

# Whittier Parent Newsletter



September  
2018

## Welcome to The New School Year!

Dear Whittier Community,

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start! The students have been working hard and have done a fantastic job adjusting from summer break to school. Hats off to the tremendously talented Whittier Wildcat staff for their intentionality in planning and delivery engaging welcome back activities to assist helping our friends get back into the routine of school. I have enjoyed observing our friends working hard while having fun in and out of the classroom.

Thank you to all the families and friends that attended our Curriculum Night on Wednesday, September 12th. We had an excellent turnout of family and friends! I hope you enjoyed learning about the many wonderful learning programs we plan to engage our friends throughout this school year. Our goal is to provide meaningful academic experiences for all students to increase their academic performance, having a feeling of belonging, providing opportunities for our students to have a voice in their learning and learning environment, and to continue to work together as staff to create a positive culture and climate conducive to high expectations for ALL.

As always, please feel free to contact me (708-524-3080; [probinson@op97.org](mailto:probinson@op97.org)) if you have any questions. My office door is always open to chat! If you would ever need to schedule a meeting with me, please contact Keren, 708-524-3080 or [krichardson3@op97.org](mailto:krichardson3@op97.org) to schedule a meeting.

Educationally yours,  
Principal Robinson



## September's Highlights

### PTO Family Back to School Picnic (Sept. 6)

Turnout was great. Thank you all that participated, it was great having the opportunity to meet many of the Whittier community. Special shout out to PTO for all of the hard work that went into the planning and organizing. Kudos!

### Curriculum Night (Sept. 12th)

Another successful event! Thank you to all the families and friends that came out to learn about many of the unique things we are doing at Whittier.

### Picture Day (Sept. 25th)

Please prepare those beautiful smiles!

### New Family Night (Sept. 27th)

New Family Night is an opportunity for all Whittier new families to learn about all the things that make Whittier unique. If interested in attending, please respond via interest form or email to the main office.

## October Events

### International Walk to School Day

October 10

### Wildcat Fun Run

October 10

### PTO Book Fair

October 24-26

### Family/Teacher Conferences

October 24-25

### Pumpkin Festival

October 29-30

### Halloween Parade

October 31 @ 12:30pm



Remember to be...

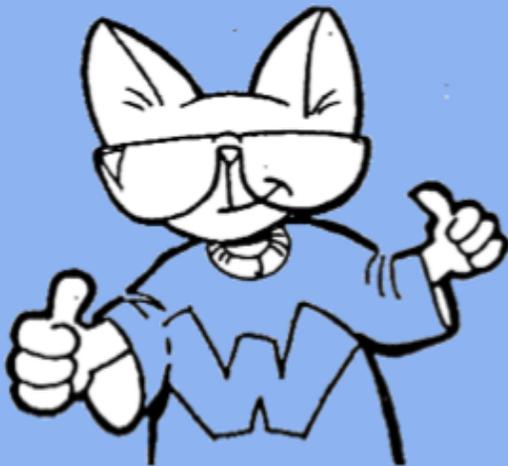
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Safe

## Off to a Great Start!

### Attendance

A special thanks to the Whittier Community for your working in ensuring our friends arrive at school on time and ready to enter the building directly at 8 am. Kudos! Let's continue to work collaboratively to ensure each child has a smooth start to the beginning of the school day by making sure they arrive and are lined up by 7:57 am.

Starting next month, a special raffle will be held to reward individual students who are on time to school each day. Students who arrive each day to school, before 8 am, will be entered into the raffle drawing for a chance to win a special prize at each grade level. Please help reinforce the importance of school and your child's education by supporting your child's efforts to be punctual each day.



### Message from Nurse Winklhake

It is that time of year... time to start being vigilant about lice!

Head lice are gray insects about 1/8" long. They can be difficult to see since they avoid light. The nits or eggs are smaller, have an elongated teardrop shape and are stuck to the hair shaft near the root. They resemble dandruff but cannot be flicked off the hair shaft. Nits can only be removed by pulling them off the full length of the hair strand manually. Itching of the head can be a common symptom; however, students are often unaware that head lice are present.

Head lice bugs are transferred from one person to another by direct contact with an infested person's head or by contact with personal items such as hats, headgear, combs, brushes, bedding or upholstered items. Lice do not jump or fly...they crawl. Re-infestation occurs when there are nits left undetected that hatch, and a live bug is once again present.

Please stress to your child not to share hat, combs, coats, or hair accessories. This will decrease the risk of transmission. Classroom head checks will not be performed as they are not recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We ask that you notify the School Nurse if you suspect your child has lice. Additionally, the School Nurse can do head checks per parent/teacher request in the event of a suspected case of lice.

**Be vigilant. Check your child's head often.** Please contact me anytime with questions.

Sincerely,  
Hilary Winkelhake, RNM  
Whittier School Nurse

### Reminder to Family and Friends

- PTO – Meeting Oct. 2 @7pm
- PTO – Parent Common Ground Parent Coffee – Oct. 5 @8am
- No School Monday, October 8th
- Half-day of school Oct. 25-26



*Tell Me and I Forget. Teach Me and I May Remember. Involve Me and I Learn.*

*Benjamin Franklin*

## Fall Assessment Window



Last week we started our fall assessment window. Students will participate in a variety of assessments to gather baseline data that teachers will use to plan and deliver whole class, small groups, and individualized instruction with the goal of ensuring all students are successful. The data gathered will also be used to guide school-wide, classroom specific, and student specific curriculum and intervention decisions. Parents/guardians will receive information on their child's assessments result at parent/teacher conferences and next steps for your student(s).

All students will participate in **AIMSweb+** which is a formative assessment, data management, and reporting system for grades K-8 supporting multi-tiered instructional models. It is designed to universally screen and progress monitor, AIMSweb+ uses brief, valid, and reliable measures of foundational skills in reading and math. The assessment helps identify at-risk students early, monitor progress, and differentiate and track the success of targeted instruction.

Our second through fifth graders will take **NWEA MAP** which is a computerized adaptive test, given to students in grades 2-8, that measures a child's academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage. In the MAP system, the difficulty of the test is adjusted to the student's performance. The difficulty of each question is based on how well the student has answered all of the questions up to that point. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.

Lastly our first through fifth graders will be assessed on their reading level through the **Benchmark Assessment System (BAS)**, which allows teachers to identify each child's instructional and independent reading levels according to the F&P Text Level Gradient™, A-Z and document their progress through one-on-one formative and summative assessments. The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems provide teachers with precise tools and texts to observe and quantify specific reading behaviors, and then interpret and use that data to plan meaningful instruction.