parents to park in along the fence by the Wolf Pack entrance and **not to park** in the bus lane.
5. **No U-turns** on Acoma!

Thank you in advance for your help!





*Education Services Center. 5776 S. Crocker Street. Littleton, Colorado 80120. 303.347.3300.*

July 21, 2008

Dear Parents:

As you know, Denver is hosting the 2008 Democratic National Convention August 25 through August 28. This gathering provides an opportunity for local educators to teach students about our country's democratic process as it happens right here locally.

Such an event also brings thousands of visitors to Denver and prompts us to take a few extra precautions to ensure the safety and security of our students, as we typically would do. We take extra precautions any time there are large groups of people and increased activity in our area, and we anticipate that the Denver metropolitan area will experience changes to the normal routine during the week of the convention. We want you to be aware of what we as a school district will be doing, and we ask for your help:

- We are reminding all staff to wear their badges at all times and to make sure that all visitors to our schools check in at the main office and receive a visitor's badge.
- District security and local law enforcement will be a visible presence in our schools and on our campuses.
- The increase in visitors will result in an increase in traffic, and there could be delays. As a result, during the week of the convention - August 25 through August 29 - no school-sponsored field trips will take place north of the district. In addition, we will do all we can to minimize the impact the increased traffic might have on our bus schedules and routes.
- However, students will travel north of the district to participate in activities and athletic events sponsored by the Colorado High School Activities Association if scheduled. Your school will communicate more specific information about these events. Students who attend special programs north of the district will also continue to be transported as scheduled during the week of the convention.
- Schools will not be taking students off campus to convention-related activities during the school day.  
*However, schools will excuse students who have their parent's or legal guardian's permission to attend convention activities during the school day.*

Our greatest asset in keeping our students and staff safe is the vigilance of our employees, our students (especially those at the secondary level), and our parents. Please report unusual activity and circumstances to your school or district security right away at 303.347.3420.

We will do everything we can to keep the school days running smoothly during the convention while maximizing the learning opportunities it will provide to students of all ages. Thank you for your support as we begin another tremendous school year in LPS!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Murphy", written in a cursive style.

Scott D. Murphy  
Superintendent



Education Services Center. 5776 S. Crocker Street. Littleton, Colorado 80120. 303.347.3300.

Date: June 24, 2008

**LPS Facility Use Task Force develops criteria;  
*Group to give Board recommendations this fall***

School may not be in session, but the Littleton Public Schools Facility Use Task Force has continued to meet throughout June with additional meetings planned for July and August. According to Task Force Co-Chairs Tracie Rainey and Pat Wojahn, the group's work has progressed from studying multiple forms of data last spring to forming criteria to help guide decisions when considering potential facility changes.

Task Force members had an opportunity to gather community feedback during the group's first public forum last May, which followed the release of its interim report in April. Wojahn and Rainey stress how valuable the feedback from the May forum was and how important continued community feedback is to the work of the Task Force. "Part of our process is to identify our community's values around how schools are used and how those values are honored," said Wojahn. "The feedback we have received so far has been critical to our conversations, and we look forward to gathering even more feedback this fall." The Task Force is planning to hold a minimum of two additional public forums in September and October.

Since the May forum, Task Force members have been developing principles, filters, and criteria to help guide decisions when considering recommendations for facility changes. Criteria must further the community's values around:

- student achievement
- keeping and retaining high quality employees
- providing choice of teachers and programs for parents and students
- enriching the educational opportunities available to students, and
- ensuring equity of programs and program delivery.

Criteria will include recommendations for minimum and maximum school enrollment sizes in addition to how much a building is being used. Additionally, grade configuration, school consolidation, and school expansion potential are parts of solutions to be forwarded for the Board to study. No decisions about specific facilities have been made.

Task Force members have been invited to meet with the Board in August to discuss their recommended criteria and how the criteria interact with the current budget situation facing LPS. The Task Force plans to present its final report to the Board in late October.

The Facility Use Task Force has a broad membership representing parents, community members, teachers and principals from elementary, middle, and high school levels, a classified staff member, and three liaisons from the district level. It began meeting last February as part of a periodic review of district facilities, to study not only how they are being used, but to identify areas that might be under used and to make recommendations for improvements.

Rainey and Wojahn stress that continued feedback is appreciated and can be given to the Task Force at any time by calling 303.347.3378 or via the LPS Website, [www.littletonpublicschools.net](http://www.littletonpublicschools.net). Visitors can click on the Facility Use Task Force button on the left side of the home page. More information about the Task Force's charge, as well as notes from previous meetings and its preliminary report to the Board, are also available online.

###

## A Message from the PTO Board

We are really excited for this School Year to start and have a lot of fun activities planned to enrich everyone's academic experience!! The PTO Calendar in this Newsletter is a great item to have on the refrigerator or bulletin board at home in order to keep up with the school events! Everyone is invited to attend the PTO meetings listed on the calendar. These meetings are a nice way for parents to get involved and help improve the quality of the children's school experience.

The PTO Board has been introduced in the registration packets and we are available to listen to any new ideas and answer any questions. The Board members are also listed with the phone numbers in the "Whitman Window" each month. If you are interested in chairing an event, volunteering to assist in an activity or just have some questions please contact any of us.

This year there are some new PTO happenings that should make volunteering even more fun! First, some of the Events scheduled on the Calendar still need chairperson and volunteers in order for the activity to occur. The VIP's coordinators have a list posted in the School Lobby of all the open positions as well as detailed packets with detailed information regarding each activity from previous Chairs. The packets are located in the NEW PTO Room (Now located in the cubby in the Library). We are very enthusiastic about this space so we can be more organized and have one place to meet and keep all the PTO stuff!!

Finally, Thank you Maggie Caylor because the PTO Manager software purchased last year is loaded and ready for implementation this year. The program should really help us stay in contact with parents/volunteers via email, (or phone if preferred). Volunteer lists can be sorted by the events/activity and make it even easier for the Chairs to reach volunteers interested in helping with the activity. In addition, it is easy for parents to email the PTO Board anytime at [WHITELEMPPTO@gmail.com](mailto:WHITELEMPPTO@gmail.com).

Welcome to all the new families and Welcome Back to all the returning families!! Together, we can really make it a great year!!

Dawn Goard  
PTO President

