

# The Wasatch Warrior PTSA Newsletter



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

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## From the Principal...

Dear Patrons,

It is with great pleasure that I write this article. What a wonderful opportunity it is for all of us associated with Wasatch Junior High to be opening this building. As I walked through the halls yesterday, the words of a John Denver song kept playing over and over in my mind. They go something like this, "Hey it's good to be back home again... This (building) feels like a long lost friend. Hey it's good to be back home again". Thanks to all of you that spent so much time attending meetings and making sure that Wasatch would be rebuilt.

There continue to be questions about the progress of the building. I will try and answer a few of the frequently asked questions. The auditorium, as you know, is not yet complete. However, much progress has been made in the last two weeks. The cement floor is in, walls are being painted, and ceiling tile clouds with sound panels are being hung, and auditorium chairs are arriving October 1 for installation.

We are very close to having all class rooms fully operational. There continues, however, to be delays in the arrival of counter tops for a couple of rooms and wiring and duct work in the shop class room. These rooms should be fully operational by the time you receive this newsletter.

Many people have made herculean efforts to make sure the building was ready for students August 25. I would like to mention just a few; Mario Salazar, Control Construction Superintendent. He spent many endless hours here on site, often 16 to 18 hour days for weeks leading up to the beginning of school. Jay Dipo, Head Custodian at Wasatch organized all of our things on to pallets at Churchill for delivery to Wasatch. He worked many double shifts to get the floors ready for students. The Granite District Warehouse workers moved our school and teacher supplies from Churchill to Wasatch in one day. Althea Bennett, our Technology specialist, has worked tirelessly to get computer labs up and running. She has spent many many hours getting us ready to use our labs. Thanks to teachers that have

been patient while the building was being completed, and then, while their supplies and equipment were late in arriving. Mr. Byrom, Mrs. Peterson, and Mr. Watson have been particularly patient.

Most of all, thanks to all of you for your patience and support through this journey. Again you have proven that you are an amazing community. The faculty, staff, and I feel very fortunate to be able to work with your students. Thanks to all.

Sincerely, D. Bingham

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## SBO News

SBO's are busy working on their upcoming assembly which will be the last weekend in October, as well as a Halloween Dance which will be held October 30<sup>th</sup>. We are also planning to do our Talent Show in November.

Our first service project will in December and will be for the children at Woodrow Wilson Elementary. We will be working on fleece blankets and would love to have the fleece start coming in so that we can begin work on the blankets. A blanket will be given to each child.

We are working on developing activities for our theme this year which is

"There's NO Place Like Home.... Respect it!"

We are happy to be in our beautiful new building!!

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## Red Ribbon Week

WLT is working on Red Ribbon Week. It is scheduled for the first week in November. Watch for updates!

Heather Green  
WLT Advisor

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## Meet the Candidates' Night

Tuesday October 21, 2008

6:30 to 8:30 pm - Skyline High School

General Session 6:30-7:30 in the auditorium  
Breakout Session 7:30-8:30 in the cafeteria  
Presented by Skyline and Olympus/Granite PTA councils

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## PTSA President's Message

As we began this new year at Wasatch, I have watched with amazement and appreciation as our administration, faculty & staff, students, parents, and community at large have all worked together to help make the transition into our beautiful new building as smooth and easy as possible.

I have seen happy students helping and caring about each other and their new surroundings. I am overwhelmed with the generosity of time, talent & resources offered by parents & teachers. And, I am grateful that my child gets to spend part of each day here at Wasatch. It is a special place.

Thanks to all the parents who helped with school pictures, and to Martha Jackson, for coordinating all of our volunteers throughout the year.

Thank you as well to Jackie Arbanas and the Hospitality committee for providing a wonderful meal to our great teachers during Parent/Teacher conferences.

We appreciate so much the efforts of Ann Bezdjian with our school directories. They were ready for distribution at P/T conferences. If you paid for a directory and did not pick it up it will be sent home with your student.

Peggy Larsen has been hard at work with our PTSA memberships. If you have not yet joined, I encourage you to do so. If you are among the 663 that have, thank you for your commitment to this worthwhile effort in our school.

I would also like to thank Noel Applebaum and her committee for their tremendous efforts in providing our newsletter, and Deena Lofgren for once again giving us the most fabulous Logo Wear!

If you haven't taken the opportunity to look at our new building, please do so. I think it's spectacular! But even more amazing is what goes on inside each day. It's going to be a great year at Wasatch!

Sincerely,  
Susan Kaelin  
WJH PTSA President

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## PTSA Membership Drive a Success

We just want to thank all the parents and students who joined PTSA. We had about a 17% increase from last year. If anyone is still interested in joining please contact the office.

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## WJH Makes AYP

Dear Patrons:

According to the mandates of the Elementary Secondary Education Act, *No Child Left Behind*, Wasatch Junior High School has been identified as having made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all of the 40 criteria, in addition to attendance rates, as stipulated in the legislation. More information about AYP is available at the Utah Office of Education website at [www.usoe.org](http://www.usoe.org).

Wasatch proficiency scores are listed below:

### Language Arts:

7 <sup>th</sup> grade	94%
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	97%
9 <sup>th</sup> grade	96%

### Mathematics:

7 <sup>th</sup> grade:	71%
Pre Algebra	91%
Elementary Algebra	78%
Geometry	94%

### Science: \*

7 <sup>th</sup> grade	83%
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	87%
Earth Science	78%
Biology	97%

The Wasatch Faculty focuses on providing additional support and assistance for students needing academic intervention through the following programs:

- Academic Tracking
- Tutoring
- Developmental Reading Class
- Teachers' Web Pages

Wasatch Junior High is committed to ensuring that **all** students attain proficiency and will continue the above programs this academic year. We appreciate and applaud your support of school activities and instruction. Please contact the administration at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Doug Bingham, Principal

\* Science proficiency scores are not mandated by the *NO Child Left Behind* Act; they are not included in AYP.

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## Skyline Art News

Skyline High School Theater present Disney's Beauty and the Beast, November 20-24 at 7 p.m. The Fall Instrumental Music Concert is scheduled for October 28. For more information on these events call Barbara King at 278-3877. To purchase tickets online go to [www.graniteschools.org/hs/skyline/](http://www.graniteschools.org/hs/skyline/)

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## PTA Legislative Information

The Utah PTA is a legislative advocacy group. This means that there are several volunteers who carefully watch every bill which goes before our state legislature, and notify local PTAs when a bill either needs public support or needs to be fought. The PTA does not support or oppose any given party or candidate.

Utah PTA's Legislative Priorities are:

1. Parental involvement
2. Class Size Reduction
3. Closing the Achievement Gap
4. Vehicle Safety Law
5. Local Control

The bills that the PTA tags as important are all posted on their website at

<http://www.utahpta.org/advocacy/Bill%20Sheets/AList2.htm>

If you would like to receive emails when important bills need public action, please send your email address to [jtylerpope@gmail.com](mailto:jtylerpope@gmail.com). This is an email account which I use *only* for PTA legislative purposes, and I will *never* share your address or send a bulk email with all addresses showing.

Jeanene Pope  
PTA Legislative VP

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## Girls Volleyball

Try-outs will be held after school on Oct. 20, 2008. Check for the game schedule on the school web site calendar,

<http://www.graniteschools.org/jr/wasatch/calendar/calendar.html>

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## Volunteer Hours

Wasatch Jr. High PTSA wants to keep track of all the volunteer hours contributed to our school. Please send in volunteer hours with your name and service rendered to [marthaeight@yahoo.com](mailto:marthaeight@yahoo.com) or record the hours on the "Wasatch Jr. High Volunteer Hours" sheet in the office. If you have any questions please call Martha Jackson at 424-2222.

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## Reflections

This year's theme is "WOW..." Deadline is Wednesday, November 19th. Areas of submission are: Literature, Music, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance, Film/Video, Theater, 3-Dimensional Artistic Creations. Students will receive more details and submission forms in the next few weeks. They should encourage their creative juices to begin flowing now!!!

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## Directories

The 2008-2009 Student Directories were distributed at the parent/teacher conferences held in September. If you did not pick it up then, they were sent home with your student. Extra copies are available for purchase at the front desk.

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## Smith's Earn and Learn

Wasatch received a \$1,713.50 check from the Smith's Earn and Learn Program. This money will be used for our student body to fund student awards and activities. Thanks to the 44 patrons who signed up with the program.

If you'd like to participate in the program, have Smith's scan the barcode from your Fresh Values card and designate Wasatch as your Earn and Learn recipient. It's just that easy!

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## WLT Turning Into NJHS?

The Wasatch Leadership Team is currently putting in an application to become a chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). What does this mean exactly? Becoming a member of NJHS would allow students to further participate in activities dealing with service, citizenship, character, leadership, and scholarship. NJHS would also allow students to have more participation in school and community events. Students would be required to follow specific guidelines in the categories mentioned above. More information on the progress of our application will be forthcoming!

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## Logo Wear

Still need logo wear? Contact Deena Lofgren h-277-9220 or email [dddnml@aol.com](mailto:dddnml@aol.com)

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## Idle Free Zone

In support of the 'Idle Free Utah' Campaign championed by students from Morningside Elementary, pick up and drop off areas around the school have been designated idle free zones. By turning off your engine when parked for more than 10 seconds, you will save money by reducing fuel use, you and your children will breathe easier by preventing unhealthy exhaust from building up in and around your car, and you will protect the blue sky by reducing idling emissions that contribute to smog because 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

To learn more go to [www.idlefreeutah.gov](http://www.idlefreeutah.gov)

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