August 28, 2018

"Tuesday is News Day" is a weekly distribution of materials regarding programs and activities happening at Whittier, in District 97 and in Oak Park. In order to reduce costs and paper the district has implemented an electronic distribution (Digital Backpack) sent to the email address your family has on file. If you would like to receive these notifications by paper distribution during the school year, please fill out the information below and return this notice to the Whittier office by Friday, September 7th. Only one notice per family please.

Thank you.

_____ _____

Student Name Teacher

John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School

715 N. Harvey ▪ Oak Park ▪ Illinois ▪ 60302 ▪ ph: 708.524.3080 ▪ fax: 708.524.3047 ▪ www.op97.org/whittier

September 4, 2018

Dear Whittier Families,

We hope you marked your calendars and are planning to attend the Whittier School Curriculum Night/Open House on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. The schedule for the evening will be:

6:30 - 7:00pm	K, 1st and 2nd grade teachers will give their curriculum presentations in their classrooms
7:00 - 7:30pm	Open House: meet special area teachers and other faculty members in their rooms/tour the building
7:30 - 8:00pm	Grade 3-5 teachers will give their curriculum presentations in their classrooms

Children should plan to accompany you to the Curriculum Presentations and then serve as your escort for the Open House activities.

You will also have an opportunity to select a convenient time for your October Family/Teacher conference. These conferences may be scheduled during the following times:

Wednesday	October 24, 2018	3:30 - 7:00pm
Thursday	October 25, 2018	12:30 - 7:00pm

The Whittier Elementary faculty and your children look forward to sharing their school with you. Please remember to make plans to participate in this important event in your child's school career.

Educationally yours,

Patrick CL Robinson

Patrick CL Robinson
Principal

Safety First!

The area around our school, especially on Augusta, is very busy at the beginning of the day and at dismissal time. Over the years, commuter traffic and traffic created as a result of children being dropped off for school has greatly increased and poses severe safety hazards.

- Only use west-bound Augusta as a drop off location if you are able to pull over into a parking spot.

- The safest drop off location for students who are driven to school is on Cuyler. **The 700 block of Cuyler is one way, northbound, during school drop off and pick up times**, assisting families who drive students to school.

- School buses are the only vehicles allowed on the 700 block of Harvey for student drop-off. Take note of signage on the west side of the 700 block on Harvey, designating the bus loading area.

- We encourage our students to walk to and from school. However, if you are driving your child to and from school the following are the designated drop-off/pick-up areas:

    600 Block of North Cuyler Avenue
    700 Block of North Cuyler Avenue
    600 Block of North Harvey Avenue

Students are encouraged to cross Augusta at Harvey, where they will have the assistance of a School Crossing Guard. Do not allow your child to cross the street mid-block.

Help us keep your children safe during drop off and pick up!

Background Checks

A background check is required for anyone who wants to serve as chaperone on a field trip. To obtain a one-time background check, please go to the district website and click **Background Check Appointments** under **Quick Links** to schedule an appointment. Or, here is the direct link: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b48a9ab22a0fd0-district.

Please bring your driver's license or State ID to your appointment at the District 97 administration building located at 260 Madison Street. It takes approximately 24 to 72 hours to receive your results.

If you have submitted prints in the past, you can check your status with the school or with Ellen McKay at the district office, 708-524-3000.

Thank you.

Whittier Family Picnic

Thursday, September 6th

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. @ the Whittier Playground

Come and enjoy the Music and all the great Whittier families

We will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers & hotdogs
You bring beverages & chairs or blankets to sit on
Let's be green and bring your own plates, napkins and utensils

Please bring to share:
Side dish if your last name starts with A – S
Dessert if your last name starts with T – Z
****Please label if includes nuts****

WHITTIER PTO

Volunteers Needed! We need help setting up, serving, grilling and cleaning up
If you can help please go to
http://signup.com/go/MRmmXxZ

Complete and return to the Whittier school office, call 708-608-1416 or E-mail Templewesley6@gmail.com by ***Wednesday, Sept. 5th***

___ **Yes**, We can attend # of People attending _____

Student(s) Name:_____

Indicate # of items: _____ Hot Dog _____ Hamburger _____ Veggie Burger

WHITTIER SCHOOL
BIRTHDAY BOOKS 2018-2019

Dear Whittier Parents and Guardians,

You are invited to share in Whittier's Birthday Book Program! We hope you and your child will participate in this worthwhile program that increases the number of books our children can choose in the Whittier library. With parents and students helping, the program raises approximately $2500 for the library. Please take a moment to read about the Birthday Books program.

The Birthday Books cart is loaded with new and wonderful fiction and non-fiction titles selected based on school needs. Your donation goes toward the purchase of new hardcover books that cost between $20-$25. Although the program is called Birthday Books you may donate to commemorate any special occasion, important person, ethnic holiday or favorite teacher. After returning the form and donation, students can select books from the cart to donate to the library. The joy the children get from picking a book, seeing his or her name inside and donating the book to the library is almost as important as the book itself. Your donation helps to teach the joy of giving as well as receiving. All donations are tax deductible.

This is how it works. This form is sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year and also in the month preceding his or her birthday or half birthday. If you wish to participate you need only donate once at whichever time you wish. When we receive your donation we will send you a tax receipt and your child will be called to the library by one of the birthday book volunteers during the month of his or her birthday, half birthday or special event to choose a book from the Birthday cart. *Although the book will remain the property of the library, your child will be honored as follows:*

1. A bookplate with your child's name is placed in the front of the book, listing their birthday or special occasion. For years to come, other students will know that your child donated this particular book.
2. Your child will be the first to check out the book and share it with his or her classmates and family.
3. Your child will receive a Whittier pencil.
4. Your child's photo will be taken with the book and displayed in the Whittier library until the end of the school year.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form on the reverse. We look forward to seeing your child in the library.

I would like to donate a book to the Whittier School library in honor of my child's birthday or other special event.

NAME (as it should appear in the book)_____
(Please print clearly)

BIRTHDATE OR SPECIAL EVENT TO COMMEMORATE (please specify)

_____

CHILD'S TEACHER and GRADE_____

YOUR NAME_____

AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK/CASH_____
(Make check payable to Whittier PTO)

Return form and donation to your child's teacher.

Questions? Please contact:
Terri McConville (parent volunteer) terrimcconville@yahoo.com
Laurie Conley (Whittier Library Media Specialist) lconley@op97.org

WHITTIER SCHOOL
2018-19 REVISED Calendar

August	19	Kindergarten/New Family Meet & Greet 10:00am
August	20-21	Institute Day - SCHOOLS CLOSED
August	22	School Opens **(Full Day: 8:00am-2:30pm)**
August	28	Kindergarten Parent Night 6:30pm
September	3	Labor Day - SCHOOLS CLOSED
September	4	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
September	6	PTO Family Back to School Picnic 5:00-7:00pm
September	7	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
September	11	Curriculum Night/Open House 6:30-8:00pm
September	25	Picture Day
September	27	New Family Night 5:30-7:00pm
October	2	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
October	5	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
October	8	Columbus Day Holiday - SCHOOLS CLOSED
October	10	International Walk to School Day
October	10	Wildcat Fun Run
October	24-26	PTO Book Fair
October	25-26	Family/Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL IN PM
October	29-30	Pumpkin Festival
October	31	Halloween Parade 12:30pm
November	2	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
November	6	Institute Day – SCHOOLS CLOSED
November	7-9	Outdoor Education - Camp Edwards - Grade 5
November	13	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
November	14	End of 1st Trimester
November	14	Picture Retakes
November	15	Turkey Trot 3:30pm
November	16	Family Harvest Dance 6:30-8pm
November	21-23	Thanksgiving Holiday - SCHOOLS CLOSED
December	4	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
December	7	Report Cards go home
December	7	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
December	17	John Greenleaf Whittier's Birthday
December	21	All School Sing Along 1:30pm (Students and Staff only)
Dec 24-Jan	4	Winter Recess - SCHOOLS CLOSED
January	7	School Reopens
January	8	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
January	11	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
January	21	Martin Luther King's Birthday - SCHOOLS CLOSED
Jan 30-Feb	1	Book Fair
Jan 31-Feb	1	Family/Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL IN PM

As of 8/27/18

February	1	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
February	5	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
February	15	SCHOOLS CLOSED
February	18	President's Day - SCHOOLS CLOSED
February	27	End of 2nd Trimester
March	1	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
March	2	Fun Fair 11:00am-3:00pm
March	5	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
March	15	Report Cards go home
March	25-29	SPRING RECESS - SCHOOLS CLOSED
April	1	School Reopens
April	2	Institute Day – SCHOOLS CLOSED
April	4	Instrumental Music Festival 6:30pm @ OPRF
April	5	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
April	8	Choral Festival 6:30pm @ OPRF
April	9	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
April	19	Non-Attendance Day – SCHOOLS CLOSED
May	3	PTO Common Ground Parent Coffee 8:00am
May	7	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
May	17	PTO End-of-the-Year Picnic 5:00-7:00pm
May	20	Music Concert (Grades K, 3, 4) 5:30pm
May	21	Music Concert (Grades 1, 2, 5) 5:30pm
May	23	Memorial Day Tribute
May	24	Talent Show
May	27	Memorial Day - SCHOOLS CLOSED
May	28	Olympic Day/PTO Pizza Lunch
May	29	Honors Assembly - Grades 4, 5 8:30am
June	4	End of 3rd Trimester
June	4	Report Cards go home
June	4	Last Day of School - Based on Use of Emergency Days
(June	5–11	Emergency Days)

WHITTIER

greenleaf

NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

September 2018

PTO Update / Page 2

Fun Run / Page 5

Nurse's Note / Page 6

Green Team / Page 9

Buddy Bench / Page 13

Dates to Remember / Page 14

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY
715 NORTH HARVEY
OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302
708.524.3080
www.op97.org/whittier

pto update

Welcome Back from the PTO!

We hope you are all off to a great start at Whittier for the 2018/2019 school year!

We would like to begin by introducing ourselves, the Co-Presidents of the PTO. Having volunteered at countless PTO and school events over the years, Brigitte now embarks on her second challenging and rewarding year as PTO CO Pres. Her focus continues to help make positive changes for all Whittier Wildcats! She is also very proud of her own wildcat Freia, a kind, talented and funny incoming fourth grader. Sofia is the first year Co-President and mother of a second grader, Zoe and Jerry in Longfellow's PKP program. She has volunteered for various PTO programs and events including WISE, Service Day, FUN Run and the Yearbook. She will be returning to work full-time, as a school counselor in Chicago.

Some of our goals for the PTO this year are the following:
Promote family engagement at Whittier.
Promote Wildcat Pride.
Promote a more positive school culture that celebrates and supports diversity.

The PTO has been very busy this summer with several activities, including these:

*The Diversity Committee (DivCo) has been meeting and working very thoughtfully on many issues, such as improving communications of Whittier happenings for all.
*Funding the new "fill up" water fountains.
*Funding the new display case near the main office.
*Funding new carpeting in the Community Room.
*PTO Leadership, Communications and Parent Engagement teams planning the Back to School Pep Rally.
*The WISE committee planning WISE programming for this Fall.

And of course we all look forward to working with our new principal, Mr. Patrick Robinson, and the new staff!

We are loving the energy at school and the AMAZING turn out that we had at both the First Day of School Pep Rally and the Back to School Picnic! Thank you to Jessica Daly, Laura and Patti Temple-Wesley and of course Debbie Dietz for making those happen!

The PTO is already very busy, working hard and has a full calendar planned for this year! We need your help, whether it is volunteering your time, making a financial contribution, or both!

Remember, this is YOUR PTO! The PTO is comprised of all parents, guardians and teachers! EVERY Whittier family and all staff are a part of our PTO. We eagerly welcome your feedback and participation. Please look out for a regular form in the Tuesday News where you can provide feedback to the PTO.

We look forward to another great year with you!

Sincerely,
Brigitte Brostrom and Sofia Villafuerte
bbrostrom@hotmail.com; sofiavillafuerte@gmail.com

Get Involved!

Everyone is welcome to participate, volunteer, and contribute in any way that works for you and your family.

Volunteering is a great way to make a positive difference in your child's learning experience – it's also a lot of fun! Whether you it is one day events or long-term, at home or in the building we are grateful for your involvement!

Learn more about volunteering for Whittier PTO by:
Attending our PTO Meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM (free babysitting on site!)

Signing up for specific events and programs on our website at whittierpto.org—click on the Get Involved tab and look for the Signup.com button.

Liking our Whittier PTO Facebook page!

Filling out an online volunteer form on our website if you would like more information, or are interested helping out generally throughout the year.

Please contact Jessica Daly or London Black for more information about volunteering.
jessica.beach@gmail.com; london.c.black@gmail.com

GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO

Curious about a PTO program or project? Find one of these friendly folks!

PTO Leadership Team

CO Presidents
Brigitte Brostrom
Sofia Villafuerte Daly

Treasurer
Kevin Cohen

Secretary
Robert Hickcok

CO VPs Communication
David Gulbransen
Kathy Dull

DivCo VP
Jalisa Horne

VP Enrichment
Kate Haarvei

VP Fundraising
Mindy Brimeyer

CO VPs Parent Engagement
London Black
Jessica Daly

CO VPs Wellness
Patricia Engebretson
Elizabeth McVey
Kelly Witt

CO VPs Green Team
Kristen Hollinden
Cathi Ward

Teacher/PTO Liaison
Janet Wright

VP Wise
Maureen Spain

Past President
Amy Soumar

Principal
Patrick Robinson

Want to get involved? See page 2 for some opportunities!

Recognition

Teacher Appreciation Dinners
Maureen Spain

Luncheon
Shelly Gustavson
Kelly Sculles
Jennifer O'Rourke

Fundraisers

Fun Run Committee
Elizabeth Carrier
Elizabeth McVey
Kelly Witt
Shayla Bell

Book Fair
Olivia Schreiner
Kate Cares
Gayla Morales

Art to Remember
Terri McConville

Fun Fair CO Chairs
Amy Soumar
Robert Hickcok

Trivia Night CO Chairs
Padmini Kanive
Jessica Daly

Silent Auction
Edith Gomero

Whittier Wear
Christine Diedrich

WISE Committee
Amy Sardella (WISE Coordinator)
Mary Bellmar
Maureen Spain
Amanda Zoloto
Aimee Eicher

Box Tops
Kellie McGinnis

World Language
Lori Robert

Student and Family Events

Back to School Picnic
Laura Temple Wesley

Fall Harvest Dance
Carolyn Fitzpatrick
(5th Grade Girl Scout Troop Leader)

End of the Year Picnic
Betsy Hart

Olympic Day
Julie Burwell

Other Projects

Birthday Books
Terri McConville

Yearbook Committee
Mary Furman
Sofia Villafuerte
Brigitte Brostrom

Greenleaf News
Julie Burwell

School Kits
Kathy Dull
Rehka Rajkumar

Service Day
Kristen Hollinden
Mary Furman

Whittier at the Movies
Shannon Kazyak

Christine Diedrich

Restaurant Nights
Kristyna Ryan

Monthly Coffees
Jessica Daly

FB Posts
Suzanne Griffin

Website Committee
Leslie Stevens
Saria Lofton

The Whittier PTO: Your Parent, Teacher Organization

Did you know that most of the programs and activities at Whittier outside the basic educational curriculum are sponsored and funded by the PTO?

Here is a brief summary of what your PTO does!

The PTO supports and funds many academic endeavors such as:
After-school homework helpers
Other programs that support learning

PTO funds are responsible for bringing cultural enrichment programs to Whittier:
Opera for the Young
Hubbard Street Dance
Theatrical performances
Author visits
Library subscriptions
One Book, One School
Camp Edwards Scholarships
WISE (Whittier IS Enriched) scholarships

Oak Park Education Foundation programs like:
Science Alliance
Geared Up
Art Start
Architecture Adventure

The PTO provides support within your child's classroom, like: $100 gift for each teacher for beginning-of-year classroom supplies
$5,000 each school year for teacher grants (ex.: Froebel blocks; individual dry erase boards, magnetic tiles; science supplies; file folder games; and multi-sensory materials)
One field trip bus ride per 2 classrooms

The PTO sponsors community events such as:
Back-to-school and spring picnics
New Family Night
Pumpkin Festival
Turkey Trot
Olympic Day

Funds are also used to recognize school staff, teachers and students.
Teacher dinners during conferences
Teacher appreciation events
Retirement gifts
5th grade luncheon
PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports).

The PTO also sponsors the education and enrichment efforts of the Wellness Committee and the Green Team, as well as the annual Service Day.

The PTO is able to fund most of these programs through its fundraising efforts throughout the school year, like:
The Fun Run
Trivia Night
The Fun Fair and Auction
The Fall and Spring Book Fairs
Art to Remember
WISE classes
Restaurant/Shopping Nights

Whitter World Language Lunchtime Enrichment Classes

Back by popular demand, Whittier's PTO is proud to sponsor our World Language lunchtime enrichment classes again this year!

Students in grades 2-5 can sign up to learn a foreign language, such as French, German or American Sign Language.

The program will take place once a week during lunch hour and will run from October to March, for a total of 20 classes.

Look for the registration flyer with more details in your student's backpack in September! Contact Lori Robert at lori.robert@ymail.com with any questions.

Get Ready for Whittier Wear

Sales open Wednesday, September 5!

For two weeks only, we will have $15 Whittier t-shirts for men, women, children, and toddlers.

Get your order in to dress your whole family with Wildcat pride.

Sales end Wednesday, September 19. Shirts will be delivered about 2 weeks later.

Place your order at www.customink.com/fundraising/whittierschool

WHITTIER WILDCAT FUN RUN

Get Ready for the Whittier Wildcat Fun Run! Wednesday, October 10th

The Whittier Fun Run is a walk/run-a-thon fundraiser. Kids come out to the ball field with their class and grade level peers and run/walk laps, exercising to fun tunes.

Students gather pledges toward a $50 per child goal. Our collective goal is to raise $16,000 to support programs all year.

The PTO relies on this event to generate funds to support a wide range of programs. The PTO subsidizes the cost of field trip bus rides, provides annual teacher grants and funds enrichment like Hubbard Street Theater and Opera for the Young, Homework Help, our after school program (WISE) and Camp Edwards scholarships, library subscriptions, One Book-One School, school picnics, Olympic Day & Wellness food tastings. All these things are only possible with outstanding community support.

Donations are tax deductible – PTO is a 501(c)3. Fliers will be coming home in September with info and you can always pledge online at **www.thegetmovincrew.com**

We will continue to take pledges until October 19th, so keep sending them in until then. Doing so also gets your child a chance to win prizes for themselves and their class!

2017 Fun Run participants

nurse's note

Dear Whittier Families,

I hope the school year is off to a great start! I am thrilled to be serving you and your children at Whittier again this school year. In order to have a productive and enjoyable year we must keep our students safe and healthy. The following information will help us achieve this together:

- If your child has any special health care needs and/or you anticipate a need for **medications at school** please be sure to have a "Prescription Authorization Form" completed. All medications, including over the counter medications, require this form to be completed by a physician. Some orders may also require a completed action plan. Please contact me as soon as possible to be sure the proper forms are completed. All health forms are available on our district website.
- **All kindergarten and new students to Whittier are required to have a completed "Certificate of Child Health Examination" submitted at the beginning of the school year**. The physical exam must be dated on or after August 22, 2017. **Students who do not have this examination submitted by October 15, 2018 will be excluded from school until they are in compliance.** REMINDER: Parents must complete and sign the "health history" section before submitting health examination form to the health office. **Kindergarten students and students new to Illinois schools are required to submit proof of an eye exam** by an optometrist of physician (such as an ophthalmologist) no later than October 15th, 2018.
- Proof of a recent (within the last year) **dental exam must be submitted for all kindergarten and second grade students**. These forms need to be submitted to the school health office on or before May 15, 2019.
- Regular and consistent attendance is imperative for your child to succeed in school. However, **do not send your child to school with any of the following symptoms**:
    - Constant coughing
    - Constant "runny" nose - especially with yellow or green mucous
    - A temperature of 100 degrees or higher
    - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
    - Rashes or any scratching for unknown reasons
    - Watery, itchy eyes with drainage
- **All students must be without fever or vomiting (without medication) for 24 hours before coming back to school after an illness**. REMINDER: Handwashing is the first line of defense for keeping our students and staff healthy. Encourage frequent hand washing at home and at school.
- **Nuts and nut products are NOT allowed in any classroom**. This includes products that are labeled *"processed in a facility that shares equipment with nut products"*. Do not send nuts or nut products as a snack for your child to eat. In addition, there is **NO food sharing between students allowed** at any time during school. Snack and celebration foods allowed in classrooms include: fresh fruit, fruit juice, dried fruit, fresh vegetables, yogurt without granola topping, lean meants, packaged popcorn and pretzels.
- **It is extremely important that I am made aware of any and all health concerns that your child may have**. If this information was not given during registration please contact me at hwinkelhake@op97.org as soon as possible. Remember to continually update me on changes in your child's health.

Please know that as your school nurse, I am here to help. I will always make decisions based on what is best and safest for your child and all of the students at our school. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Hilary Winkelhake, RN
Whitter School Nurse
hwinkelhake@op97.org
708-524-3076

2018-2019

BIENVENIDOS

WHITTIER SCHOOL SPANISH

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."
-Nelson Mandela

Grades K-5

I grew up in El Salvador, Spanish was the first language I learned. I have a passion and excitement for teaching the Spanish language and culture. This year will be my fifth year teaching Spanish in Oak Park and my first year at Whittier School. I look forward to meeting you soon. We will have a great adventure learning together!
~Sra. Aguirre~

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SPANISH CLASS LOOK LIKE?

Spanish class is twice a week for grades 3-5 and three times a week for grades K-2 unless there is a conflict with a field trip or assembly. In class we primarily learn by singing, reading books, games, and role-play. Our classes are hands on, interactive and lively! Instruction is almost 100% in Spanish. Instruction is not based on vocabulary lists and drills but more of a natural organic approach using hands on learning. Many lessons focus on storytelling and a method known as TPRS, "Teaching Proficienoy Through Reading and Storytelling.

To strengthen the home school connection and foster communication there are many options to choose from. You may follow the group D97Spanish on Facebook, @D97Spanish on Twitter, or access our department webpage. d97spanish.weebly.com/

I look forward to building our language community this year. Find my contact information and communication/social media information below.

Contact Info

Email: laguirre@op97.org
Facebook Groups:
D97 Spanish
Website:
d97spanish.weebly.com/
Twitter: @d97Spanish

D97 Spanish Teachers

September 4, 2018

MUSIC NOTES

twitter.com/kariamusic -Mrs. Karia- mrskaria.blogspot.com

Hello!

My name is Anjali Karia and I am so excited to be the new music teacher at Whittier! I have been enjoying meeting and getting to know all of the students and I can't wait to make music with them. If you want to learn more about me, check out my website- mrskaria.blogspot.com

4th/5th Grade Chorus

4th and 5th graders interested in chorus should have come to an informational meeting/ rehearsal 8/29. If they missed the rehearsal they can still come to the meet and sings 9/5 (5th) and 9/12 (4th). We will start officially 9/19. Please email me with any questions you may have at akaria@op97.org

Spring Showcases

SAVE THE DATE: Our Spring Showcase (Art, Music Spanish and Library) is Monday May 20th (K,3,4) and Tuesday May 21st (1st, 2nd, 5th) in the evening. Details to come!

Pictured above: Whittier staff contributed their musical memories and thoughts to create the bulletin board outside of the music room.

This month in music....

Students have spent the first few weeks getting used to the new room and the activities we do at the beginning of class. Each class usually starts with stretches usually to classical music. We also have been learning how specifically to be respectful, responsible, and safe in the music classroom. In class we will be in squads (rows) alphabetically by first name while I am learning names. Eventually I will pick squads that work well together and vary in abilities and talents for working on group projects. Starting next week we will be learning some simpler songs as an entire school so that when we meet we can all sing together. First up- one of my favorites: Old House!

I hope to meet you all soon!

—Mrs. Karia

GREEN TEAM
WHITTIER GROWS GREEN

The Whittier Greenleaf Garden is tended by a wonderful group of enthusiastic gardeners, which include teachers, students, and parents. We have six garden beds and a large garden plot with compost bins, rain barrels painted by the Girl Scout troops, and a bug hotel.

Teachers and our WISE Sugar Beet Schoolhouse after-school class plant in the beds during the school year. When the summer begins, family volunteers take over and help water, weed, and harvest the garden.

And, WOW, have we learned a lot and harvested a TON this summer. In our garden this summer, you may have seen a green bean teepee, tons of tomato plants, carrots, potatoes, cucumbers, basil, chard, beets, radishes, a strawberry patch, various squashes and lettuce galore.

This Summer, Volunteers had an opportunity to donate bags of lettuce to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. In addition, Whittier was invited to share our garden with the community by participating in the Sugar Beet Edible Garden Tour in July in addition to the first D97 School Garden Tour.

We have many helping hands in our garden and we continue to learn and grow along with our Greenleaf Garden! Like the garden, we continue to evolve year over year! IF you would like to learn more about the garden, please email Green Team Co-Chair, Kristen Hollinden at kristenhollinden@gmail.com.

Sign Up for Lunchroom Monitoring

At the beginning of the school year there is a need to teach (and re-teach) what goes in the recycling, compost and landfill bins.

What's in it for me?

- Satisfaction of teaching green skills to future citizens
- Be a fly on the wall in your child's day
- Meet other parents
- Meet school teachers and staff

Whittier Green Garden

Whether you have a green thumb or not, come have the satisfaction of taking care of our outdoor classroom.

Work with the teachers and students to plant vegetables in the spring.

Sign up for summer family opportunities to harvest, water and weed.

Put the garden to bed for the winter one day after school with your children.

Get the garden spruced up in the spring.

One and Done

Set up a holiday light collection for recycling.

Spend an April morning cleaning up the grounds on Service Day.

Be a docent on our annual Garden Tours.

Hold the Golden Lunchbox Awards: count the class with most zero waste lunchboxes and award a prize

WHITTIER GREEN TEAM

Want to meet other parents?

Want to be a fly on the wall in the lunch room?

Want to help teach the future leaders of the world to be green?

Whatever your schedule can allow, we've got a way to plug you in!

Earth Week

Join a committee to plan Earth Week events, April 22-26, 2019.

Past events have included activity stations on trees, the water cycle and water shed, zero waste, releasing ladybugs, building bug hotels, and beekeeper and falconer visits.

There's Something Green Happening Year Round!

We need your help to make it all *keep* happening.

Have a Green idea you'd like to implement?

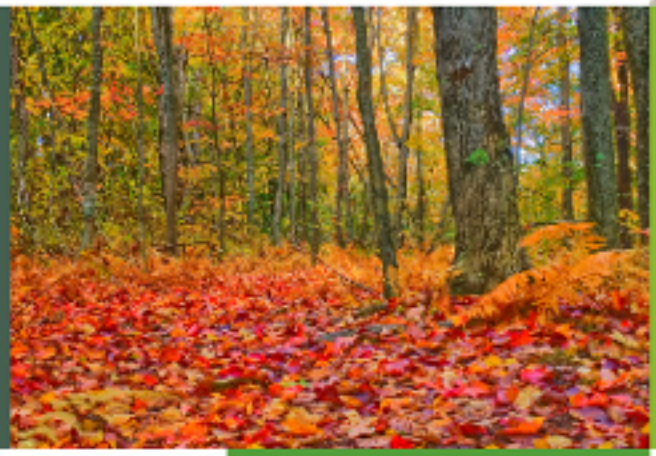
Let's make it happen.
Be in touch.

Let's Make All Whittier Events Zero Waste

Helping with another PTO event? Planning a party in the classroom? Make it zero waste! Ask us how.

"I'll lift you and you lift me, and we'll both ascend together."

John Greenleaf Whittier



Seeking Lobby Recycling Managers

Help get the corks, toner cartridges, and to rolls to where they can be recycled.

How to be in touch:

http://whittierpto.org/index.php/green-team/

Find all Volunteer Sign Ups on the Whittierpto.org website.

Hike in Thatcher Woods

Help us plan our October hike in the woods.

pbis update

Welcome back for a great new school year from the PBIS Team!

We hope all of you had a great summer. Welcome to the 2018-2019 School Year!

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) establishes and maintains a positive school culture by creating a safe, consistent, predictable and positive environment. Students have already begun to show us they know and demonstrate our three Be's: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe!

When students are observed doing what is expected of them they earn a PAW! PAWs may be given out by any staff to any student! What's more exciting about earning a PAW is that students may earn more than one per day!! We all stay on the lookout for students exhibiting the expectations in and outside the classroom.

On Fridays we will hold a PAW draw. The teachers will pull a PAW from the classroom collection and share it with Mr. Robinson and Mrs. McComb-Williams who announces the student's name on the intercom and provide a prize to him/her.

Last week we completed our Station Rotation which we hold twice a year. Station Rotation is where the expected behaviors in the high traffic areas (Playground, Entrance/Exit, Restrooms, Hallways/Lockers, Stairwell and Lunchroom) are taught to each classroom by the staff. We would like for you to review these with your students as a reminder.

Playground Equipment Area, The Blacktop and Field
-listen and follow supervisors' directions
-share equipment by taking turns and using it appropriately
-be respectful-if you bump into someone say excuse me, say please and thank you
-use respectful language
-be friendly, invite others to play/we include everyone, help others
-line up right away when you hear the bell
-inform adults of problems

Entering and Exiting
-While waiting to enter the school wait quietly
-Keep hands, feet and objects to self while waiting in a single file line
-Listen and follow directions
-When the bell rings line up right away
-Be friendly, help others

Restrooms
-Respect other's privacy
-Flush after yourself every time and wash your hands with soap
-Be quick, quiet and head back to class
-Throw away any garbage in the trash
-Wait your turn outside the washroom quietly when it's full

Hallway /Lockers and Stairwell
-Walk quietly and in a single file line
-Use silent hellos when you see a friend
-Give personal space
-Carry belongings safely
-Keep hands off walls, displays and lockers-admire with your eyes
-Return promptly back to class

Cafeteria
-Eat your own food, no sharing food
-Use inside voices as if you are in a restaurant
-Clean up after yourself and stay in assigned area until dismissed
-Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
-Practice good manners (ex. say please, thank you, walking around)

The 2018-2019 Whittier PBIS Team is: Ms. Jacobson (3rd grade co-teacher), Ms. Heide (5th grade teacher), Ms. Madsen (5th grade teacher), Ms. Ryan (Social Worker) and Ms. McComb-Williams (PBIS Internal Coach). We look forward to sharing with you the things we are helping to implement throughout the school year.

Won't You Be My Buddy?

Whittier welcomes its much anticipated Buddy Bench.

While in Ms. Volz's room, Madison and Olivia Hart often played "Friendship Team" on the playground. This imaginary game led to Maddy asking their moms, Alyssa and Betsy, if there was a way to make the playground a friendlier, more inclusive space. Maddy says she knows feeling left out can be hard and that finding a friend on the playground is an important step towards feeling like you belong.

With some parent-assisted Googling, they learned about Friendship Benches, or Buddy Benches. The idea is simple and lovely. Any child who needs a playmate, is feeling left out or otherwise could use a buddy sits on the bench. Another student would spot that seated classmate and head over to extend an invitation to play.

Maddy wrote then-Principal Warner a note asking about the possibility of a friendship bench at school.

With the principal's ok, Maddy turned to her first friend, twin sister Olivia, for assistance.

First the girls went door to door, explaining the concept and asking for support. But, it's cold in Oak Park in February, so a Go Fund Me was set up. It raised over $1500, well over the goal to cover the bench, concrete and labor, in less than three days.

With the funds and the enthusiasm, it was time to make it happen.

Over the next months, the Harts got to help pick the bench from a catalog. They settled on a blue bench with yellow to represent the Whittier colors. After staying safety stored in the janitorial hallway while timing was worked out, the bench was installed before the start of this school year with the help of Principal Robinson, who met the girls the previous spring to learn about their work.

With installation complete, Madison and Olivia even had a few ideas for kids wondering what to say to a child sitting on the Buddy Bench. Madison recommended: "Hi, do you need a buddy to play with?" Olivia said to try: "Wanna come play?"

This wasn't Madison or Olivia's first foray into philanthropy. A previous effort saw a family warm clothing drive turn into a church-wide drive.

When asked if they had tips for kids who wanted to do something big or something to help people, they agreed that "Tell everyone about it. Write a note to the principal. Go door to door. Raise money. Everyone can do a good job."

Mom Alyssa Hart said it warmed her and Betsy's heart to hear the girls working on something that would help kids who felt excluded or lonely. They also appreciated the way the girls showed their powers to problem solve and the way the community rallied around them.

Curious what makes a great friend to Madison and Olivia? They agreed that someone who is understanding, kind, loving, creative and with a big imagination is someone they want to play with.

Olivia (L) and Madison Hart demonstrate approaching a classmate and inviting them to play.

Find Common Ground

Common Ground sparks conversation and connection between Whittier parents.

The PTO will provide coffee on the blacktop (or the community room in the event of inclement weather). Parents get a chance to catch up or meet someone new.

Common Ground will take place on the first Friday of the month, unless there is a holiday or Institute Day.

Join fellow parents on Friday, September 7 for the first Common Ground of the school year!

DivCo Open House

The Diversity Committee is devoted to creating a strong and supportive community at Whittier.

Come meet up, have some refreshments and get to know some new Whittier friends at the Diversity Open House on Thursday, September 13 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm at London Black's residence (515 N. Cuyler).

Due to the fact that it's a school night, it will be an adult only function. You are welcome to bring something to eat or drink or just bring yourself. We look forward to meeting you!

Be a Lunchroom Hero

Interested in helping out in the lunchroom? Whittier could use some extra hands to manage kids during lunch, especially the younger kids. Biggest tasks are helping open things, supervising to make sure every child eats, encourage kids to eat and clean up after themselves, help with spills when necessary, and helping them sort their garbage into recycling, compost and garbage. Lastly, give lots of positive reinforcement when kids are caught doing the right thing!

You can sign up to be a Whittier Lunchroom volunteer at SignUp.Com (http:/signup.com/go/jCGfyOi).

SAVE THE DATE

PTO MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

COMMON GROUND
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

CURRICULUM NIGHT/OPEN HOUSE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

DIVCO OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

PICTURE DAY
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25

NEW FAMILY NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 27

PTO MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 3

COMMON GROUND
FRIDAY OCTOBER 5

FUN RUN
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

INSTITUTE DAY (NO SCHOOL)
FRIDAY OCTOBER 6

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY (NO SCHOOL)
MONDAY OCTOBER 8

PTO BOOK FAIR
OCTOBER 24-26

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES/HALF DAYS
THURSDAY OCTOBER 25
FRIDAY OCTOBER 26