The Whitman Green Park Bilingual Program is reaching the end of a successful second year placing Spanish speaking Whitman students in K-3 bilingual classrooms. Over the past two semesters, 34 volunteers have contributed 500 hours of service to the classrooms at Green Park Elementary. The volunteers act as a safety net for students who need extra support by working one-on-one or with small groups of children in math, reading, writing and science.

The Bilingual Program hosted a family fun night at Green Park Elementary, serving as a celebration of bilingual education and offering an opportunity for volunteers to connect with the families of Green Park and community partners involved in the Hispanic culture. A big feature of the night was a traditional dance performance by Pioneer Middle School’s Ballet Folklorico.

Elizabeth Razo, Green Park second grade bilingual teacher stated, “On behalf of our staff, students and families, I believe that the Bilingual Family Fun Night was a huge success!”
Family Mentor Night

A legacy that Whitman Mentor Program Intern Leslie Rodriguez `15 will leave is the implementation of her vision to create a bridge between mentors and the K-5 students they spend time with each week, and the mentee families. With this 21 year old program that offers role models to local elementary students identified by the district’s intervention specialists as needing extra emotional and social support, Family Mentor Dinners started as an idea and soon became a reality this past year. Leslie has been a mentor with the program for four years and wondered what it would be like to bring everyone who cared about a particular mentee together at the school to create evening of wonderful memories.

Family mentor dinners were held with each school's mentors, mentees and families between November 2014 and April 2015. Average attendance at each event was approximately 50 people - a diverse mix of K-5 public school students and their college mentors, parents, aunts, uncles and even cousins! Community connections were made as games were played or crafts made, lots of Big Cheese pizza and veggies were consumed, and foundations were laid for the development of new relationships between kids, college mentors and local families. In 2015, 90 Whitman students were paired with 90 local K-5 students to form friendships that are a win-win. The Whitman student gets off campus and changes their scenery, pace and purpose. The delight of being “King of the Playground,” a kick-ball superstar or friend to many playing tag, is healthy and meaningful for young adults. For the public school student to have a college friend arrive in the lunch room at the same time and day each week, all school year long, looking for them, is profound.

Inspiration:

“Not only did it (family mentor night) make me appreciate what I have a lot more, it helped me understand my mentee's background and her struggles. It also made me want to be an even better mentor for her.”
– Jessy Cherry `16, Edison Elementary
Classroom Programs

Whitman students, faculty and staff take amazing resources to the local schools where we explore science with pre-K through fifth grade students. We have developed four programs that are designed to directly support the science curriculum being taught in the classrooms we are visiting.

In first grade classrooms across the district, we study the phases of matter while making “Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream”. Third grade students come to campus to visit the Planetarium with Professor Andrea Dobson while “Investigating Objects in the Sky.” Our “Snakes Alive” program engages fourth grade students while they study habitats. During the “Clay Conundrum Lab,” students examine data they have collected while conducting an experiment on absorbancy of clay minerals.

These programs support STEM education while giving students of the Walla Walla Valley a chance to experience science in a hands-on way. Our programs travel to Walla Walla and College Place elementary classrooms sharing resources from Whitman with scientists of the future.

Science Outreach

99 classrooms received science programs
19 faculty and staff creating programs for K-12 students
994 participants at the Family Science Nights
96 volunteers from Whitman and the community

Fun: “Working at the science nights this year has been a blast. Students and parents are so excited to participate in the activities.” – Julia Karschney ’17
Family Science Nights at local Elementary Schools encourage families to work together and have fun while investigating scientific principles designed with STEM in mind.


Over 950 parents, grandparents and children traveled through the stations at their own pace, sometimes spending the whole evening building a tower out of spaghetti and other times racing through trying to complete all the activities.

Thank You!
The power of partnership is strong. Our partners give in many ways. They give time, opportunity, cooperation, collaboration, grants and connections. Each year we work with many different community partners. We are grateful for all the gifts that are given. Every partnership is critical to the success of our programs.

Family Science Night

Our Partners
Assumption Elementary-Middle School  Green Park Elementary
Berney Elementary  Joseph L. Stubblefield Trust
Blue Ridge Elementary  Lincoln High School
College Place Public Schools  Pacific Power
Clara and Art Bald Trust  Pioneer Middle School
DeSales High School  Prospect Point Elementary
Edison Elementary  Sharpstein Elementary
Garrison Middle School  The Mary Garner Esary Trust
George Welch Trust  Walla Walla High School
Great Explorations in Education (AAUW)  Walla Walla Public School District Office

Contact Information
Heidi Chapin  Susan Prudente
Science Outreach Coordinator  Outreach Coordinator
chapinh@whitman.edu  prudensk@whitman.edu
509-522-4441  509-527-5183

Parents look on, watching while their children explore the fascinating concept of Radial Chromatography at Family Science Night.