

WHITTIER SCHOOL

Dear Whittier Family,

Please be reminded that schools will be closed from
Wednesday, November 27, through Friday,
November 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes
will resume Monday, December 2, 2019.

Enjoy your time with family and friends!





John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School

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

November 26, 2019

Dear Whittier Families,

To satisfy the Illinois School Safety Drill Act, in addition to practice fire, severe weather, and bus evacuation drills, all schools must also practice lock-down drills.

We have scheduled Monday, December 2, 2019, for a “hard” lock-down drill. A “hard” lock-down assumes the perpetrator is in the school. Students and staff lock themselves in their rooms and remain silent and out of sight from any interior doorways or windows. Shades/blinds are closed and no one (except first responders) enters or exits the building.

Please know that teachers and staff will go over expectations and why we are having these drills so that students are aware. If you have any questions about the drills, please feel free to contact our office at (708) 524-3080.

Educationally yours,

Patrick CL Robinson

Patrick CL Robinson
Principal



WHITTIER
greenleaf
NEWSLETTER



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WHITTIER ELEMENTARY
715 NORTH HARVEY
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pto
update

Happy November, Whittier Families!

It's Game Time!

The PTO is organizing a recurring Family Board Game meet up starting in January 2020!

The planning meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17 from 1 to 2:30 pm at the Main Library First Floor Community Engagement Space.

The goal of the meet up is to have students sharpen their math and game skills by playing a variety of games and puzzles with fellow Whittier families.

We welcome all Whittier parents to help plan this series.

RSVP to London Black at london.c.black@gmail.com or Kristen Hollinden at kristenhollinden@gmail.com.

Please email with any questions or feedback if you are not able to attend the planning meeting.

Sounds Good to Us!

Thanks to the generous donations to the PTO over the years, we were able to purchase a new sound system for the auditorium.

Installed over the summer, the new system is light years ahead of where we were previously. Teachers and administrators are now able to control volume and make adjustments via an iPad app instead of running backstage.

The project includes a new soundboard, drop microphones along the stage, poweramp and equalizer, which will improve the audibility of those on stage. It also provides twice as many channels for wireless microphones and sounds, which will improve performances for years to come.

The sound system was approximately \$11,000; this is a common project for PTOs in Oak Park to fund - Beye, Mann and Hatch all completed similar projects in recent years.



Shop to Support the PTO



Geppetto's Toy Box Holiday Savings Card

It's back! The Whittier PTO is partnering with Geppetto's Toy Box for a holiday shopping fundraiser.

Purchase your GTB Holiday Savings Card for \$5 and use it to get 20% off any time you shop at Geppetto's Toy Box between **November 26 and December 2**.

Spend 25 dollars and you'll have made up for the cost of the card. Spend more...and save more!

Plus, all proceeds from the sale of the Card go directly to the Whittier PTO!

Contact Julie Burwell (burwell.julie@gmail.com) or Destinie Brannigan (destiniebrannigan@gmail.com) to get your Card.

Amazon School Rewards

Do you shop on-line with Amazon? You can support Whittier by using the Amazon Smile Program.

Head to smile.amazon.com. Choose Whittier School PTO in Oak Park for your charity, and click on the link before each Amazon purchase to raise money for the PTO!

Note: All of your purchasing information stays private with Amazon.





From Mrs. Wright's Class

I Wonder Stories

Deming's Wonder

I wonder about my drawings. It's usually about because I think, "I have nothing to do. Well, might as well draw!" Then I draw something simple for myself like Bart Simpson! When I'm finished with drawing I think, "Should I have made this?" So if I decide I don't like it one side of me is just like, "Just throw it in the garbage!" Then the other side says, "Recycle!" And I pick the second one!

Emma's Wonder

I wonder if aliens are real. I wonder if aliens are real because scientists have never seen them. I can go to space when I grow up to see if aliens are real.

Ryan's Wonder

I wonder about mammoths. In the Ice Age, there were mammoths. Mammoths are mammals. They have to protect their babies. Their tusks are very sharp. Do you wonder how they eat? Back then, they would use their strong feet to push the tree down to eat. You might get mammoths confused with elephants. Elephants are large too.

Liam's Wonder

Have you ever thought about if time glitched? I have. Think about it. If time randomly stopped, wouldn't that be weird? I think it would be. I wonder what it would be like to not breathe for an hour, but still be alive. I think it would be cool, weird, and terrifying! Do you? What if you could freeze time whenever you wanted? I think that would be cool! I think you would too.

Ben's Wonder

I wonder what happened with the age of the dinosaurs. Rooooaaar! I wonder how they became extinct because scientists could be wrong. Scientists don't know what dinosaurs looked like. I need to read more books and study the dinosaurs tracks to help me with my wonder.

Henry's Wonder

I wonder about other dimensions. I wonder if there are other planets in our universe with other life forms. What do the life forms do on other planets? Scientists will have to go deep into space to get to black holes and be sure nothing will destroy the space ship. Maybe someday I will find out.

A Small Moment in the Day in the Life of a Second Grader Day Stories

Zoe's Moment

In second grade, after our morning meeting we have math. In math we work on bundles. Bundles are groups of tens and hundreds. Bundles are a fun way to learn about math. The best part about homework is the bundles. We have no homework on Fridays. I like homework, so Fridays are my sad days.

Paul's Moment

In P.E. we do running. For reading, we use our Blue Bin Leveled books. For recess, we like to play outside. For math, we are learning about 10's and 100's bundles. For lunch we eat good food and for music we sing! I feel good about second grade.

Claire's Moment

In Art, I was using my sketchbook and our sketchbook time was over, so Ms. Connell said, "Everybody head to the Green Table." And we did. "We are going to be making a foreground, middle ground, and background project," said Ms. Connell. This is Perspective. And that is what we are learning about. Perspective means a way of looking at things. I made a drawing of a house out of logs and hay. The house was in the woods.

Angellys' Moment

A Day In The Life Of Art-When I first did Art it was so, so fun because we can color. Art is fun for first grade, but in second grade, we have to take an Art test. When we take an Art test we have to answer questions. My question was how was a house made. I know how to make a house!

Abby's Moment

Second grade is fun to me. I like reading. It is fun. When we have recess, we have a lot of fun. When we have lunch, I eat quietly. On Fridays, we don't have homework. Second grade is fun.

***See Student Book Reviews
and Reports on the next
page!***

Teddy's Review

My book is "Harry and The Lady Next Door." This story is about a dog named Harry and a lady who lives next door. Harry has a problem with the lady. The lady sings all the time! Harry doesn't like it. Harry causes trouble with his many silly ideas to get the lady to stop singing. I wrote this review because I like this story.

Leila's Review

The name of this book is "What Makes Day and Night?" This is one of my favorite books because it is teaching how animals live in the day and night. This book is funny and fun. I love it!

Andrew's Review

Even with a mean cousin, aunt, and uncle, nothing can stop Harry Potter! In "The Sorcerer's Stone" Harry plays giant chess and lots more. Don't wait. Pick up this book at your local library. Characters are Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon, Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger. I loved it!

Rani's Review

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"- What this book is about- Harry Potter lives with his aunt, uncle and cousin. They don't like that Harry is a wizard. One day a giant comes and tells Harry he is going to go Hogwarts School for wizards! I like this book because it is AWESOME!

Izaiah and Aulden's Review

Title: Aladdin and the Magic Lamp! A Graphic Novel. Characters: Aladdin, Miriam, Jinni of the Lamp, Princess Fatimah. There is a lot of adventure with the sorcerer. We love Aladdin and the Magic Lamp. It's magical!

Jacob and Mallory's Review

The title of our book is "Birthday Presents." The characters are Mom, Dad, Emma, Matthew. This story is about a family getting presents ready for a birthday. We like this story because we like birthday presents. Birthdays are the best!

Savannah and Sloan's Review

Title; "Minnie and Moo, Wanted Dead or Alive. Characters' Minnie and Moo.

Minnie and Moo are the names of the cows who are robbers. Someone would want to read this book because it's not what you would expect. We like this book because it is funny, exciting, and interesting. You won't expect what happens. Here's what the book is about. Minnie and Moo think that the Farmer needs to pay the bills but he doesn't have a lot of money. Minnie and Moo go to the bank and write a note to the bank that says: "Dear Bank Person, Please fill this case with money. Thank you." They waited in line. Moo gave a nice man the note. He looked at it carefully. He looked at Minnie and Moo. He looked at the wanted posters. "Oh no" he said. He gave the note to the manager....the manager looked at Minnie and Moo and said...It's the Bazooka Sisters! What happens next? Read to find out!

[Find more student writing on page 6!](#)

Speaking of books...



Over \$7500 in sales made the Fall Book Fair, an Arctic Adventure, a real polar success!



The 2019 Whittier Fun Run was a Success! Thank you to everyone who ran, organized, assisted and donated to this year's Whittier Wildcat Fun Run FUNdraiser! The kids had a blast AND we exceeded our goal by raising \$17,600!

These funds will help the Whittier PTO provide wonderful services like: teacher and classroom grants, all-school picnics, and scholarships for WISE and Camp Edwards. If you have photos you'd like to share with the committee, please email them www.tinyurl.com/whittierpix

Go Wildcats!



FUN RUN FAST FACTS

12 classrooms met or exceeded their classroom goal, well done!

Team Wawzenek and Team Villasin were the top classrooms, each more than doubled their class goals!



TOGETHER WE RAISED \$17,600





Did you know what a good job you did?

At the end of last school year, we collected **unwanted school supplies**. We filled an entire mini-van!



Our end-of-the-year unwanted school supplies collection was supported by donated paper bags from Trader Joe's (over 100 bags!) and resulted in 10 boxes that headed to **Creative Chicago Reuse Exchange** to be sorted and recycled. Eight crates of additional books and supplies were donated to Heziphibah House.



In addition, 2018-2019 Earth Day Green Team initiated the **collection and recycling of soft plastics** in partnership with Jewel on Madison Street, which continues.

This time last year there were straws and plastic wrappers on the sporks in the lunch room, and then in the landfill. This year there are no straws for general use and no unnecessary spork packaging! 'Nough said. Small steps. Well done Whittier Community! Special thanks to D97 Facilities Manager, Jeanne Keane and her staff.

Another terrific change is the **milk cartons and juice boxes** (when emptied of every last drip) **may be recycled in school again this year**. Last year this was banned after D97 was fined for contamination. We are now keeping three large garbage cans full of cartons out of the landfill every school day.

Whittier Recycling Opportunities

Drop the following off in the Whittier School vestibule bins:

- Spent Printer Cartridges
- Spent Markers (white board, crayola, all types)
- Trinkets smaller than a tennis ball (for teachers to use as prizes)
- Aluminum Can Tabs, milk jug rings, bottle caps, wine corks, pop tabs, and knitting yarn (for Ms Connell's Art Classes - or send in with your child)

In coming months, look for seasonal (holiday lights in Dec/Jan) and keep a look out for other special collections!

Zero Waste Events

Planning an Whittier Event? Make it **Zero Waste**. Look on the Whittier PTO Website for a Zero Waste Checklist on how to implement these practices into your school (or any!) event.

Volunteers Needed

We're still actively and urgently seeking **Lunchroom Volunteers** for the important work of teaching our young citizens recycling and composting. See the Current Volunteer Sign Ups on the PTO website for more information.

New Ideas Welcome!

Have an idea you want to implement? Reach out.

The Trinket Bin was the brainchild of a Whittier parent wanting to find a new home for all the accumulating trinkets in their house. Your idea may be the next green solution!

Want to find a way to **get involved** in the Green Team?

Contact Cathi Ward (wardcathi@gmail.com) or Dominique Betancourt (julie07161980@gmail.com).



From Mrs. Druckmiller's Class

I Wonder.....

I wonder if you can see clearly underwater with your eyes open with no goggles and if we can sleep with our eyes open?

Arlo Hollinden

I wonder if the people that made the playground will add new equipment for us to use? Will it be a different spinner? What will it be?

Colin Kayzak

I wonder if I could donate sleeping bags and cans of soup to charity?

Zoey Collins

I wonder if people know how I got my nickname? I said "me" a lot when I was little girl. So my family started calling me Mimi, then other people started to do the same thing. I do not mind if people Amelia or Mimi. I prefer Mimi.

Amelia Steffen

I wonder how many pieces of trash are on the property of Whittier School? I have picked up trash on the playground and there were donut boxes, cigarettes, donuts, and I even found a phone circuit. I have continued to see trash on the playground. If you stop littering and pick up trash, there will be less trash on the playground. Most of the trash ends up in the ocean. If you stop littering and start picking up trash, there will be less trash on the ground and in the ocean.

Elliott Hollinden

I wonder how did Pikmi Pops get invented? They are fun and smell good.

Jaxon Kizer

I wonder why the ocean is salty? Could it be because the fish cry? Could it be a giant shakes a salt container into it? No, it is because the water breaks down salt from the rocks. Also, raindrops react with gases in the air and add salt to the ocean. The ocean ridge gets hot from magma and this adds more salty minerals to the ocean.

Colleen Griffin

I wonder why the place we all live in is here? I wonder about what made the Universe? How something like this can exist? Maybe it wasn't created but that is impossible! I wish that we knew what made it. Maybe someday we will know what did it. I hope so at least.

Miles (Lilly) Horne

Small Moments in Second Grade

About three weeks ago, I touched a squid and an octopus! They felt pretty gooey alright! They felt gooey as slime. I liked touching the squid better. It was fun, but at first I felt scared then I DID it! I touched both!

Jonah Hartman

I like learning author's craft in second grade. I also like reading longer books. My mom says to keep reading a lot at home. I love books so that is not hard.

Teniyah McNeal

Once upon a time when I went to Cocoa Beach. I saw a squid and octopus. They were so cool. The next day I went to school and we were studying a squid and octopus. We cut open the squid. We saw the ink sac. We drew a picture and learned facts. Did you know that octopus can change colors?

Jocelyn Swaine

My class has fun doing science. We have a science journal. We make diagrams in it. We made diagrams of octopus and squid. Did you know octopus really have arms with suckers not tentacles? The squid has arms and 2 extra longer tentacles that have a pointed tip.

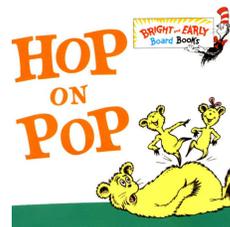
Ricardo Builes

Book Reviews



I recommend reading the book **Key Hunters**. It has lots of action that keeps you wanting to read more. The main characters have to hunt for keys that unlock books. They have to survive crazy stunts to find the keys and without the keys they can't get home. Once you start, I know you will want to keep reading other books in this seven book series. Enjoy the books.

Madden Spurlock



I recommend reading the book **Hop on Pop** by Dr. Seuss. There are lots of characters like Pat, Pup, Mr. Brown, and Mrs. Brown. The book has lots of words that rhyme.

Hop on Pop is a funny book.

Sawyer Rogowin



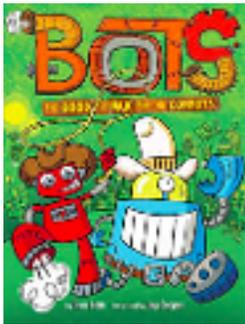
I highly recommend reading the book **My New Friend is So Fun** and other Elephant and Piggie books. The books are funny and you can read them with a friend or a reading partner. It is fun to use different voices for the characters.

Amina Yamini



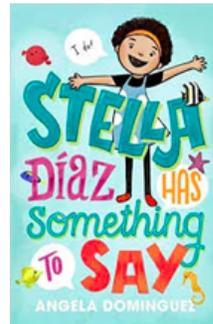
I highly recommend reading **Wings of Fire The Graphic Novel**. This book is about different types of dragons such as Nightwings, Seawings, Icewings, Sandwings, Mudwings, Rainwings and Skywings. Their friend Orchid is missing in their rain forest kingdom. Another dragon named Glory decides to challenge the queen. Read **Wings of Fire** to learn how everything turns out.

Karim Azizi



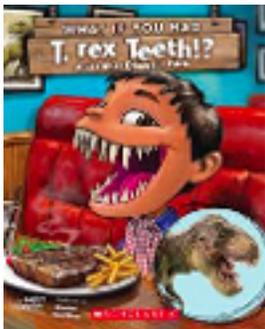
I highly recommend reading the book **Bots**. It is funny. It is about two bots that really like cowboys. They even act like cowbots or robots that like cowboys. One can fly and one can roll. It is a series so read #1, then #2, then #3.

Mason Velasco



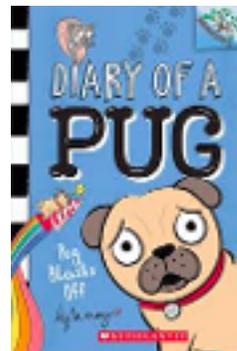
I recommend reading the book **Stella Diaz Has Something to Say**. Stella tells interesting stories about things she does at school and with her family. She is from Mexico but lives in the United States. Read this to find out about Mexican traditions and to learn more Spanish words.

Maria Lee



I recommend reading the book **What if you had T. rex Teeth!?** It is interesting and tells you facts about the T. rex in a fun way. There are more books in this series that tell you what it would be like if you had the animal's special feature. I recommend you read them all.

Latifah Pare



I recommend reading the book **Diary of a Pug**. If you like pugs you will want to read it. It also has squirrels and a cat as characters. The pug isn't fond of the cat. Read the book to see if pug changes his mind.

Georgia Hill



I recommend reading the book **Amulet**. As soon as you begin reading, your mind gets stuck inside the story. Let's talk about the main characters who heroes who fight for good. They are Emily & Navin. Elves are the bad guys. Crack, Crack, Crack....there are eight books in this series.

Mario Gerut



I recommend reading the book **Winter According to Humphrey**. It is funny. It also an adventure. Don't you like adventure? If you like this one, there is a whole series of these books to read.

Julian Smith

Find more student writing on page 17!



palm leaves

Physical Education

Whittier Physical Education classes are going great. All grades continue to have a fitness component as well as focusing on the importance of using kind words with a kind voice, cooperating, and helping others.

The 3rd-5th grade students are active enhancing their teamwork

skills and K-2nd grade students are working on movement skills as well as sport skills at an introductory level. I am proud of how students are improving and always keep trying their best.

Keep up the great effort Wildcats!
Mr. Coglianese

Art

Happy November Wildcats! Time has flown by in the art room this past month! All classes have been creating like crazy!



This past month Kindergarten classes began their exploration of line and shape. Students started with learning basic lines and practiced their fine motor skills through drawing, tracing, and painting. Then they began putting those lines together to make shapes! So far kinders have made squares and triangles.

Next up will be circles! In each shape exploration, students are: drawing, cutting, folding, gluing, and painting. To finish off their exploration, kinders will be participating in their first VTS (Visual Thinking Strategy) session looking at Paul Klee's cities made of shapes to expand their visual literacy.

First graders started the year talking about our differences as people and in our interests. We talked about how each of us is unique and that is what makes us special. Taking this life lesson, 1st grade classes created self portraits of things that they love to showcase those differences. Moving forward to this month, students have been busy exploring color!

In 1st grade, students are expected to dive deep into how color works, how colors are classified, and how colors are made. To start this long journey, students participated in a VTS (Visual Thinking Strategy) session looking at Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. Students immediately decided the painting felt cold and dark because of the use of blue. Students learned that blue is a cool color. With this new knowledge 1st graders have been making their own *Starry Nights* using cool colors. Next up they will be looking at a warm colored painting!



Last month 2nd grade got straight into artist inspired projects and learned about how to create depth in a landscape. Students started this lesson participating in a VTS (Visual Thinking Strategy) session by looking at one of André Derain's fauvist landscapes. Students were stunned at the wild colors used all over the painting.

They got in quite the debate on whether or not the street in the painting was a street or a river because it was green. This questioning of the piece was great to see because it showed how much their visual literacy has grown along with their confidence in using visual clues and cues to support their reasoning. With this passion for color, students then created their own fauvist landscapes. They learned that things up close are big, while things far away are small. Second graders also learned several art vocab words such as: horizon line, foreground, middle ground, background, and depth. Currently students just started another artist exploration looking at Henri Matisse's collage pieces. Students will be pushed to think outside the box and create unknown shapes. I can't wait to see what they come up with!



3rd graders are currently finishing up their large color theory Dale Chihuly inspired sculptures. Students started this lesson participating in a VTS (Visual Thinking Strategy) session looking at Dale Chihuly's fantastically colorful glass sculptures.

Students were in awe of the works and had a lot to say about what they thought each piece could be.

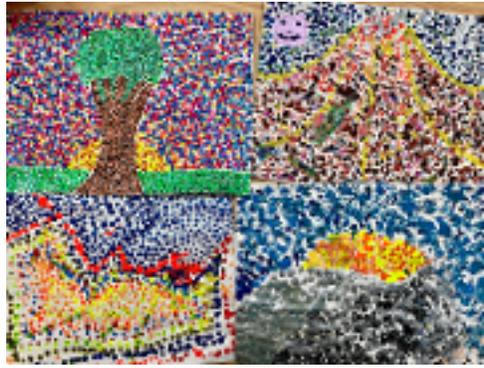
Taking inspiration from an inspirational artist, students brought in recycled bottles and began painting. They were asked to work as a table and build a trusting, collaborative, artistic community

by working together to mix their own colors. Students experimented with primary colors to make the secondary colors just right. When all of the bottles were dry students then had to cut them in creative ways and string them up as a sculpture.

These. Turned. Out. AMAZING!! Thank you for sending your wildcat with plastic bottles. This project wouldn't have been possible without your support!

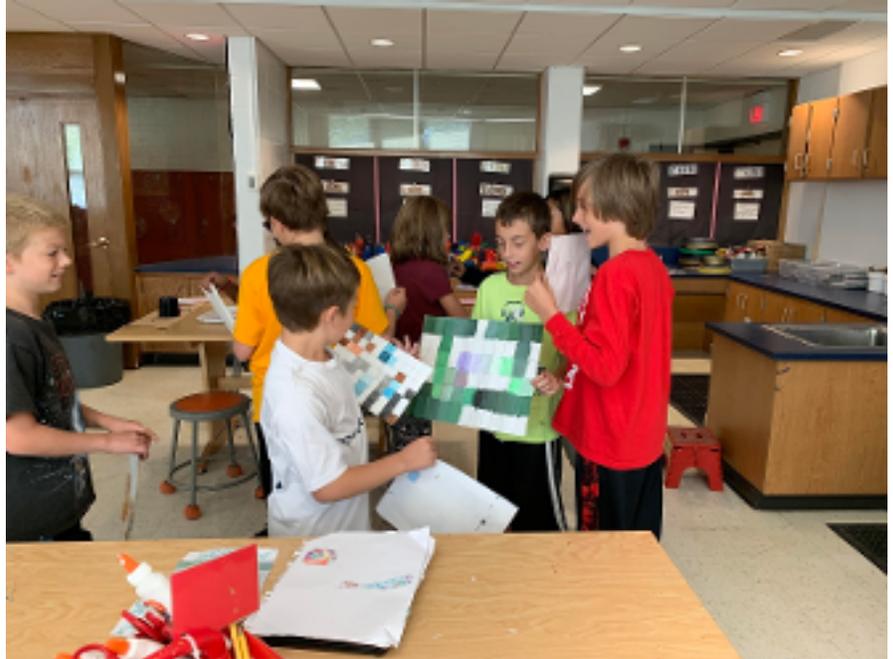
Up next 3rd grade will be learning how to draw proportionally accurate portraits!





Fourth grade classes have discovered the calming meditative sensation that repetition can create by painting using the Avant Garde method, pointillism. Students started this lesson by participating in a VTS (Visual Thinking Strategy) session looking at George Seurat's Sunday Afternoon on La Grande Jette. Students knew right away that this piece is not just an ordinary painting. Students were able to use visual clues and cues of the fuzzy effect the painting has to determine that it is made up of A LOT of very tiny dots.

With this concept, 4th graders began their own exploration of pointillism. Students were pushed to take risks by using unexpected colors to create new colors, fill the white spaces, and give and receive feedback from their peers to improve their own works; along with continuing to build our artistic and trusting community. Up next 4th grade will be learning how to draw using 1-point perspective!



Fifth graders just finished up an experimental color mixing project. To start the project off, students participated in a VTS (Visual Thinking Strategy) session looking at several famous works that had some level of abstraction through grids. Students learned and discussed that abstraction can be something that is real and recognizable, turned into something less clear; it is abstracted. Students started the abstraction process by turning in an image of their choosing into our Google classroom. I then pixelated it for them in Photoshop and printed it. With their

newly abstracted image students then had to paint the new image. They were given minimal direction of color mixing and told to experiment until they found the perfect color match. The final piece is an abstract pixel grid painting. WOW they look FANTASTIC! Fifth graders blew my mind with their eagerness and excitement to be experimental and creatively problem solve to find their colors.

Up next for 5th grade is implied texture landscapes!



In other news, this past month D97 had a reception acknowledging the amazing art that was chosen and displayed in the executive boardroom of the administration building all summer long.

The two students that got to represent Whittier were Theresa Olson and Gwen Coffaro, CONGRATULATIONS! As a district, all of the art teachers have decided that this will be a continuous showcase each year twice a year.

Pieces will be selected from each school to represent the amazing things we are working on. As always, we are constantly doing amazing things in the art room that I am so proud of and can't wait to show off all of our Wildcats' hard work at our SLAM showcase!

- Miss Connell
Instagram : @wildcatpompomworld



Library

Dear Whittier Families,

Happy November! We've been busy in the library this month!

Younger classes have been reading the Monarch Books. Students read nominated titles in order to help choose the state-wide winner.

Winning authors are thrilled to be selected for the Illinois Readers' Choice awards as they know the selection was made by their readers: the kids! Kindergarten, first, second and third grade classes read Monarch nominees during library classes—so far, We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins has been an early favorite. Stay tuned to see which book is chosen!

Fourth and fifth grade students have been learning how to spot trustworthy websites among unreliable sources. We've been using SIFT (Stop, Investigate the Source, Find better coverage, Trace claims, quotes and media to original context) to determine whether sites are reliable or not.

Ask your 4th or 5th grader about the pool survey (major media outlets reported the results of a study stating that 51% of Americans swim in the pool rather than shower or bathe! Alarming until you realize that the results might have been skewed by the organization that funded the study—the Chlorine Chemistry Division of the American Chemistry Council.) This is a tough skill but a very important one!

The October Book Fair was a big success this year. The money raised by the book fair goes to support the school and the library so we greatly appreciate your support. The PTO generously donated many new books to the Whittier Library—everything from super scary The Forgotten Girl by India Hill Brown to silly Frankencrayon by Michael Hall! We're so lucky to have an active PTO that helps support our school through these fun programs.

Our birthday books program is also up and running - in honor of your child's birthday or other special event, you may adopt a book for our library. Please feel free to contact me if you're interested in participating and, as always, visit our library website at: www.op97.org/whittier/mediacenter/

Happy reading!
Laurie Conley
Whittier Teacher Librarian
lconley@op97.org

Music



Our Wildcats had a visit this October from the Pirates of Penzance- a.k.a. Opera for the Young! Students sang along with and enjoyed the hijinks and brilliant melodies. We had over 40 students participate in the onstage and offstage chorus. Thank you to the PTO for funding Opera for the Young and to Brooks for loaning us risers for our offstage 3rd grade chorus!





1st and 2nd grade have been working with these beat/ rhythm manipulatives. Soon kindergarten will be learning with them as well!



3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have been working on more complex arrangements featuring 2-3 parts on Orff (xylophone) instruments utilizing more complex rhythms.

Chorus has been making leaps and bounds in just the few weeks we have been meeting, working on songs in three part harmony!

Coming soon: preparations for our Whittier Winter Sing!

Anjali Karia
K-5 Music Specialist
akaria@op97.org

Music-Band

Families, please note the weekly schedule for all band students. If your child is participating in the band program and you are not receiving weekly emails please email Mr. Barnard at jbarnard@op97.org to get on his contact list.

Beginning Band Lessons: Tuesdays

Intermediate Band Rehearsals: Tuesdays

Intermediate Band Lessons: Thursdays

Always bring your instrument to school on these days. Instruments & supplies are to be stored in the auditorium at the beginning of the day before going up to your classroom.

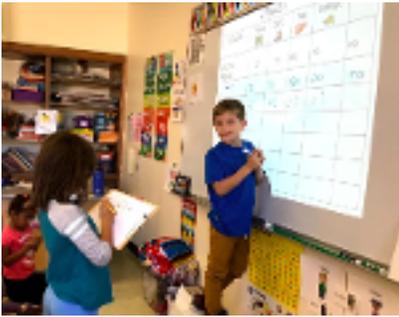
Go to Mr. Barnard's Website for band-related resources and playing tips: tinyurl.com/WhittierBand

Whittier Band/Orchestra
Present

**1st Performance
Showcase**
Beginning Band
6:30 p.m.

5th Grade Winter Concert
Intermediate Band & Orchestra
7:15 p.m.

Tues, Dec. 17th
John Greenleaf Whittier
Auditorium
715 N. Harvey Ave.
Oak Park, IL



Kinder- 1st graders

This year one of my goals is to keep incorporating more read alouds with all K and 1st graders in our target language, Spanish. Many books we read in our class are books that your student is also reading in their regular classes but we read it in Español, and they aligned directly with our themes.

During the first trimester we are exploring different themes such as family, fall, Day of the Dead and All About Me. Students have opportunities to interact with vocabulary using centers. Check out how fun it is to recognize words, phrases and sentences while spelling with playdough and (1st graders) using personal surveys to find out about each other's pets!



2nd grade

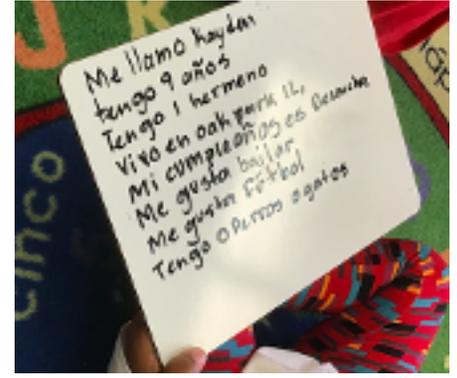
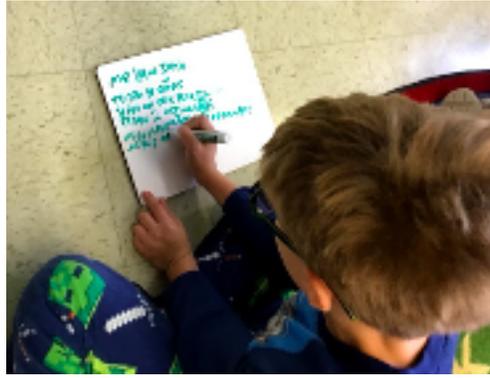
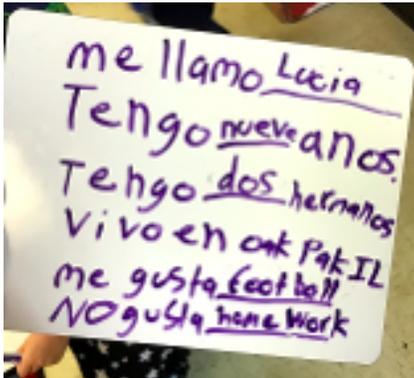
Second graders are learning about the incredible long migration of the Mariposas Monarcas (Monarch butterflies) to México each fall. Monarcas also play a key role in the celebration of the Day of the Dead in México, the Monarch is an amazing and inspiring insect.

We also learned a song called La Mariposa Monarca, a Spanish version of Lucas Miller's monarch song and a fun game called Mari, Mari, PoPo, Mari, Mari, SaSa (Mariposa). Make sure you ask your student about it and play with them.

4th- 5th grade

We read short and comprehensible biographies about famous and influential Latinos to expand our knowledge about Hispanic Heritage. The biographies also supported student's writing skills in the journey to write about themselves in Spanish. 4th graders wrote a short paragraph and 5th graders created iMovies using information that describes who they are in Spanish. Some students took risks and presented theirs in class. Make sure you ask your student to show you their Showbie account for Spanish class. All of our main projects and assignments are recorded using this fantastic application on their iPads.

Note: 5th grade classes will take a field trip in the month of November and early December to the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen. Stay tuned for the permission slips and all the information you will need to know about your 5th grader's class.



If you are on Twitter, you may want to follow me at @AguirreLidys for updates and photos.

Sra. Rodriguez, Grade 3

Hola familias de Whittier,

We have been having great third grade classes. Children have been working on adjectives. Working in pairs, they described a stuffed animal using the adjectives bank that we worked during class. I emphasized understanding by using visuals and gestures. They worked on the vocabulary by acting the adjectives using those gestures.

We also used the word bank of adjectives to create a character. Each third grade created their own character and wrote a story about it. They also made a drawing of it. Ask your child about the character!

As a Spanish Heritage Month celebration, we played a game in which they had to read about a Latino celebrity and find his/her picture, which was displayed in the classroom. We also read books about Frida Kahlo and saw some of her art work.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Hoehne class did reach 500 points!!! The class will have a celebration. They picked a video/song (which will be in Spanish:)) and the whole class will play a game too.

See you in the next Greenleaf Newsletter!





From the classroom of
Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Holich

I Wonder Stories

I wonder about the dinosaurs' life in the Cretaceous, Jurassic, and Triassic periods. I wonder about their eggs, footprints, fossils, mead and plant eating dinosaurs. I also wonder about the plants at the Mesozoic era and water dinosaurs.
Eden

I wonder what it would be like to be President. You would be in power and very rich! You would live in the White House, but I imagine me leading a whole country! I dream about being President and leading the country to war and making speeches that lead us to victory. I would have had to vote, get elected, and get to work!
Will E.

I wonder about cheating because it is wrong to cheat. It is bad too. I wonder why people brag because it makes other people sad. I wonder when I'm hungry because it makes me think of food! I also wonder why people bully because it hurts people too.
Carter C.

Life as a Second Grader

This is what it is like to be a second grader. It feels like I am a lot older. We read and write a lot more in second grade. In second grade, we do a lot of math. I like to write a lot. We earn points in second grade for doing a great job. I like to go on field trips in second grade. We saw butterflies on a field trip. This is why I like to be second grade.
Jasmine

Being a second-grader makes me happy. I like math in second grade. I can work with bigger words. I like that I am learning to count to 1,000. I love to play and learn in second grade. We do not bully in second grade.
Jacob

This is what it is like to be a second grader. You can draw and cut paper. You can read more and make a lot of friends. We do not bully in second grade. We do a lot of math. I like to draw a lot. We go to recess a lot and I go on the spinner. We share in second grade and play on the iPad. I like to go to Lexia and Zearn.
Dante

This is what it is like to be a second grader. It is nice to be a second grader. It makes me feel happy. We do a lot of work and I listen a lot in second grade. We do a lot of math in second grade. We do not bully in second grade. I draw a lot in second grade and play with a lot of friends.
Elizabeth

Life as a 2nd grader is fun! I get homework that is fun. I like the Teachers too! I have friends who are fun and play with me. I love the math, it is so fun to do! I love art too. I like to paint and color. It is fun to be 2nd grader.
Fiona S.

Hello, I'm Corey. I love to do writing. Writing is so fun because I write fast and can 12 stories in one day. Next time I'm going to try to write 13!
Corey S.

Partner Book Reviews

Talent Showdown

We liked this book because it's a Pokemon book. It's a series with seventeen books. We read five books that are in the series. There are many battles in Talent Showdown and we love to read about battles. Our favorite chapter is Brook's Big Moment. In Brook's Big Moment, Ash is supposed to be at the show but he got trapped. What will they do without Ash?
Asher D and Evan P.

The Babysitters Club

All these girls go to school and after school they babysit. They babysit a girl named Sandy. Sandy is out of control. She is in big trouble. We like this book.
Mackenzie P. and Claudia R.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus is a good book because it is a funny book. It is a good grade level book for young kids. It is about a pigeon you have to watch to stop him from driving the bus. We loved this book and hope you love it too.
Ingrid G., Asher L. and Rylan K.

Changing Weather Storms

Changing Weather Storms talks about how storms form from the weather. I learned that a tornado is a funnel cloud. A funnel cloud is columns of spinning air, I remember that. The funnel cloud spins faster and faster then a tornado forms. I liked this book because I am really interested in tornadoes and hurricanes. This is a great book if you are too.
Mason Black

Hooray for the 75th Annual Whittier Pumpkin Festival!





Early Childhood, Kindergarten & 1st Grade

3rd place: "Captain Underpants"
Jerry Daly - Ms. Dunn/Ms. Wilson

2nd place: "Pete the Cat"
Stanley Glodek - Ms. A Williams

1st place "Mermaid"
Charlotte Van Horn - Mrs. Villasin



2nd & 3rd Grade

3rd place: "Skull"
Zoe Glennie - Mrs. Wright

2nd place: "Party Pumpkins"
Zoe Irvine - Mrs. Hoehne

1st place: "Frankenstein"
Karim Azizi - Mrs. Druckmiller



4th & 5th Grade

3rd place: "Gumball Machine"
Eliana Perez - Mrs. Heide

2nd place: "ET"
Nico Lopez - Mr. Lukehart

1st place: "Baby Shark" Freia Brostrom - Mrs. McDaniels and Mrs. Gawne



Family

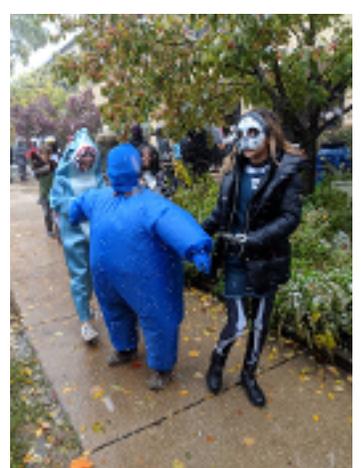
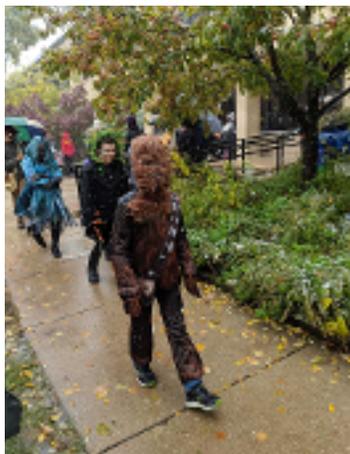
3rd place: "Hamburger"
Adelaide Goehl - Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Jacobson

2nd place: "FIFA World Cup"
Loie Burwell - Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Jacobson

1st place: "Chance the Snapper"
Finnleigh Higgins-Urban - Mrs. Madsen



**2019
HallSNOWeen
Parade**



Meet Whittier's Instructional Coach

Hello Wildcat Families!

My name is Meagan Roskos, and I'm new to the role of instructional coach this year. Though I'm new as coach, I've been a Wildcat teacher for the past ten years in fourth grade. I'm excited to transition to this new role and work with all of our staff and students!

The purpose of an instructional coach is to support our staff in professional learning so that we continue to grow our professional practices to meet the needs of all of our Wildcats.

In a typical week, I model or observe lessons and debrief with the teachers. I meet with grade level teams to plan and reflect on curriculum, and discuss our students' learning. I co-plan with teachers using new curricular resources and instructional strategies. I also provide ongoing trainings, as well as meet with Mr. Robinson and other staff to plan for and support our incredibly hard-working teachers.

There's plenty of exciting learning happening each day! A couple of spotlights this fall:

All of our Wildcats begin their day with a **morning meeting** this year. It offers a wonderful opportunity for community-building and problem-solving.

It is a sacred time for students and teachers to connect with one another, engage in low-stakes team-building activities, and talk about problems that may arise during their days. Students feel a growing sense of belonging when these meetings take place regularly, and it is a predictable, enjoyable way to set the tone for a positive, productive day.

Ask your students about what their morning meetings feel like: if they're in Ms. Madsen's 5th grade class, Tuesday's meetings include yoga, Growth Mindset discussion, and de-stressing techniques. If they're in Mrs. Weiss's 1st grade class, meetings begin every day with greeting a partner by first name, practicing eye contact, and making one another feel important!

Our new **Word Study** curriculums are rolling out this year and they're so fun! "Word study involves 'doing' things with words – examining, manipulating, comparing and categorizing – and offers students the opportunity to make their own discoveries about how words work," (Bear, Invernizzi, Templeton & Johnston, 2012, p. xxii).

The first curriculum, Words Their Way, is implemented in K-5. The second curriculum, Phonics Units of Study, is used in K-2. They are both intended to be a part of a balanced literacy plan that supports fluency, comprehension and writing. During Word Study, students are actively constructing their own knowledge of spelling patterns, features of phonics, and high frequency words. Students learn how words work by engaging in mini-lessons with their teachers, then practicing their learning through activities such as word sorting, word hunts, games, and drawing and labeling.

Ask your students about becoming wordsmiths: if they're in Mrs. Hoehne's 3rd grade class, they can show you how they time themselves to sort their words by pattern- and time themselves again to beat their time! If they're in Mrs. Baker's kindergarten class, they are working in small groups tailored to their needs alongside their mascot, Mabel the Elephant, and applying their work to their writing!

Adapted Source: <https://tinyurl.com/WhittierInstruction>

Internet for All

Launched in 2017, the Internet for All program offers free home Internet service to District 97 students in grades three through eight who do not currently have access to this critical resource. Through a partnership with the Digital Wish program and Mobile Beacon, the district will be providing students with free wireless hotspot devices they can use at home, and covering the cost of the monthly fees for the service. The goals of the program are to help increase student access to valuable online learning resources, while also bridging the digital divide and ensuring greater educational equity.

Eligibility Requirements

Below are the eligibility requirements for families that are interested in participating in the program.

- Must have at least one third- through eighth-grade student who is enrolled in a school in District 97 and participating in the district's iLearn initiative.
- Must be enrolled in the National Free/Reduced Lunch Program.
- Must not have home Internet access at the time of sign up.

Sign-Up Form

If you are eligible for the District 97 Internet for All program and wish to participate, please visit <https://www.op97.org/ilearn97/internet-for-all>, complete the "Internet for All" form, and return it to your child's school.

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Try Therapeutic Tutoring at Smart Love.

Therapeutic tutoring combines traditional academic tutoring with a therapeutic approach to create an effective solution for children aged 6–14 years who struggle with learning in their core subjects. Your child's tutor is an experienced educator, trained to build confidence and self-esteem using the Smart Love[®] approach.

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- Improve attitudes toward school
- Increase motivation to complete school work
- Strengthen capacity to cope with frustration and challenges
- Access his/her innate strengths
- Improve attention and concentration
- Build organization and planning skills

Why Smart Love?

We offer parents and their children powerful and unique insights into how children's minds work and how to best tap into a child's innate desire to be successful in school and in life. We acknowledge all of the child's feelings and help preserve their inborn desire to be happy in the face of challenges. Smart Love Family Services has helped over 12,000 children and our approach is supported by leading child development research and lauded by parents and professionals alike.

Key Program Features:

- Individually customized plan for your child
- Techniques for supporting your child at home
- Integrated communications with parents and teachers
- Psychoeducational assessments available as needed
- Package pricing



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Therapeutic Tutoring

Call 773.665.8052, ext. 4, or
visit [www.smartlovefamily.org/
learningservices](http://www.smartlovefamily.org/learningservices)

The Smart Love Approach was developed by Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D., and William J. Pieper, M.D., and is described in their book *Smart Love: The Natalie & Ben Heineman Smart Love Preschool* offers classes for three to six-year olds, and parent and child programs for children six weeks to 36 months. Smart Love Family Services provides counseling for children and families based on the Pieper's therapeutic approach, Inner Humanism[®]. Parenting programs include private parent coaching, educational seminars (co-sponsored by the Interpsychic Humanism Society), parent training and support programs, and publications. © 2014 Smart Love Family Services is an Illinois-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Chicago Location: Natalie & Ben Heineman Smart Love Center, 2222 N. Kedzie Blvd., Chicago, IL 60647
Oak Park Location: Rush Medical Office Building, 610 S. Maple Street, Oak Park, IL 60304

773.665.8052, ext. 4 | www.smartlovefamily.org



Dance Through the Decades with the Whittier crew!

The 5th grade Girl Scout Troop will host the Harvest Dance on Friday November 22 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

The theme is **Blast From the Past** so come dressed up as a character from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s.

Get ready to dance to the music of a DJ spinning old favorites. Games and a photo booth, snacks available for purchase.

Please donate a canned good item for entrance.



November 21
Turkey Trot (3rd-5th Grade)

November 22
Family Harvest Dance

November 27-29
Thanksgiving Break

December 3
PTO Meeting

December 6
Report Card Distribution
Whittier Common Ground

December 17
Beginning Band & Orchestra
First Performance Showcase

December 17
Intermediate Band & Orchestra
Winter Concert

December 23-January 3
Winter Break

Did you know?



If you take pictures at a school event, you can upload them directly to the PTO for use in the Greenleaf, Yearbook, the PTO website, and on social media. Just go to www.tinyurl.com/whittierpix to upload.

Don't have the link handy? You can always find access to submit photos through the Whittier PTO website, under "News & Events," and at the bottom of the Tuesday Newsday Digital Backpack emails.