

WOMS Newsletter

12201 New Hampshire Avenue ♦ Silver Spring, MD 20904 ♦ Main Office 301-989-5780 ♦ Counseling 301-989-5790


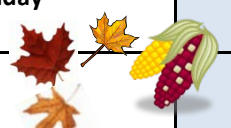
White Oak Middle School

November – December 2010






Ms. Virginia A. de los Santos, Principal ♦ Mr. James Allrich, Assistant Principal ♦ Mrs. Lisa N. Shorts, Assistant Principal



November Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
American Indian Heritage Month	1 <i>Professional Day – No School for students</i>	2 <i>Holiday – General Election</i>	3	4 Activity Bus	5	6
7 Daylight Saving Time Ends	8	9 Activity Bus 7-9pm PTSA Meeting	10	11 Report Cards Early Release (K-8) Parent Conferences	12 ABC Dance <i>Early Release (K-8)</i>	13
14 American Education Week	15	16 Activity Bus	17 “A Day”	18 “B Day” Activity Bus	19	20
21	22 Band & Chorus Concert at Jackson Road ES (8:45am) & Stonegate ES (9:45am)	23 8 th GR Field Trip – Bowling w/ a Twist Activity Bus	24 <i>Early Release (K-12)</i>	25 Holiday Thanksgiving 	26 Holiday 	27
28	29	30 Activity Bus				

December Activities

			1 “A Day”	2 “B Day” Activity Bus 	3 9:30am-1:30pm Field Trips: 6 th GR Newseum 7 th GR Medieval Times	4
5	6	7 Activity Bus	8 “A Day” 7:00pm Instrumental Winter Concert BOOK FAIR – open during concert	9 “B Day” Activity Bus BOOK FAIR	10 BOOK FAIR	11 
12	13	14 Activity Bus 7-9pm PTSA Meeting	15 “A Day”  7:00pm Choral Winter Concert Practice English and Math MSA (in class)	16 “B Day” 9:30-1:30 Chorus/Band to Olney Theatre Activity Bus	17 6 th GR Soc Studies Residency – Julius Caesar	18
19	20 6 th GR Soc Studies Residency – Julius Caesar	21 1 st Day of Winter 6 th GR Soc Studies Residency – Julius Caesar 3:00pm Boys’ Basketball, SSI @ WO Activity Bus	22 “A Day” 9:30am-12:00 Band & Chorus Concert at Broad Acres ES	23 “B Day” Activity Bus	24 Holiday - Christmas	25 

El Boletín de Noticias está disponible en Español en sitio web de White Oak www.whiteoakms.org.

Inside This Issue: Parent Conferences, Upcoming PTSA Activities and more!

Parent Conferences to be held on Thursday, November 11: Parents will have the opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss academic concerns. The parent conference day has been structured to best fit the needs of our parents. Between 1:15 p.m. and 3:30 we will be having drop in conferences (no appointments needed). At this time parents will have the opportunity to meet with individual teachers to discuss concerns.

- All 6th and 7th grade parent conferences will be in the cafeteria
- 8th grade conferences will be held in the media center
- Electives, physical education and health classes will be in rooms 220 and 222

Between 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. we will have pre-scheduled conferences. During this time, parents who have appointments will meet with all of their child's teachers at the same time. Please contact your child's grade level counselor to schedule an appointment.

Please remember that this is not your only opportunity to meet with your child's teachers. If you are not able to attend parent conference day on November 11th or would like to meet with your child's teachers at another time, please feel free to contact your child's grade level counselor and we will be more than happy to set one up for you.



The **sixth graders** will participate in an art residency through social studies with Interact Story Theater on December 17, 20 and 21. Through the use of drama and tableaux, the students will examine the factors involved in Julius Caesar's rise to power, his assassination and the repercussions for the Roman Republic.

The 6th grade field trip to the Newseum will be December 3. Students need to have their money turned in to their science teacher by November 17. Please contact Ms. Dickerson or Ms. Ventura for more information.



7th graders at White Oak Middle School are scheduled to visit Medieval Times. The new date for this trip is December 3, 2010. Because of the change in date students had a few extra days to turn in permission slips and money. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this trip, please contact the seventh grade team leaders— Mrs. Sutton or Mr. Eddy.



**News for the
Top Cats**

8th grade students have had an exciting start to the year with news about high school choice, field trips, and fundraisers. 8th graders will go on their first field trip of the year November 23 to 300 Shady Grove (Bowling with a Twist). **All permission forms are due to Mr. Grove and Mr. Hwang no later than November 5.** Permission forms and other information are available on the White Oak website www.whiteoakms.org or in the Main Office.

Other important dates to remember:

November 3—Parents may pick up Wolfgang Candy orders from Mr. Grove in Room 125

November 4—Northeast Consortium High School Choice forms due

November 15—Class of 2011 T-shirts arrive this week

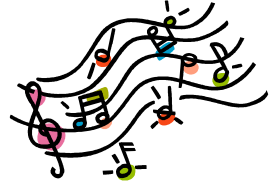
November 23—Bowling with a Twist Field Trip—9:30am-2:00pm

December 14-15—MSA Practice

The Counseling Department will be conducting Student Empowerment Week during the first part of November. Student Empowerment Week will focus on teaching students about the different types of bullying, what to do if faced with bullying, and how to advocate for self and others who might be victims of bullying. The school counselors are also continuing to foster strong relationships with students through the Student Outreach Program. Throughout September and October, Mrs. Khelawan, Ms. May, and Mr. McMillen have been meeting with students to explain the counselor's role to them, tell them what services the counselor can provide, and to get to know each of their students.

After School Activities and Buses: After school buses run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Only students who participate in activities with a sponsor will be allowed to ride these buses. Students who are not participating in an organized activity with a sponsor will need to leave the school building immediately at dismissal.

The Music Department will be performing at several different venues in November and December! On November 22, the Advanced Chorus, Band, and Orchestra will “kick off” their concert tour during the school day at Jackson Road and Stonegate Elementary Schools. On December 22, the same groups will be performing at Broad Acres Elementary School. The Winter Concerts for family and friends will be as follows:



- Wednesday, December 8, 2010 @7pm – Instrumental (Band and Orchestra) Concert in WO Gym
- Wednesday, December 15, 2010 @7pm – Choral Concert in WO Gym

Please come out and support our hardworking students!



Practice Healthful Habits: If you maintain a strong immune system, it can help fight the germs that cause colds and the flu. One strategy to build up your immunity is to eat a balanced diet. In general, it's a good idea to eat a wide variety of colorful fruits and vegetables year-round. This helps your body get the nutrients it needs for a strong immune system, such as vitamin C and folate. Other nutrients that can help improve immunity include zinc, vitamins E, B6, and B12. Foods that may help you resist illness include citrus fruits, berries, spinach, beans and whole grains. Also, studies show that it's important to get enough protein and iron in your diet to fight off colds and the flu. A high-fat diet, on the other hand, may weaken your immune function.



Consider the vaccine: When it comes to preventing the flu, your best defense is to get vaccinated – for the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu.

New Wildcats:

- **Ms. Kelly O'Connell** graduated from the University of Maryland and received her Master's degree from George Washington University. She previously taught math and reading in Fairfax County. She teaches math and reading here to 7th and 8th graders. This is her second year teaching. Ms. O'Connell's students enjoy her personal approach to the curriculum as well individual support. In the second quarter, she will sponsor a homework club after school. She loves baking desserts!
- **Mrs. Alexis Lasek** graduated from East Carolina University. She worked in the immersion program at Burnt Mills Elementary and spent a number of years teaching math at Banneker Middle School. She comes to White Oak Middle School with 12 years of teaching experience. At White Oak she teaches both Math 7 and Investigations of Mathematics. Our students benefit from her training with the Critical Thinking Consortium where she has mastered the use of Promethean Board to support student engagement and critical thinking. At White Oak she coaches the cross country team. She spends most of her personal time with her daughters who are 3 years old and 5 months. She would love to get back to horseback riding.

PTSA Update:

We would love to find ways to get you involved in activities, as well as helping the school. Studies show that *involved parents = successful students*, so become involved! Visit the White Oak website PTSA page:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/whiteoakms/ptsa/> for the calendar, membership form and contact information. In order to protect the environment we are not publishing a paper newsletter. Instead, all announcements are made on Oaknet, our PTSA listserv. To subscribe, send a message to: oaknet-subscribe@yahoo.com.

- **Tuesday, November 9: PTSA Meeting – a Supporting Student Success, 7-9 pm.** Ms. Alvarez (Math Content Specialist) and Ms. Councilman (Literary Coach) will present information regarding the grading and reporting policy and how parents can support student achievement at home. They will show parents how student grades are calculated and how to access Study Island, a computer-based program to practice math and reading concepts. They will also share the support that is available for students at White Oak during the school day, and the after school programs that are offered this year. There will be time for parents to share any feedback about how we can better support their children.
- **December 8-10: Book Fair** (December 8th is Winter Instrumental Concert). Need chairperson and parents to work during the one evening and all three days
- **December 14: PTSA Meeting – Cyber Safety.** Mrs. Jackie Khelawan, 8th grade counselor, and speaker from MCPS discuss how to keep your child safe online.
- All WOMS PTSA meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

We look forward to working with you to help our children succeed!
Allie Plihal, PTSA President

- **PrepTalk**, a biannual newsletter, is a Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College partnership project that provides helpful information for parents and students regarding college preparation and readiness. Topics covered in *PrepTalk* include, but are not limited to, taking tests, planning academic schedules, earning college credit while in high school, attending college fairs, applying for on-the-spot college admissions, and planning for key deadlines. Current and past issues of *PrepTalk* can be found online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/resources/preptalk.aspx>

Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes for November & December

- *Give a Little Time . . . Make a Big Difference*

Develops Personal Sense of Self Worth

- Check the SSL information on the report card. Contact your school SSL coordinator with any discrepancies. Keep copies of all SSL documentation.
- SSL activities help middle school students achieve curricular objectives in Grade 6 science, Grade 7 English, and Grade 8 social studies.
- Students may earn SSL hours with school clubs that focus on service. Often times the service activities involve **indirect action**. In indirect action a need is addressed but students do not meet the recipients of their service face-to-face. Examples of indirect service activities include collections of food, clothing, and/or hygiene items, and fundraising,
- Plan now to be involved in SSL activities over winter break. Look for opportunities on the SSL Web site www.mcpsssl.org, or listen for opportunities promoted at school.

Promotes Responsible Action

- Verification of service performed during the first semester can be turned in throughout the semester, but before January 14 to the SSL coordinator.
- Students find meaningful service-learning opportunities that result from **direct action** with recipients. Activities such as serving food at a soup kitchen, tutoring a child in reading or math, and playing the piano for residents of a hospital are examples of direct action.
- Consider qualifying for MCPS SSL award programs. The Superintendent's SSL Award recognizes students who meet the SSL graduation requirement while in middle school. Students must qualify for these awards by the first Friday in April.
- All SSL opportunities must be supervised by adults representing nonprofit, tax exempt organizations. For profit nursing homes and assisted living facilities are the only exceptions to the nonprofit rule.

Reminders:

- **Check your child's grades on Edline.** Need an activation code? Have a question about Edline? Visit our website at www.whiteoakms.org for more information or contact Mrs. Badger at 301-989-5728.
- **Daily Announcements** are posted on Oaknet listserv and Edline. If you would like to be part of the Oaknet list-serve send an email to oaknet-subscribe@yahogroups.com.
- Every month White Oak MS will publish a newsletter informing you of upcoming events. **Current and archive copies of WOMS Newsletters** are available on the White Oak website www.whiteoakms.org. Click on "newsletters" under Quicklinks.
- **Ways to support our school**
 - **Student make-up portraits will be taken on Tuesday, November 23.** Flyers are available in the main office and on our website. This is a fundraiser and school receives proceeds from Blanton for school activities.
 - White Oak Middle School is now **registered in Harris Teeter's Together in Education program**. The account number for our organization is **8546**. You simply tell the cashier during check-out you want our account number linked to your Harris Teeter VIC card. Or you can link it online. Once the account number is linked, every time you shop during the program, 5% of your Private Label purchases will be contributed by Harris Teeter to White Oak Middle School account. It's that easy!
 - **Updating your Giant and Safeway cards. Schools earn funds to help support programs.**
 - **Giant's A+ School Rewards program** starts October 8, 2010 and runs through March 24, 2011. Parents and supporters must "re"-register their card every year. Please add **White Oak Middle School - number 00886** to your card. For more information visit Giant's website at http://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/index.htm
 - **Safeway's eScrip** program allows participating merchants to contribute a percentage of purchases to schools. To **update and/or enroll** in the **eScrip** visit the Safeway website at www.escrip.com. Follow the steps and designate White Oak Middle School. **School ID number is 6586891**. Be sure to click on White Oak Middle School in Silver Spring. Help support the 8th grade activity with a very simple activity.
 - Clip "**Box Top for Education**" coupons and drop off in the main office any time. Just look for the Box Top logo on hundreds of products. **School earns .10 cents for each Box Top coupon.**

