



whitakercircleofcommitment.org

GET INVOLVED!

Share your time, talent and donations!

MEET OUR NEW PRINCIPAL - FRI, JAN 23, 8-9 AM Join us in the Whitaker cafeteria for a meet-and-greet. Dr. Olsen will give a brief introduction at 8:15am, and parents/guardians can drop in before and after to meet him. Mini doughnuts and coffee will be served.

PROGRESS REPORT

Hear about what the Circle is doing

- Our **MRS. PUMPKIN'S** fundraiser is a modest yet meaningful way we bring in money that's used to support our school. This fall's orders brought in **\$2,000**, and those funds will be put to work this spring. Thanks to all who placed orders!
- The **STAFF HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** provides monthly lunches, "Terrific Tuesdays," for our wonderful staff. These lunches are catered by local businesses and wouldn't be possible without our volunteers who organize the meals and set up/clean up afterwards.

“I've loved engaging with the teachers and staff. It's the perfect way to support the amazing individuals who give so much to our children.” ~ Sara Cochran, K & 2nd grade parent and staff hospitality committee volunteer

“Volunteering allows me to play a small part in offering a well-deserved indulgence to our teachers and staff. They work tirelessly, so it means a lot to be part of a group that expresses genuine gratitude.” ~ Paige Hass, 2nd & 4th grade parent and staff hospitality committee volunteer

WHITAKER WISE

Access Whitaker resources

CLAIM YOUR ITEMS! Call us crazy, but we're dreaming of warmer weather and ready for some spring cleaning. Please check out the **LOST AND FOUND** - any items unclaimed after Jan 31 will be donated.

Be on the lookout later this month for **SCHOOL TOUR** dates and sign-ups that you can share with families considering Whitaker. Let's show prospective Eagle families what makes our school incomparable!

For all our 5th grade Eagles preparing to leave the nest, **CHOICE AND MAGNET SCHOOL APPLICATIONS** are open until 1/30. Find more information at www.wsfc.k12.nc.us/page/student-assignment

Let's all do our part to help the **MORNING CAR LINE** run smoothly. Families that drive to school and use the AM car rider line are asked to stay in their car and use the drop-off line. If you drive to school and want to walk your student to the entrance, please park in the top parking lot off Dartmouth Rd. and use the pedestrian walkway to cross.

CIRCLE THE DATE

1/7

January Bike Bus

> 7:15am (departs Buijs), 2:30pm (departs WES)

1/13

Terrific Tuesday & Duty Free lunch

1/13

Report cards home

1/19

No school

> Martin Luther King Day Holiday

1/23

Principal meet-and-greet

> 8-9am, WES cafeteria

2/4

February Bike Bus

> 7:15am (departs Buijs), 2:30pm (departs WES)

2/10

Terrific Tuesday & Duty Free lunch

FEB 23-27

Scholastic Book Fair

CIRCLE EVENT whitakercircleofcommitment.org/events

SOARING SPOTLIGHT

Meet DR. IAN OLSEN New WES Principal

Welcome to Whitaker! What are you most excited about at our school?

I am excited to get involved with the Whitaker community and families.

It is great to meet and connect with the students, parents, and families.

Relationships are important and I am going to work on building strong relationships with my students and families.



What areas of growth will you focus on at Whitaker this year?

I want to listen to the concerns and needs of our Whitaker family and work on ways to support them. I also want to identify our successes and highlight them for our community.

What are three things that you would want the parents and students to know about you?

- I am an educator at heart. I love to learn. My favorite subjects in school were science, chemistry, and math.

- I am a parent too. I have a young family. My wife is an ESL teacher at Spears Elementary. My daughter is a 1st grader at Jefferson Elementary, and my son is three.

- I love sports. My favorite sports are basketball and football. I love to watch Michigan State and the Detroit Lions.

Tell us a few of your favorite things!

I love the outdoors and fishing. I love coffee. I love to travel.

PLATINUM BUSINESS PARTNER SHOUT-OUTS!

Huge thanks to **Forsyth Family Dental** for their support, and for taking care of smiles while making patients feel relaxed and comfortable. Check them out for your family's dental needs! forsythfamilydentalinc.com

Garner Foods is a beloved Winston-Salem institution, from the Texas Pete on our tables to Green Mountain Gringo salsa on our chips. Thank you Garner for your generous (and flavorful!) support! garnerfoods.com

Reynolda Equity Partners combines brilliant business thinking and a true partnership approach, helping their portfolio companies navigate growth with strategic, operational and financial guidance. Thanks for helping Whitaker thrive, too! reynoldaequity.com

GOLD PARTNER OF THE MONTH

Goes to **Legna Software** - thanks for your support! legnasoftware.com

NEW PRINCIPAL MEET & GREET

WHITAKER
CIRCLE

FRI JAN 23RD 2026 • 8AM-9AM
WES CAFETERIA

DR. IAN OLSEN will give a brief introduction at 8:15am, and parents/guardians can drop in before and after to meet him. Mini doughnuts and coffee will be served.

 CIRCLE EVENT



WHITAKER
CIRCLE

WHITAKER wear

SHOW YOUR EAGLE SPIRIT



Shop the online store for hoodies, sweatshirts and nest colored t-shirts! All purchases come home in backpacks.



whitakerESwear.myshopify.com

 CIRCLE EVENT

SUPPORT WHITAKER WHILE YOU SHOP!

WHITAKER
CIRCLE

Link your grocery rewards cards to give a small percentage of your grocery bill to Whitaker.

 **Harris Teeter**
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET

 **TOGETHER IN
EDUCATION**

Link your card in-store by giving your cashier **Whitaker's code 1767**

OR Link on the Harris Teeter APP

OR Visit harristeeter.com and click "Link your VIC card today!"

Add **WHITAKER ELEMENTARY** to your account.

 **Publix
PARTNERS**

Join Club Publix at publix.com

Add **WHITAKER ELEMENTARY** as My Publix Partner

Enter your phone number at checkout or pay with Publix app to earn rewards.

 **Lowes** FOODS 

Link your card in-store

OR Visit lowesfoods.com/back2schools
Click "Link your school to your card."

Enter your **card # & first 3 letters of last name** or **phone # & first 3 letters of last name**

Add **WHITAKER ELEMENTARY** to your account.