

# Whittier Parent Newsletter

February 2019



## Letter from Principal Robinson:

Hello Whittier Family and Friends,

I cannot believe we are in the month of February! I am incredibly excited that this week starts the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Black History Month. A wise man, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., once said, "We are not makers of history. We are made by history." During this month, we plan to celebrate those individuals that paved the foundation for us to continue to build on. I want to encourage our young scholars that their voices and words have power and when positively put to use can bring significant change. The Black History Month Committee and teachers have planned many engaging activities for our young scholars to learn about a mixture of historical and current African American figures making a positive impact on society.

A huge shout out to our staff and parents that braved the frigid weather to conduct Parent/Teacher Conferences. I hope that each family walked away with valuable information and data about their child(ren)'s academic, behavioral, and social growth from fall to winter trimester. I am always excited to witness the collaboration between home and school to ensure the academic success of all our scholars. Please be on the outlook for a brief survey about your P/T Conference experience as we continue to improve our practices at Whittier. We thank you for spending the evening with us!

Happy Reading!  
Principal Robinson



*Students celebrated spirit week with twin day. Nurse Winkelhake joined in on the fun!*

## Upcoming Events

February 12<sup>th</sup>: PTO meeting @ 7:00 PM

February 9<sup>th</sup>: PTO Trivia Night @ 7-11 PM

February 15<sup>th</sup>: SCHOOL CLOSED

February 18<sup>th</sup>: President's Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

February 27<sup>th</sup>: End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester



## Black History Month 2019

*"Because of them we can...."*

The month of February marks the beginning of Black History month. Whittier School's students, staff, and parent volunteers are working together to create a month dedicated to remembering influential African American figures in history and current, young African Americans who have either made or are currently making a mark on today's society.

During the month of February, there will be a morning spotlight that will be highlighting one of these individuals each day. The morning spotlights will allow students to understand that they too are capable of making a positive mark on the world.

In our front entrance display case, these current and historical African American individuals will be on display with more information about how they have paved the way for fighting for equality for all. Some of the individuals being highlighted include Ruby Bridges, Little Rock 9, Mari Copney, Essynce Moore and AJ Carr. Whittier is excited to partake in the morning spotlights as well as other events centered around celebrating African American History.

### Second Step's Bully Prevention Units

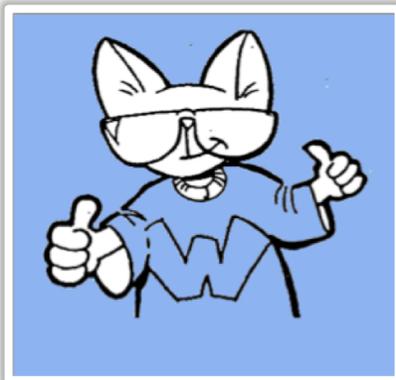
Whittier has implemented *Second Step's Bullying Prevention Units (K-5)* to support students' social-emotional well-being and academic success. The Bullying Prevention lessons are based on the latest field research and teaches students to recognize, report and refuse bullying. It aligns with common anti-bullying law, including those pertaining to school policies, professional development, and parent and student education. The curriculum also utilizes an integrated approach, engaging lessons and videos, and educational materials intended to be reviewed at home with families.

The Bullying Prevention lessons help students identify bullying behaviors, consequences of bullying behaviors, and a system to report bullying. It also sets a positive school culture, supports adults in their efforts to reduce bullying, and encourages students to use assertiveness and self-advocacy skills. Moreover, the lessons teach explicit skills for including others to join in activities, which can reduce the social isolation that contributes to bullying.

We are excited to be providing these lessons! We want to ensure all students are respectful, responsible, and safe while at Whittier- where we belong!

### University of Chicago 5Essentials Survey

The 5Essentials Survey is focused on our educational practices and school climate. The parent survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The survey closes on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. You can access this survey at <http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>. It is the goal of Whittier to have a 90% parent participation rate, as of now we have 54% parent participation. Help use reach our goal by completing the 5E survey as soon as possible.



### Cold Weather Reminders

The forecast for the next several weeks is predicted to bring frigid temperatures to the Chicago land area. Cold weather means students should be dressed appropriately to prevent illness and to ensure comfort. Jackets, gloves, hats, and warm footwear should be worn outdoors. Our school policy is that if the "feels like" temperature is in the single digits, all outdoor activities will be canceled. Students will have indoor recess when this occurs.



**"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education"**

**-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**