

Wilkes Whale Watch

Newsletter September 8th, 2009

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Sept 8th - Wilkes Meet & Greet 7:40am – 9:00am
-and-
3rd Grade Back to School, 6:30pm

Sept 9th – 1st Grade Back to School, 6:30pm

Sept 11th – PTO Meeting, 9:00am

Sept 14th – 4th Grade Back to School, 6:30pm

Sept 18th – Harvest Fair

Sept 21st - 2nd Grade Back to School, 6:30pm

Sept 21-25th – **Bus Count Week**

Sept 30-Oct 2 - *No School Conference week*

Oct 8th – **Triathlon!**

Oct 9th - *No School*

Oct 24th – **Wilkes Halloween Carnival**

Principal's Letter

Welcome to the new and improved Whale Watch now combining the PTO and school newsletters into one informative, easy to read edition published the first Tuesday of each month! Each following week we will send out the Whale Watch Express providing important, but short, reminders of upcoming events. We hope to simplify your life (and ours) by providing Wilkes information in one place. Thank you to Marisa Lanning for taking on this task and becoming Editor and Chief!

The 2009-2010 school year is off to a great start. We hope you are adjusting to our earlier schedule. As educators, we are loving it! We get students during their prime learning hours! Our daily schedule is nearly the same with the exception of starting the day 100 minutes earlier each day. We are now beginning to serve lunch before we would have started morning recess on last year's schedule. On the late schedule, students would fade quickly beginning about 2:00. Those last two hours of our day were difficult for all. This year, they can go home and actually have some 'after school' time. We think PLAY is an essential four letter word! We know it's not the schedule everyone would prefer, but as far as a functional school day that works for most kids - it's great!

Please plan to join your child's teacher for Back to School Nights. See you then!

Tuesday, September 8 6:30 PM Third Grade
 Wednesday, September 9 6:30 PM First Grade
 Monday, September 14 6:30 PM Fourth Grade (parent meeting about camp to immediately follow)
 Monday, September 21 6:30 PM Second Grade

Grab a Cup of Joe at the Wilkes "Welcome Back Coffee"



This Tuesday September 8th from 7:40am to 9:00am at Wilkes School. Meet your PTO, talk to Principal Belt and ask

questions at this informal get together. Want to know about the upcoming Bond? Emergency plans? Want to know what a PTO liaison is? We provide the refreshments so drop in after drop off and say 'Hi'!

Wilkes Whale Watch

Newsletter September 8th, 2009

On Your Marks, Get Set,

Triathlon!

On October 8, 2009 Wilkes Elementary School PTO will hold its 1st annual Triathlon.

Every K-4 student will participate in the Triathlon, which will consist of two academic components in the classroom, reading and math, and a Jogathon on the upper play area.

The students will have fun sharpening their reading and math skills and getting some exercise, all while raising money for their school.

Check out the Wilkes PTO website for more information at www.WilkesPTO.org

Harvest Fair

Calling all produce...

The Harvest Fair

(otherwise know as funny vegetable time) will take place September 18th. It is also a food drive for Helpline House. So bring your veggie creations and canned goods in the morning for set-up, invite your folks to view them throughout the day. A good time is always had by all. *For more information please contact Kim Reilly at kimberlyreilly@yahoo.com.*



Halloween Carnival

The Wilkes Halloween Carnival and Haunted House will take place Oct. 24th from 1pm – 5pm. Funds from the Carnival will now go directly towards Wilkes Outdoor Education. We still need chairs to help out with the Carnival. If you would like to help please contact Sarah Bullock at sarahallenbullock@gmail.com

Library volunteers needed!



Looking for a fun and meaningful volunteer opportunity? Consider the Wilkes library. Volunteering in the library is a varied job, consisting mainly of library clerical tasks. If you enjoy children's books, like to help kids find books and to organize, this spot would be an excellent fit for you!

The time commitment consists of an hour, two or three times per month – Training included. *Please contact Lynne Ukich in the Wilkes library (780-3056), or email lukich@bainbridge.wednet.edu.*



Thanks for considering helping out in the library!

Wilkes Whale Watch is a joint publication of the Wilkes PTO and Wilkes Elementary School and is now sent only via the Wilkes email list.

Subscribe to the Wilkes email list at: <http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/?q=emallists/subscribe>

For submissions contact marisalanning@hotmail.com

Wilkes Whale Watch

Newsletter September 8th, 2009

Letter from the PTO President

Welcome to all

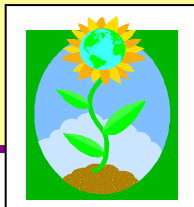
We are so lucky to have a great school and staff, not to mention your wonderful PTO board. The PTO works hard to enhance your children's school experience in many different ways.

We are always looking for additional help. Not sure how to help, please feel free to contact me and I can help you find a job that fits. You are welcome to attend our monthly PTO meeting here at the school. Our first meeting is Friday, September 11 at 9AM. Yes, you may bring your younger children.

The PTO meetings are a great place to learn more about the school and the school district. It provides an opportunity to meet other, like minded parents. Don't have time to attend, no problem. The meeting minutes will be posted on our web site <http://www.wilkespto.org/>. Please take the time to skim them for information on what is going on.

I look forward to meeting you all and working together to form a strong school community.

Thanks,
Kat Gilmore
PTO President
kat@jubbling.com



The Bus Count

Why it matters: A very brief explanation
For every child that is counted riding the bus in the mornings the week of Sept. 21-25, the State gives us money. We need the money. Ride the Bus

The Wilkes Bond

Is back on for the November Ballot.
Have questions? Ask us! Tours of Wilkes school are being set up to better inform the public.

For more information please contact Pam Keyes at pkeyes@bainbridge.wednet.edu

Sign Up for Listserv

Get the latest information from the school district. Sign up online or through your school's office administrator.

Wilkes Whale Watch is a joint publication of the Wilkes PTO and is now sent only via the Wilkes email

Subscribe to the Wilkes email list at: <http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/?q=emaillists/subscribe>

For submissions contact marisalanning@hotmail.com



Wilkes Whale Watch

Newsletter September 8th, 2009

The Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS)

Lawsuit for Ample State Funding for K-12 Education

The NEWS court case is now under way in King County Superior Court. NEWS is a coalition of more than 70 community organizations, school districts and education associations representing thousands of voters, parents, teachers and other concerned citizens who believe the kids of our state deserve a first class K-12 education. The Bainbridge Island School District is one of the 70 plaintiffs in this important fight for fair and adequate funding. Plagued with a long-outdated state funding system that fails to fully fund even the basic elements of a high quality 21st century education, NEWS filed a lawsuit asking the courts to order the State of Washington to live up to its *paramount* constitutional duty to make *ample* provision for the education of *all* Washington children.

For decades, legislators and governors have danced around this issue instead of solving it. They have formed countless task forces, attempted piecemeal projects and made band-aid patches. The time has come for real change that ensures a stable and dependable state funding system for Washington public schools. While legal action is always a last resort, history unfortunately has proven that lawsuits are one of the few effective ways to move the state to make constitutionally required improvements in our education system.

Tom Ahearne, Wilkes parent, is the lead attorney for NEWS. Our thoughts are with you, Tom, and our fingers are all crossed! For more information and to follow the progress of this case, check the very informational NEWS website at <http://www.waschoolexcellence.org/> To learn more about the history of K-12 funding in Washington - http://www.waschoolexcellence.org/about_school_funding

Wilkes Whale Watch is a joint publication of the Wilkes PTO and Wilkes Elementary School and is now sent only via the Wilkes email list.

Subscribe to the Wilkes email list at: <http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/?q=emaillists/subscribe>

For submissions contact marisalanning@hotmail.com