

# WALT WHITMAN MONTHLY



ENJOYING LUNCH!



MUSIC CLASS

## Welcome Back to Walt Whitman!

Dear Walt Whitman Families:

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you back to the 2013-2014 school year! I hope this "new" monthly newsletter finds you well rested and excited about the year to come at Whitman.

We are off to an incredible start and I want to personally thank the staff, community and children for making my transition to this

amazing community of learners such a wonderful experience.

As you can see, the format of our monthly newsletter has changed.

Each month a new newsletter will be loaded to our website, highlighting a few of the classes, programs and activities that we offer at Walt Whitman. Be sure to check the website every month for a new letter.

I am looking forward to making Walt Whitman the best school that it can be for our students, staff and school community.

*"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts" ~ Dalai Lama*

*~Mr. Snyder, Principal*



# Kindergarten- Making New Friends and Keeping the Old!

Our kindergarten classes met for a special unit on friendship. Mrs. McMahon's class joined with Mrs. Trotta's class so that each child could meet a new friend at school. Together, we sang "Hello Everybody" to help get acquainted. Next, we sang "If You're Friendly And You Know It" and danced to the song "Shake Your Sillies Out." The children paired up with a buddy or two who had a matching puzzle necklace. They sat with their new buddy for several activities including reading stories and poems about friends. We even learned a friendship poem. We discussed ways to meet a new friend and how to be a good friend. We culminated with a Friendship Fruit Salad in which everyone brought in their favorite fruit to share.

*By Mrs. McMahon & Mrs. Trotta,  
Kindergarten Teachers*



## SINGING

KINDERGARTEN  
ENJOYED SINGING  
TOGETHER WITH THEIR  
FRIENDS!



## FINDING A FRIEND

WE MATCHED OUR  
PUZZLE PIECES! WHAT A  
PERFECT FIT!



## FRIENDSHIP

EACH CLASS ENJOYED  
MEETING NEW FRIENDS  
AND FINDING FRIENDS  
IN BOTH CLASSES.

# S.O.S Reading Strategies

Go exploring in a good book and discover all the wonderful things that you can learn from reading! To help students enjoy reading, one strategy that establishes a deep understanding is Wilson Comprehension S.O.S (Stop - Orient - Scaffold / Support). While engaging in various reading activities, students are encouraged to actively create a mental movie in their mind and participate in thoughtful, meaningful literacy based discussions.

This helps students to become immersed in literature and think while reading. Comprehension S.O.S encourages students to get caught up in a story and establish long lasting, effective reading habits!

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## WILSON COMPREHENSION S.O.S. (STOP, ORIENT, SCAFFOLD/SUPPORT)

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*By Ms. Nupp  
Special Education*

READING IS FUN!



# Walt Whitman is Cyber-Smart-Internet Safety is Priority Number ONE!

Internet Safety has been the focus for grades 3-5 in Library/Computer. Students are learning about various strategies to stay safe while using the computer. They learn that key guidelines are to ask parents for assistance and not to give out any personal information. Students also are reminded to create strong passwords and not to share

[HTTP://PBSKIDS.ORG/  
WEBONAUTS/](http://pbskids.org/webonauts/)

them with anyone except their parents. Classes have watched BrainPop to obtain facts and then created graphic organizers and Power Point presentations on the computer to highlight their knowledge. They also have answered review questions using the Mimio Vote assessment tool. Children are excited to see the class answers represented in a circle graph. Walt Whitman students take Internet Safety seriously!

*~Mrs. Bullock, Librarian*

## THE GANG



## BROOKVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



### Fifth Grade Team Building at Brookville Environmental Center

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Walt Whitman kicked off the year in a big way! Our “beginning of the school year” routines are well on their way, and our focus now is on “team building.” To help us strengthen our “team spirit,” the 5<sup>th</sup> graders visited the Brookville Environmental Center where they gained an appreciation for the environment through a series of hands-on outdoor challenges. The children discussed basic human needs and how to respond efficiently in survival situations. Student teams

moved through a number of obstacles designed to develop communication, cooperation, trust, and problem-solving skills in an atmosphere of safety, respect, and fun! Throughout the year, we will relate back to this amazing learning opportunity as we embark on our fabulous fifth grade experience.

*By Mrs. Steinberg & Mrs. Tyler, Fifth Grade Teachers*