

# The Wasatch Warrior PTSA Newsletter



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[www.graniteschools.org/jr/wasatch](http://www.graniteschools.org/jr/wasatch)

November 2008

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## From the Principal...

Dear Patrons,

I am amazed at how quickly each month passes. The fact that it is time for the November Newsletter article has caught me off guard a little this month. However, there are a few things that I would like to give you updates about.

First of all, I hope most of you have taken the opportunity to come in and walk around the school. It is beautiful and fun to be working in. It really feels so good to be home. As beautiful as the building is it is not yet completed. At the writing of this article workmen are installing the seats in the auditorium and the sound panels on the walls. The rigging and curtains will take a few more weeks to complete. The media center will be opening its doors for students November 3. Along with new book stacks and new books 36 brand new computers have been installed in the computer lab in the library. These will be available for classes to sign up and use beginning November 3, also. The manufacturing classes, sewing, and foods classes are all operational and final details are being completed. We are hoping that we will be able to have a formal open house sometime soon after all is completed perhaps the very beginning of 2009. Please stay tuned for additional information.

There are a couple of housekeeping items that I hope, by sharing, will help make everyone's life a little easier. When you need to check your student out of school, drop off a forgotten assignment, or leave something for your student you need to go to the counseling office. The counseling office is located on the south west corner of the main office. When you enter the building from the main east doors walk past the doors of the administrative offices and follow the curved wall and you will be at the counseling center doors. If you are calling to check a student out of school the number for the attendance office is 646-5247. Mrs. Leavitt will be receiving those calls and helping you with the proper procedures.

Please spend some time with your student and familiarize him/her with the rules and policies at Wasatch Junior High School found in the planner, if you haven't already. In particular, please review the procedures for checking a student out of school. It is imperative that all students check out properly. Properly means bringing a note in before school and getting a street pass from Mrs. Leavitt. If this is done the student is excused from class at the appointed time and can meet you at a designated area without anyone needing to enter the school. If a student becomes ill or has an emergency and needs to go home during the day the student **MUST go the counseling center and call home and be officially checked out of school**, doing this any other way does not allow the school to verify who the child is leaving with. Current societal trends make it very important that we focus on doing this correctly for the protection of your students.

On a lighter note I want to say thanks to everyone for doing a much better job of adhering to the cell phone and electronic device policy here at school. It has been several weeks since we have confiscated a cell phone or electronic device. Congratulations!

Sincerely, D. Bingham

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## Reflections

The theme this year is WOW! Categories are Literature, Photography, Visual Arts, Choreography/Dance, Film/Video, Theatre, and Three-Dimensional Artistic Creations. Entry forms are available in the front office at Wasatch (in the gray turntable).

Entries are due NOVEMBER 19th.

It will be exciting to see all creativity Wasatch has to offer!

Questions? call Liz VanLeeuwen at 277-5038.

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## PTSA President's Message

What a great start we have had to this year at Wasatch! Thanks to all of you who support our students and faculty and serve in any way.

Showing interest in your child's education, setting high expectations for achievement and letting your child know you believe in his or her abilities, sets an atmosphere for growth and success.

I was standing in the front hall the other day, as a young mother lifted her preschooler up to look over the railing to see the beautiful view of the lunch room and picture windows to the west. "See, you'll get to come here to school one day!" I hope that all families feel welcome and valued at Wasatch. I hope that you also feel welcome and included in PTSA.

Attending our PTSA board meetings is a great way to be involved and get to know other people at the school. Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. The board meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 1:00 PM in the Main office conference room.

With Election Day upon us, I want to strongly urge each one of you, not only to exercise your responsibility to vote, but to be an informed voter. The national elections are certainly important and vital. However, many people fail to realize that some of the most important decisions that affect our day to day lives are made by those elected in local, not so widely publicized races, like City and County Council, Mayor, and local school board representative. Please find out who is running in your area and be informed when you cast your vote. If we want our children to value this country and to understand what a privilege it is to be able to choose our leaders, we must teach by example.

Have a great November, and ...Happy Thanksgiving!  
Susan Kaelin - PTSA President

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## Vision and Scoliosis Screening

Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, will be the fall vision and scoliosis screening. All of the screenings will be done during the student's P.E. class. These screenings will only involve those students in the 7th and 8th grades. If you would like to volunteer to help with either the vision screening or the scoliosis screening please contact Lori Brown at 484-7258.

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## SBO News

The S.B.O.'s are very thankful to Wal-Mart for donating many school supplies and a \$500.00 check to Wasatch Junior High. Wal-Mart did a fundraiser, and picked Wasatch Junior High as the school to receive the funds. There will be a thank you card in the main office that we encourage all students to sign to show their appreciation and gratitude towards Wal-Mart.

We are currently working on our first service project which will benefit Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. We are making fleece blankets that will be given to every child. This project is scheduled to take place in December.

An assembly will be held that welcomes in students and introduces the new theme for the year, "There's no place like home... respect it!" This will be held when the new auditorium is finished.

Thank you,  
Brady Nelson

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## Here Comes Red Ribbon Week...

The Wasatch Leadership Team is excited to put together Red Ribbon Week for 2008. Red Ribbon Week will take place from November 3-7, 2008. Activities are being planned during both lunches along with other activities throughout the week. Each day will have the following themes associated with them:

- Monday, November 3: Underage Drinking
- Tuesday, November 4: Tobacco Awareness
- Wednesday, November 5: Drug Awareness
- Thursday, November 6: Nonviolence
- Friday, November 7: Helping Others with addictions/prevention

November 7<sup>th</sup> will also be celebrated as "Red Day" where we encourage all students to dress up in the color red. This would allow students to show support of Red Ribbon Week and the fight to end the use of drugs. We hope everyone will want to give his or her support!

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## Counseling Center News

“R2=Respect + Responsibility” will be our theme for the 2008-2009 school year. We have visited with all the students in their classrooms to introduce this theme. We want to encourage respect for self, family, peers, teachers, school and community, and personal responsibility. We are excited about our beautiful new school building. We hope students will respect and care for the building and most important, respect and care for each other. We will be emphasizing aspects of this theme throughout the year.

We want to get to know and recognize each student. We will be visiting with the students on or near their birthdays, and will fit in the summer birthdays throughout the year.

Please check out our web site often for counseling center activities--

Go to [graniteschools.org](http://graniteschools.org)—Schools—School directory—Wasatch—School Web Page—Faculty—Click on Mrs. Bechthold or Mrs. Taylor. You can also use this website to email teachers. Just click on the teacher’s email. If you want to check on your child’s attendance or grades, click on “Grades and Attendance” on the Wasatch web page.

We have great students at Wasatch and we appreciate the support we receive from the parents and community.

Thanks! Mrs. Bechthold and Mrs. Taylor

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## Media Center to Open Second Term

Wasatch is pleased to announce the opening of the Media Center at the beginning of second term, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Media Center is located at the northeastern end of the building and has a breathtaking view of Mount Olympus. Along with the view, lots of natural light streams into the room making it an open and inviting area to read and study.

The Media Center houses a collection of new fiction and nonfiction books as well as a computer lab containing 36 new computers. To obtain information on how to check out books and on student use of the computers, please visit the Wasatch Media Center webpage (click on Mrs. Bennett’s name on the Faculty Page of our school webpage) or go to <http://teacherweb.com/UT/WasatchJr/Bennett/>.

Please come in and check out what we have!

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## Drama News

We’re flying! Come and join us for this year’s production of Peter Pan.

Auditions will be held Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, and Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00-6:30 p.m. (or until we finish). Callbacks for principal roles and dancers will be posted Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and held Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

The cast list will be posted Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Those auditioning should come prepared to sing 16 measures of a musical song. If students are not auditioning for a principal role they may sing in groups of up to 4 people. You may bring sheet music for an accompanist or bring your accompaniment on a tape or CD. Please use minus tapes as singing with a recorded voice will prevent us from hearing you. Minus tapes for many musicals are available at Day-Murray Music.

Auditioners will also be taught a short dance combination and will perform it in groups of 6. You should dress comfortably in clothes you can move in. Jeans are not advised. If you are a dancer, wear your dance clothes or sweats.

Once students have completed both the singing and dancing portions of the audition they may leave.

This is going to be a fun show and we encourage anyone who wishes to participate to audition.

Performances will be:

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. (Elementary Schools only)

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m. (Elementary Schools only)

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Hope to see you all there!

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## Instrumental Music Concerts

Parents,

Please add these events to your family calendars:

Holiday Concert, Wed. Dec 17, 7:00 pm

Spring Concerts:

Orchestras, Tues. May 12, 7:00 pm

Bands, Wed. May 13, 7:00 pm

Thanks,

Mr. Watson

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