

White Wing School Board Committee
Annual Report 2008- 2009

This year's White Wing School Board Committee is made up of church members, parents, and friends of White Wing School. They are Lisa Eastland, Michelle Lanier, Victoria Agnew, Dave Hudson, Laurie Goodman, Becky Parsons (Director White Wing School) Amy Snedaker (Secretary), Joyce Bedard (Treasurer), Kate O'Shea (Vice-Chair), and Jenn Morton (Chair).

We had an extremely busy and productive year. After a two year process, our NAEYC Accreditation visit and evaluation is complete!! The White Wing director, teachers, and staff spent countless hours gathering thousands of pieces of evidence to put together in portfolios to prove the integrity and value of our quality Early Childhood program. The documentation portfolio process was arduous. Board members donated time in classrooms so that the teachers had time to work on their portfolios. The UU Church Sexton, Sandy Martinage, worked with the White Wing School director, Becky Parsons, to ensure that our physical facility was prepared for inspection. The difficult and stressful road that we traveled this year leading up to the accreditation visit will all be worth it when we hear that we have been accredited by NAEYC. We will find out the official results this summer.

The end of this year brought the retirement of Karen Trowbridge, a White Wing School teacher for 31 years! The dedication of valuable, talented teachers such as Karen is one of the wonderful attributes of White Wing School. The Board certainly appreciates Karen's many years of service to the families and especially the students of White Wing School.

Financially, White Wing School has enjoyed an amazing year. Thanks to vigilant bookkeeping by Becky Parsons and Joyce Bedard, we have stayed on track or under our projected budget numbers for the year. Our enrollment numbers always fluctuate a bit during each school year, but this year we have been lucky to end the year in a good place.

However, difficult times are upon us. Hudson, the last town in the area that was holding out from offering Kindergarten at their public schools, has now decided to go ahead with that program. Our Kindergarten enrollment numbers dropped dramatically after this announcement. For many years we have offered two Kindergarten classrooms. We now longer have the enrolled student numbers to support this. Additionally, hard economic times and job loss have seen a decline in our 3 year old program numbers. For White Wing School, lower enrollment means less money in the budget. Going into next year, there are numerous budget cuts. Teacher positions have been eliminated. Our challenge for the future is to offer different programs and additional ways to grow the enrollment of this high-quality early childhood educational program.