

Woodmen Hills Elementary



THE QUARTERLY TWISTER ALERT

Woodmen Hills Elementary
Monty Lammers, Principal
Nate Hansen, Assistant Principal

(719) 495-5500

Linda Fiedler, Counselor

September 8, 2009

Dear Families,

I hope that this letter finds everyone having a great start to the year. As I begin my third year as principal, I am reminded of the great parent support that we have here at Woodmen Hills. When our doors opened for the first day of school, the building was surrounded by tall metal fencing and an abundance of scaffolding. As the days and weeks passed during the stuccoing process, you all were understanding of the mess we had surrounding our school. All the work and hassles were worth it because we are very happy with the finished product!

I look forward to meeting those families who are new to WHES this year and continuing to build relationships with the many families returning to our fantastic school. For those of you whom I haven't met, I am starting my seventh year in Colorado and often wonder why I didn't move here sooner. I am originally from South Dakota, so I do not take for granted the mild winters in Colorado. After moving away from South Dakota, I taught in Texas where I met my wife, Erin, before moving to Colorado Springs. We have a son who is almost 3 and loves to spend every waking moment outside, and a 5 month old boy who is entranced by his older brother's antics. I look forward to the day that they get to attend this amazing school. ☺

I am excited to be starting another year with the dedicated staff here at WHES. We were able to retain virtually all of our excellent staff from last year and have added a few more to our team. Including, Mary Pierce, Preschool; Jeff Derengowski, Second Grade; Karen Gummeringer, Second Grade; Layne Macey, Third Grade; Jake Nezbeda, Fourth Grade; Sarah Ross, Special Education; Jeff Houchin, Paraprofessional in MH; Carol Aubry, Paraprofessional in MH; Cindy Jones, Paraprofessional in SLD; and Donna Dunn, Paraprofessional in SLIC.

If you have been in Colorado for more than a week, you know how the weather can change from sunny and warm in the morning to cold and dreary by noon. Fresh air and exercise help our students remain focused throughout the day, so make sure that your kids are dressed appropriately to go outside every day, unless of course, there is severe weather.

IMPORTANT DATES- 2009/2010

9-14 Entertainment book sales end today!
9-16 Skate City Night
9-24 No School for Elementary Students
9-25 3 hour early release
9-28 thru 10-8 Basketball Registration
9-28 thru 10-2 4th grade Rock Fair
10-2 End of 1st Quarter
10-2 Family Fun Festival
10-5 and 10-7 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
10-7 Picture Retakes
10-8 no ½ day Kindergarten
10-9 No school for elementary students
10-12 thru 10-23 Fall Break
10-26 First day back to school after Fall Break
10-29 Chick-fil-a night!

As many of you are aware, peanut allergies have become more and more prevalent in the last few years. In an attempt to make WHES a peanut protected school and a safe place for all students, we are asking parents and students to consider not bringing in snacks and lunches that contain peanut products. I know that this may be an inconvenience for some, but please realize that an accidental contamination can be life-threatening for others. Thank you for your help in keeping WHES a safe place for everyone. Lastly, I wanted to thank all the parents and students who were affected by the classroom shifts in both second and third grade, your understanding and support during this time of transition was greatly appreciated. We are excited to be better able to meet the needs of our students by having smaller class sizes in both grade levels!

I am looking forward to a remarkable year here at Woodmen Hills Elementary School. Please stop by my office to say hello and let me know if I can answer any questions or address any concerns.

Thanks for all you do to support our school,

Monty Lammers
Principal

WHES New Staff for 2009-2010

2nd Grade: Jeff Derengowski and Karen Gummeringer

Third Grade: Layne Macey

Fourth Grade: Judy Gerhart (moved from 5th grade) and Jakob Nezbeda

Special Education Teacher: Sarah Ross

Special Education Para: Cindy Jones, Donna Dunn, and Jeff Houchin

UCCS Teacher Candidates

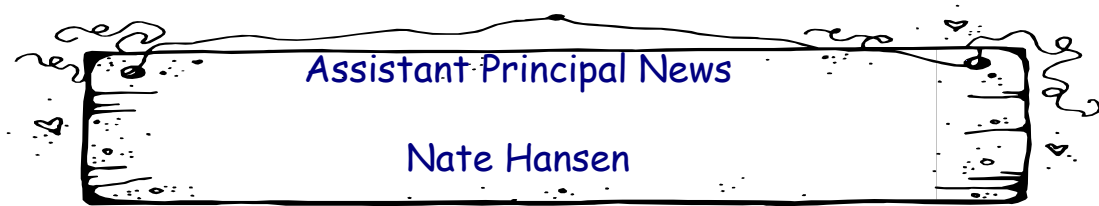
Jamie Mitchell

Wendi Cofer

Michelle Matte

Cori McCain

Brett Wiltz



Welcome back to Woodmen Hills Elementary! The 2009-2010 school year is already off to an amazing start! We hope you had the opportunity to spend some quality time with your family and friends this summer. This is my second year as assistant principal at WHES and I am thrilled to be back at such a great school. I look forward to meeting those families who are new to our community, as well as reconnecting with those who have returned for another year.

I would like to thank the parents who were able to attend our Open House on August 18th. This was a wonderful opportunity to hear about what will be going on in your child's classroom, and to learn a little more about the routines your child's teacher has established.

This year the Falcon School District has developed a Wellness Policy which supports the nutrition guidelines that are in place at the National level, as well as here in Colorado. Our goal at WHES is to promote a healthy lifestyle and support the Wellness Policy guidelines. WHES will have one day per quarter for parties. Those days have been set aside for our Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer parties.

WHES continues to operate under the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) philosophy and we continue to see an improvement in student behavior. Many of our students are growing into positive role models for our school and PBS has also helped lower the number of student office referrals. Thank you for being a proud tornado!

Finally, I would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers we have at WHES. At any given moment I can walk down the halls and I will see a multitude of parents busy in the workroom, helping small groups of students or assisting in classrooms. We need your support every step of the way and when we ask for help it is so encouraging to know that at WHES our parents always respond!

I look forward to meeting you, and working with you to support your child's learning and growth. In order for our students to be successful I feel it is important to keep the lines of communication open, so please feel free to contact me, or stop by at any time.

Nate Hansen

Assistant Principal



Dear Parents and Families,

Counseling is an important part of the total education of children at Woodmen Hills. The purpose of the counseling program at Woodmen Hills is to address student needs so that they are ready and able to learn. Please stop by the counseling office to say hello or to schedule a time to meet and share the special needs of your child.

What does the school counselor do?

Works with students individually, in small groups and in their classroom, learning skills to:

- Develop productive work habits and study skills
- Build positive self images
- Cope with stress and change
- Enjoy healthy relationships with others
- Develop a sense of responsibility for work, family and community
- Make positive, healthy choices
- Set goals and explore opportunities for the future

Works with parents and teachers regarding:

- Academic progress
- Behavior management
- Social adjustment
- Parenting support
- Referrals and community resources

Small counseling groups will be starting in September for students:

- Encountering family changes such as separation, divorce, new step parents, deployment
- Learning healthy ways of expressing anger
- Developing self confidence and positive social skills

How is a student referred for individual or small group counseling?

Parents, teachers, staff or administrators may refer students for counseling. Many students ask to come to talk. Please drop by our counseling office or contact me at: 719-495-5495 or lfiedler@d49.org

I am enjoying your children and looking forward to meeting all of you soon!

Falcon School District 49 Nursing Services



Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your child to our school. Please take a moment to read the following information regarding our district protocols for health services.

Registered Nurses: Nurses in our district cover more than one school and are in each school at least twice a week. When in the school, nurses provide direct care, coordinate vision and hearing screenings, provide assessments for Special Education and are available to teachers, parents and students for specific health concerns. Nurses also strive to provide health education programs in the classroom as often as possible. The nurse at your school has daily communication with the health assistant and is available if any health care need or emergency arises.

Health Assistants: Your child's school has a health assistant in the health room every day. Health assistants are not nurses. They have received training in basic first aid, CPR, and medication administration only.

Health Room: Any student entering the health room will be allowed to remain there for 10-20 minutes. If there is a need to contact parents, we will use the phone numbers provided at the beginning of the school year. **Please provide the school with current emergency phone numbers and update this information as it changes throughout the year.**

Medication Policy: Please be aware that Colorado State law governs our medication policy. If your child must take medication during school hours, you must provide the following before we administer it:

- A written doctor's order (including drug name, dose, time, duration of treatment, doctor's and parent's signature) **This includes all over-the-counter medication. The only exception is cough drops which may be given with written parent permission.** The order may be faxed to the school by the physician. PLEASE NOTE: The pharmacy label applied to the medication bottle will not suffice for a doctor's order.
- Medication must be in the original bottle, complete with label. Medication cannot be given if it comes in a baggie, envelope, plain bottle, etc.
- All medications must be kept in a locked cabinet in the health room. If a student must carry a medication on them such as an inhaler or Epi-Pen, the physician order must state this and the student must sign a self-carry contract.
- The medications provided to the health room will not be available outside of school hours.

Illness Guidelines: Here are a few guidelines to help you determine whether or not to send your child to school. Do not send your child to school if they have:

- A temperature that is over 100 degrees F
- Experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the previous 12 hours
- Cold symptoms, such as constant runny nose, congestion, coughing or sneezing (unless allergy related)
- A sore throat (a child diagnosed with strep throat must stay home for at least 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started)
- Red, inflamed, swollen or discharging eyes (not related to allergies)
- Weeping cold sores or other lesions (such as impetigo) until under treatment
- Rashes that are not yet diagnosed
- Untreated head lice
- Please see the Falcon District 49 home web page (www.d49.org) for updates on H1N1 (swine flu)

Immunizations: All students must have current and up-to-date immunizations in order to participate in school. The only exception to this is if the parent signs an exemption for medical, religious, or personal reasons.

If you have any questions regarding these protocols or immunization requirements for Colorado students, please call the health room at your child's school.

We look forward to a great school year and appreciate your cooperation!

Falcon School District 49 Nursing Services

Woodmen Hills School Nurse: Michelle Gold, BSN, RN

Health Asst.: Shirley Milazzo

Health Room Phone Number: 495-5503



Kindergarten Team

Kindergarten is off to a fabulous start! The teachers want to thank all the parents for coming out before school began for our "Parent Information Night", and for making some special time on the first day of kindergarten to come and spend time in the classroom helping your child feel comfortable.

A big Thank You to PTA for providing the parents "boohoo bags" to help with the transition (which is often harder on the parent than the child).

All Kindergarten students are working on learning the classroom routines and rules.

We are excited about all of our academic programs which include:

Saxon Phonics, enVision Math, and Harcourt Science, Social Studies, and Language.

Kindergarten teachers are very proud of their websites, created with the help of Tammy Whitted our Technology Teacher. If you haven't had a chance to browse it yet, please do!

First Grade Team

First Graders at Woodmen Hills Elementary School have had a fantastic start to the new school year. The First Grade Team is excited to work side by side with our new students and wonderful parents.

In our new writing program called "Preparing to Write: Layers for Success", the students have been playing *Game-On*, where they speak in complete sentences with elaborating details. Other examples of our writing program emphasize the use of exciting verbs and descriptive language such as "deep forest pine green."

Students are challenged to think critically as they think of all the ways that they can be a good citizen in their community.

In science, students have been exploring and participating in hands-on activities in the areas of the seasons, weather, objects in the sky, and the 5 senses. Did you know that even 1st graders can use the scientific process? That's right. Students are taught to make predictions about experiments and then to observe and report results of the experiment. Wow! In social studies, students have discovered landforms, communities, citizenship, rules, and laws. They will also take part in Constitution Day which is a celebration of our constitution and the freedoms it entitles all people. Students are learning patriotic songs - and even songs about the 7 continents and the 5 oceans of the world.

During the first quarter, first grade students have focused on number sense, measurement, patterns, and graphing. Games like Chutes & Ladders help develop number sense in children - and it's one that you can play at home and have fun with your child!

First graders completed their literacy testing in August and the teachers are thrilled to begin guided reading groups and leveled phonics classes. In guided reading groups during the first quarter, students will work on phonemic awareness and phonics. During Tornado Time, students will be grouped according to needs. The focus of our Tornado Time is nonsense word fluency (reading make-believe words), letter naming, phoneme segmenting (breaking sounds apart in a word), and comprehension skills.

The first grade team would like to thank all the wonderful parents and the great administration at our school for making the new school year so successful.

Second Grade Team

Jumping into a new school year is exciting and challenging! We look forward to many fun and fabulous happenings in 2nd grade. Leading instructions in 2nd grade team are Ms. Amy Allmond, Mrs. Erin Catron, Mr. Jeff Derengowski, Mrs. Karen Gummerginger, and Mrs. Wendy Murphy. We are also very fortunate to have Ms. Cori McCoin, a student from UCCS who is completing her field experience in the teacher education program.

The second grade planners and homework folders are proving to be an excellent home/school communication network. Continue to check and initial your student's planner each day. Thank you for returning homework folders promptly!

Literacy is tons of fun through participating in phonics lessons and beginning our small reading groups. It is interesting to code our words appropriately and practice phonemic awareness. We are also reviewing reading strategies and checking up on our reading comprehension. Brainstorming ideas, sentence fluency and using delectable word choice proves to challenge all of us to exceed our potential in writing.

It's all about communities and government in our first Social Studies Unit. We are exploring how a government helps people live together in an orderly and safe way. Also, we are discovering how Americans choose leaders and make laws as well as looking at the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Our focus is a world of living things in the Life Science Unit to include living and nonliving things, animals and plants. Applying scientific processes in our experiments and lessons provide hands-on invigorating mastery of skills.

Mathematically thinking, second graders are engaging in addition and subtraction strategies, problem solving, and explaining our thinking with pictures, numbers and words. Automatic recall of addition and subtraction facts 0-12 is a big goal this quarter, so extra practice with flash cards at home is recommended!



Third Grade Team

Our first quarter is off to a wonderful beginning. The Third Graders have been busy getting to know each other and forming a community of learners. We're into an established routine and the expectations have been taught. The students just finished CogAT and Scantron testing. This is a big adjustment for new third graders and I'm sure you have noticed some tired students coming home at the end of the day. Thank you for sending in school supplies and classroom activity fees. It was very nice to see so many parents at our open house.

Literacy is a big part of our day. This quarter we will be discussing strategies that active readers use such as making connections, asking questions, determining importance and visualizing. Locating the main idea, finding supporting details, and practicing retelling of a story will also be covered. Please support your student at home by encouraging nightly reading. Some areas of focus in writing have been generating ideas for writing, talking and writing in complete sentences, identifying nouns, verbs, and label words.

The skills we are working on in reading and writing will carry over to other academic areas. Students are encouraged to write about their scientific findings during our study of the interdependence of living and non-living things. We will be making daily observations and recordings of plants grown in the classroom as well as the life cycle of a butterfly. We will finish the quarter with a field trip to Venetucci Farm for the Saving Seeds Program.

The middle of September brings Constitution Day which ties nicely into our study of citizenship. We're excited to use our new Social Studies books as a resource for practicing map skills and learning about different landforms. Knowing multiplication facts brings a feeling of accomplishment for third graders. We're excited to build on the foundation they have from second grade. Math instruction this quarter will also include place value, addition and subtraction of larger numbers as well as graphing.

We look forward to visiting with everyone during conferences at the end of first quarter.

Fourth Grade Team

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to begin working with our new fourth graders. In reading, we are beginning with whole group and small group instruction using chapter books. Some of the skills we will begin with are literary elements (e.g., content, plot, setting, problem/solution, and character development), summarizing, identifying supporting details and main idea, and drawing inferences. With math, we will start with place value, counting money and making change. Then, we will be working on addition and subtraction of whole numbers. Currently in writing, we are striving to use strong word choice and idea generation to complete a descriptive writing piece. Each student continues to work on his/her own personal learning goals. In Social Studies, students are learning about the geography and regions of Colorado, and will then move in prehistoric people and Native Americans. With science, they are working on the scientific method, solar system, and rock cycle.

Fifth Grade Team

Welcome New Students and Parents to Fifth Grade!

We, as a fifth grade team are excited to get to know each and every one of you.

We are excited to start the new school year, and we have many exciting and educational lessons planned. In the area of reading, our focus at the beginning of the school year will be to teach our students to locate and paraphrase the key/main ideas and supporting details in fiction and non-fiction literature. Also, we want our students to be able to infer using contextual clues that they will find when reading. In our language program we will begin by having the students identify subjects, predicates, and complete sentences. We want them to be able to identify the four types of sentences, that is, declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory. A focus on correctly punctuating sentences will also be taught. In the area of writing, the focus will be to have the students write for a variety of modes such as narrative, expository, or descriptive for various audiences and purposes. We will be teaching them to organize their writing using logical arrangements of ideas. For math, the students will be learning about place value, and they will be comparing and ordering whole numbers. In their social studies texts, they will be learning about the meeting of cultures from Europe and the Americas, as well as famous explorers and conquerors. In their science classes, the students will be studying how the scientific process is used, and they will learn about cells and the body system. In addition to the student's core subjects, they also go to their "specials". These classes are comprised of technology, art, music, physical education, and Spanish. We look forward to a very fun and productive school year and we appreciate all the support you give us.

Specials



Newsletter for Music

Welcome to a new year in Music. We have a fun-filled year in store for all. Each grade level will present a program during the year. The schedule is as follows:

November 19th ...7:00 p.m.....Fourth Grade

December 3rd ...7:00 p.m.....Second Grade

December 8th ...7:00 p.m.....Third Grade

December 17th ...7:00 p.m.....First Grade

February 18th ...7:00 p.m.....Kinders

March 16th ...7:00 p.m.Fifth Grade

April 22nd ...7:00 p.m.....Choir for 3rd, 4th and 5th

Choir will begin on September 15th from 3:30-4:30 in the music room. Notes will be going out about the cost and times. Choir is for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders only.

There will also be a speed stacking class beginning soon also. A note will be sent home soon in Friday folders. Keep watching for it.

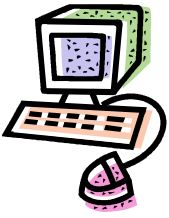
If you would like to help with programs or costumes, please let me know. Karen Crockett, kcrockett@d49.org 495-1149 ext 6448

Thank you for your support of our music programs. I appreciate it



Library News, Karen Kamla

Ms. Whitted and Mrs. Kamla are gearing up for another book fair. The theme for this fall is Destination Book Fair-Read Around the World. As usual, Mrs. Kamla will be celebrating the book fair in a variety of ways as this is one way to get kids excited about reading. She is continuing to work toward becoming a Power Library, which means increasing the collection of books available for students. The fair set-up day is September 30th and we will be looking for volunteers to help with the set up and running of the fair. Michelle Arneson is helping to coordinate volunteers. We will be open October 1st and 2nd, as well as October 5th through the 8th. More information to come soon.



Technology Lab, Tammy Whitted

Welcome to the Technology Lab for the 2009-2010 school year. We are off to a busy start with students in full day kindergarten through fifth grade coming in during their scheduled class time. This year the theme in my room is Duck, Duck, Mouse. The kindergarten and first grade students are starting with [Starfall](#), a phonics and reading site for young children. Second grade students are starting with word processing and working with sight words and writing. Students in third grade have jumped into an animal research project, where they find information about an animal and create a document to show what they have learned about the animal. The fourth grade teachers and I are working on a planets research project with the students. They learn how to find information and organize it into a spreadsheet. The fifth graders are learning to use multiple programs to show what they have learned.

We continue to recycle ink and toner cartridges for printers. Last year, the program paid for more than \$400.00 worth of supplies and kept the components from becoming a part of a landfill.

I am currently putting together a web site to keep parents more informed about what is happening in the technology lab. It is located at <http://whittedtech.pbworks.com/>. It is still in progress, but the list of sites that we use in the lab is now located there and notes to parents will also be posted in the future.

If you have questions, please let me know. My email is twhitted@d49.org and my voice mail is 495-1149 ext. 6433. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know. I have some opportunities where parents can work with students or where parents can help at home and send materials back and forth from home to school.

Physical Education News, Joel Patton

I would like to take this opportunity to explain to all of the new parents what your student will be experiencing in my class. Physical education is a component of education that takes place through movement. It creates the opportunity for individuals to learn and understand academic applications for healthy lives. In physical education students must learn the basic skills which require practice and refinement in physical education settings. Students can integrate and apply these skills in everyday life. Through regular participation in physical activity, students will have the opportunity to develop a pattern of life-enhancing and self-rewarding experiences that contribute to their potential to

be healthier members of society. Students should be challenged to participate daily in healthy choices and health-enhancing activities and behaviors.

Physical education and athletic programs have different purposes. The purpose of physical education is for all students:

- To learn and develop fundamental movement skills
- To become physically fit and to participate regularly in physical activity
- To know implications of and the benefits from involvement in physical activities, and
- To appreciate the value of physical activity and its contributions to a healthy lifestyle.

In contrast, athletic programs are essentially designed for students who desire to specialize in one or more sports and refine their talents in order to compete with others of similar interests and abilities. (Taken from the Colorado Dept of Education Content Standards for Physical Education). WHES does hold a district wide basketball league in the fall/winter for those students what wish to focus on team skills/sports.



Spanish News, Carmen Colon

Email: ccolon@d49.org

Dear Parents/Guardians:

¡Bienvenidos al año escolar 2009-2010! I am Sra. Carmen Colón, your child's Spanish teacher. I am very enthusiastic about working with your child. In the Spanish class, the objective is to expose children to the language, history and culture of the Spanish-speaking people. The focus of the class depends on the grade of your child. The lower graders concentrate more on acquisition of the language (conversational Spanish). Upper graders will be guided more towards specific vocabulary, using different skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Also, the students will learn about geography, history, culture, well-known Hispanics, interesting facts about Spanish-speaking countries, and some distinctiveness of the Spanish language.

As a teacher, my first priority is to provide my students with outstanding education in a safe learning environment. I hope that we can work together in order to reach your child's success.

Feel free to visit or to be a volunteer in our classroom so you can share a fantastic educational experience. I assure you that you will like this moment, leave the classroom knowing a few words in Spanish and having some knowledge about the Hispanic culture.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at the above telephone number or contact me by e-mail.



S.O.A.R. Notes, Ingrid Daniel

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!

I am Ms. Daniel, and I am the S.O.A.R. teacher. What does S.O.A.R. stand for, you might ask? It stands for Student Opportunities for Academic Richness. In other places you might hear a program like this called *GATE*, or *TAG*, or even *GT*. They all mean the same basic thing - this is a program for kids who already know some of the things that the rest of the students in that grade level are working on, and they are ready to be challenged to do more. So, that is what I do - I teach classes that stretch kids' brains! Each quarter I teach a different subject and a different unit to each grade level. This quarter we are focusing on language and thinking skills. So, if you are interested in S.O.A.R. and would like to know more, please contact me at 495-1149 ext. 6442.

Thanks, and keep S.O.A.R.ing!