

## Whitney Family Newsletter: October 18th

Katie Hawk • a day ago • Sunday, Oct 18 at 9:38 AM • **Whitney Elementary School**



# Whitney Family Newsletter

October 18, 2026

## Important Dates

**Oct. 21st** - Picture Retake Day

**Oct. 29th** - Great & Treat at SHS

**Oct. 30th** - 2:00 Halloween Parade & Parties to follow

**Nov. 2nd & 3rd** - No School for Students

**Nov. 5th** - PTA Meeting at 5:30

**Nov. 11th** - Veterans Day Program 9:15

**Nov. 20th** - Whitney Night at the CAVS Game

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## October is AAC Awareness Month!

October is **AAC Awareness Month!** Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) includes tools such as picture boards and speech-generating devices that support communication. This month, we're celebrating our Whitney student, Gio, who communicates using an AAC device! We're proud to celebrate Gio and the many ways our Mustangs express themselves, share ideas, and connect with others. Every voice matters!

2026 10 16 09 06 20

Katie Hawk



Watch on

## Community Town Hall - Tuesday, October 20 | 6:00pm at Strongsville Middle School

Make plans to join SCS District Administrators and Board of Education members at the Community Town Hall on Tuesday, October 20th at Strongsville Middle School's Auditorium. The Community Town Hall begins at 6:00pm and is your chance to get the facts about the SCS Operating Levy (Issue 9) that will be on the November 3 ballot. A Q&A session will also be part of the night.



## Fall Parade & Party Information

### Fall Parade

Weather permitting, we will have a short parade around the back black top **starting at 2:00 pm**. Families are welcome to come and watch the parade. *Following the parade, only approved volunteers will be permitted into the building to assist with parties.* If we have inclement weather, a cancellation notice will be communicated.

### Fall Classroom Parties

Our PTA sponsored Fall parties will take place on **Friday, October 30th from 2:15-3:15 p.m.** in classrooms. All

volunteers must check in with the office and present a photo ID prior to entering classrooms. As a reminder, you must be a PTA party volunteer to enter.

### Costumes

Students are able to dress up on this day. A great idea for a costume is to dress up as character from your favorite book. Please remember that costumes **MUST** be appropriate (NO spaghetti straps, NO bare midriffs, NO inappropriate icons or graphics). Students should wear their costumes, **non-violent** and simple in nature, to school as students will not be permitted to change into costumes. Look-a-like weapons (including, but not limited to, swords, guns, and knives) are **NOT** permitted. School appropriate masks will not be permitted to be worn throughout the school day, but may be worn during the party. **NO INFLATABLE COSTUMES PERMITTED.** This should be a positive experience by encouraging fun and originality.

## Veterans Day Program - Nov. 11th

Dear Whitney Families,

We are very excited to celebrate and thank our Veterans in honor of Veterans Day this year! If there are Veterans in your family (Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt, parent, etc...) who have served in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or Space Force, we would like to invite them to join us on Wednesday, November 11th at 9:15 a.m. to enjoy refreshments and music in their honor.

Fill out the google form below to indicate if your Veteran will be in attendance. **Due to limited space, we will turn off the google form once we reach capacity, so be sure to RSVP!**

If you would like to share a photo of your Veteran to be included in our photo slideshow, please email it to Mrs. Fadenholz at ofadenholz@scsmustangs.org. If you included a picture last year, you do not need to send it again. Please include the following information in your photo email: **Whitney student's name, Veteran's name, relationship to student, branch of service.**

**Veterans Day RSVP Google Form**

**Sign Up to Donate Food or Volunteer**





## Whitney Night at the Cavs Game

The Whitney Choir will be performing inside the arena's Cliffs Atrium before the November 20th Cavs game.

Whitney PTA has a block reserved and will be purchasing the tickets so that we can all sit together for the game which starts at 7:30PM. Arrival time for choir members is 5:30-5:40 for their 6PM performance.

All participants and attendees must have a ticket in order to access the atrium performance. Attendees do not have to be a choir or PTA member to attend. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mrs. Fadenholz,

Mr. Schibley or Molly Sunkle (molly.sunkle@gmail.com).

Whitney PTA will order the physical tickets all together and will deliver tickets to each buyer via email prior to the game.

Ticket

Link: <https://www.givebacks.com/causes/whitneypta/shop/items/705dc615fc>

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## Whitney Coat Drive - Oct. 26th - Nov. 20th



## Student School Fees

Dear Parents/Guardians: Each year we prepare a statement for you regarding your child's fees. As required by the board adopted student fee list, the items we include in this statement reflect consumable materials your child uses throughout the school year.

You can pay your fees through PaySchool Central ( there will be a small convenience fee applied to your payment) or send cash or a check made payable to STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS. Please include your child's name/grade level/student ID in the memo section.

If you have multiple students in the school system, you can pay all fees with one check.

Due date: December 18, 2026. Questions? Contact the secretary at **(440) 572-7180**

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# Attendance Law Changes

**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

Effective September 30, 2025, the State of Ohio updated its school attendance laws. As required by state law, all Ohio school districts, including Strongsville City Schools, have adopted policies and procedures to implement these changes beginning with the 2026–2027 school year.

One of the most significant changes is that school districts are now required to notify parents before a student reaches **5% absenteeism (7-8 days)**, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. This early notification requirement is intended to encourage proactive communication and collaboration between schools and families before attendance becomes a more significant concern.

At Strongsville City Schools, we place a high value on consistent student attendance and appreciate the efforts families make to ensure their children come to school ready to learn each day. Your partnership is essential to your child's academic growth, social development, and overall success.

When students are absent, they miss more than assignments. They also miss classroom discussions, collaborative learning experiences, teacher feedback, hands-on activities, and meaningful interactions with their peers. Many of these learning opportunities can only occur through active participation in the classroom and cannot be fully recreated outside of school.

It is also important to understand that Ohio law distinguishes between **Chronic Absenteeism** and **Habitual Truancy**. **Chronic Absenteeism (Includes All Absences)**

- Defined as missing 10% or more of the required school hours during a school year.
- Includes all absences, whether excused or unexcused.
- Missing approximately two school days per month may result in a student being identified as chronically absent by the end of the school year.

**Habitual Truancy (Unexcused Absences Only)**

- 30 or more consecutive hours of unexcused absences.
- 42 or more hours of unexcused absences in one school month.
- 72 or more hours of unexcused absences during a school year.

It is important to note that receiving a notification regarding 5% absenteeism does **not** mean your child has violated attendance laws or is considered truant. Rather,

it is an early communication required by Ohio law to help keep families informed and to encourage collaboration before attendance concerns become more significant.

If your family is experiencing circumstances that make regular school attendance difficult, we encourage you to contact your child's principal, school counselor, or attendance office as early as possible. Our goal is to work together with families to identify supports, remove barriers to attendance whenever possible, and help every student experience success in school.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education. By working together to promote regular attendance, we can maximize every student's opportunity for academic achievement, meaningful relationships, and a positive school experience.

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# Picture Retake Day

Here's a quick guide to how retakes work:

## **1. Student was absent on the original picture day**

No worries! Any student can have their picture taken on retake day. An online ordering site will be available at [cavanaughphoto.com/order](https://cavanaughphoto.com/order) for parents who need to place an order. If parents already placed an order before picture day, that order will still be honored and it is in our system. They will not need to place another order.

## **2. Student had pictures taken but would like a retake AND they purchased pictures**

Students need to return the original picture packet that was ordered. If only a hi-res digital file was purchased, parents need to send a note letting us know. A new package cannot be printed or a digital image reordered until the original packet and note is returned. The retake pictures will be delivered three weeks after retake day.

## **3. Student did not place an order but would like a retake**

No problem! Teachers can send/bring their students down for a retake. We advise parents to let the teacher know that the student would like a retake since nothing is returned with the student. If no order was placed for the retake photos, a proof will be delivered with the retake photos.

Pictures stay online until June 30, 2027 and if a student has a retake, both photos are put in their online gallery. Parents can go online with their student's school ID at any time and purchase photos.



# Stoller Fundraiser is Back!

**Famous Butter Braids, Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough, Cake Rolls & MORE!**

It's hard to believe the holidays are just around the corner! And what better way to get ready than with some delicious treats while supporting a great cause?

Our **Stoller Fundraiser** will kick off **Monday, October 5th**, with delivery just in time for the holidays!

**Orders will be accepted through October 19th. Delivery/Pick-Up: November 12th from 4:00–5:30 p.m.**

**Seller registration and online ordering:**

**<https://portal.myfundraisingplace.com/register-seller/6b8103d7-3759-4282-8185-90e84cfc8cf2>**

**Questions or having trouble with your order?** Please reach out to me at **[adonnellan5@yahoo.com](mailto:adonnellan5@yahoo.com)** and I'll be happy to help! Thank you for supporting our fundraiser and helping make it a success!

**Happy fundraising & happy baking!**



**WHITNEY**

**STOLLER FUNDRAISER IS BACK!**

Butter Braids • Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough  
Cake Rolls & **MORE!**

*Just in time for the holidays!*

Starts  
**October 5th**

Order through  
**October 19th**

Delivery / Pick-Up  
**November 12th**  
4:00–5:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact  
adonnellan5@yahoo.com

*Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!*

## Save the Date: SCS Greet & Treat - Oct. 29th!



# Flyers

## Kemper House Greet and Treat - Oct. 28th



# Your Squishy Hutning Ends Here!

Tired of searching for Needoh's? The Strongsville Education Foundation has put together an amazing Needoh Raffle Basket featuring 13 Needoh's!

## HERE'S WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Cloud Pleaser  
Sploot Splat  
Color Change Cube  
Color Change  
Jelly Squish  
Snowball Crunch  
Dohnut  
Nice Cube  
Gumdrop  
Squeezza  
Dream Drop  
Teenie Funky Pup  
Teenie Fuzz Ball

**\$10 per entry**

**Winner drawn November 1!** Winner will be announced right here on the **Strongsville Education Foundation Facebook page!** Even better, **all proceeds benefit the students and staff of the Strongsville City School District!**

**13 Needohs. 1 lucky winner. \$10 to enter.**

Stop the squishy search and enter for your chance to take home the whole collection!

www.thesefoundation.org

# NEEDOH BASKET RAFFLE

13 NEEDOH'S/\$120 VALUE

 WINNER DRAWN ON NOV. 1ST

**\$10/ENTRY**



**XSEF**  
STRONGSVILLE  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO BENEFIT THE  
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN THE STRONGSVILLE  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**LOCAL PICK UP ONLY**  
**WINNER ANNOUNCED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**



**Strongsville is Ready for Liftoff!**

**Mad Science® Presents:**  
**NASA: Academy for Future Space Explorers**  
 @ Ernfelt Recreation Center

Children will be taken on a voyage of space discovery through hands-on activities, amazing demonstrations and take-home experiments with each class. Explore the moon and planets; including Earth's own atmosphere and other space phenomena. Learn what it's like to travel and live in space and investigate the forces of flight by building your own ROCKET!

**Class Topics Include:**  
 Rocket Science  
 Space Travel  
 Space Technology  
 Living in Space  
 Sun and Stars  
 Planets and Moons

**Dates:** September 30, October 7, 21, 28  
 4 Wednesdays  
 November 4, 11  
 No Class: October 14  
 Time: 5:45 – 6:45 PM  
 Grades: K - 5  
 Resident Member: \$140  
 Resident Non-member: \$146  
 Non-Resident: \$152

[Click Here For More Information or to Register](#)

**Mad Science BRIXOLOGY®:**  
**Carnivals, Crawlers and Other Creations**  
 @ Ernfelt Recreation Center

Join us for the journey through this exciting STEM series that utilizes LEGO® bricks to introduce children to engineering in a fun and engaging way! Each week combines an in-class build created by a LEGO® Certified Designer with a related take-home item that allows the creativity to continue at home!

**Our instructors undergo BCI/FBI background checks.**

**Class topics include:**  
 Towers  
 Carnivals  
 Machines  
 Creatures

**Dates:** November 18, December 2, 9, 16  
 4 Wednesdays  
 No Class: November 25  
 Times: 5:45 – 6:45 PM  
 Grades: K - 5  
 Resident Member: \$99  
 Resident Non-member: \$106  
 Non-Resident: \$112

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# YOUTH SOCCER CLINIC

FOR BOYS & GIRLS **ALL AGES**

Anyone is welcome to come out for an exciting day of soccer as the Oberlin Women's Soccer Team takes on Mt. Union! Stay after the match for a FREE youth clinic where players will have the opportunity to train with our USSF-registered scholar-athletes, build their skills, learn new techniques, and most importantly - have fun!

It's a great chance for young players to experience the college game up close, connect with collegiate athletes, and enjoy a memorable day on the field. We can't wait to see you there!

**SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER  
GAME CONCLUDES

200 Woodland St., Oberlin, OH 44071



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!**

**PINEWOOD DERBY - CAMPING - CANOEING - ARCHERY**

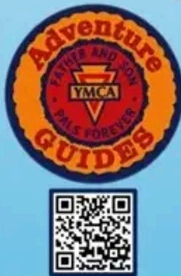
**YMCA Adventure Programs:**  
(Formerly Indian Guides & Indian Princesses)

# DAD & KIDS FUN !

*Get to know your kid while they're still a kid.*

- For Dads (or father figures) + kids age 5 through 4th grade
- Three signature camps each year + year-round events (see back of flyer)
- Low commitment —only come to the events that fit your life
- YMCA membership is not required

**Your time is the best thing you can spend on your kids !**







## Signup Today!

*Join us at our Free Recruiting Rally !*

**September 20<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM**  
North Royalton YMCA  
11409 State Rd

- *Jungle Bob Animal Show*
- Inflatables
- Cotton Candy & more!

**HALLOWEEN & CHRISTAS PARTIES - PARADES - CAMPFIRES - DANCES**

**SLEDDING - BOWLING - PINBALL - HIKING - SKATING - WATERPARKS**

*You are not alone.* ♥  
SUPPORT. HEALING. HOPE.

13477 Prospect Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44149  
Suite 214

Please contact Carrie Jancar  
216-299-1978  
cjancar@scsmustangs.org

Supporting parents and children  
through every step of the journey.

**Girls Group**  
Supporting confidence, resilience,  
and self-acceptance in  
girls ages 9–12.  
SATURDAYS  
10:00–11:15 AM

**Boys Group**  
Supporting confidence, resilience,  
and self-acceptance in  
boys ages 9–12.  
SATURDAYS  
11:30 AM–12:45 PM

**Parent Support Group**  
Supporting parents and  
helping children thrive.  
THURSDAYS  
6:15–7:15 PM

*Together, we can heal, together, we can grow.*  
♥ ALL ARE WELCOME. ♥

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# Repeat Information

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## Shared Food Guidelines

## Shared Food Letter

## Shared Food Guidelines

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### Join the Whitney PTA!

