**IAR Test**

Third graders will take IAR test (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) from March 11-13. It will consist of two ELA tests and three Math tests. An envelope with “motivational slips” and a letter explaining them will be going home soon. There will be a due date to return the slips so we can be sure that everyone has one. They are always a welcome surprise! **Also, please check with your child to make sure that they have ear buds/ headphones.** They will be needed during parts of the test and we need them during school.

 In the coming weeks, we will prepare for these tests (ELA & Math) by reviewing test taking strategies and giving them practice problems so they will become familiar with the types of questions that will be asked. More information will be coming.

**Second Step – Child Protection Unit**

This week we started the Child Protection Unit mandated by Erin’s Law. As you saw on Wednesday’s HW sheet, we will focus on the “Never-Never Laws” and this week’s focus was about never touch a gun. These lessons are very intense. Future lessons will deal with unwanted touching and alcohol drinking. The lesson are very engaging and the students are very focused. Please take the time to follow through on this instruction with the HW sheets.

Curriculum

***Reading*** – We continue our work on character traits looking deeply at why characters behave as they do and then developing deeper theories about them. With practice we are improving at this. We are reading *Because of Winn Dixie* as a class so we can consider the traits of Opal, the main character together and students are reading their own independent books. It’s important that they stop and write notes about their characters as they are reading. Some are having a hard time stopping because they are engrossed in their book. Soon, we will be reading two very powerful picture books by Patricia Polacco, *Junkyard Wonders* and *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. With these books we are comparing two books by one author and looking at character traits for the same main character in these stories.

***Writing-*** Our work on persuasive writing continues. We are working on a class essay to persuade our principal to consider indoor lunch recess activities for students to choose from on cold or rainy days. We have also worked on pieces about someone who we really admire. We will continue writing different pieces and eventually we will choose one (or more) that we want to final copy.

***Math*** – We are working on area problems and we are using the length by width formula. We are doing well with this and we'll end this unit next week and move into Module 5 on Fractions.

***Science –*** Our crayfish have finally arrived***!*** They are huge!!We will observe them for the next couple of weeks in their environment and how they interact with each other.

***Social Studies:*** Presentations start Tuesday for the Country Project. Your child should know what day he/she presents and should practice this weekend.

**Valentine’s Day**

Our Valentine’s Day party was fun and relaxed! We passed out valentines and read them, played our games, and ate snacks. Thanks for helping the students with their valentines!

**Fun Fair: Coming Soon**

In a couple of weeks it will be time to join the Cake Walk, play carnival games or play games in Spanish at our Whittier Fun Fair! More info about this can be found in the Whittier Digital Backpack in the next couple of weeks. Be sure to mark the date -**Mar. 2**!

T.E.A.M. REPORT

Mrs. Hoehne's 3rd Grade Newsletter February 15, 2019

Upcoming Dates

**President’s Day**- Mon., Feb. 18 - No School

**Pennies for Patients Collection** - Feb. 19 – Mar. 15

**Whittier Fun Fair**- Sat., March 2 - 11-3:00

**PARCC Testing Begins** Week of March 5. See article for details.

**Pennies for Patients**

 The Whittier Student Council needs your help in the fight against blood cancers! By participating in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s (LLS) School & Youth programs, our school is working with LLS to help blood cancer patients live their best life today.

 Between February 19-March 15th, students and families are asked to save any type of change (coins and bills) using the collection boxes that were brought home this week along with a letter explaining more about the program. Checks can also be turned in using the collection boxes, payable to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The collection boxes should be returned to school by Friday, March 15, 2019.  In addition, parents, friends, and family members can also **donate online** using the teacher links at <https://events.lls.org/pages/il/Whittier-Elementary-School-2019> . After you donate online, you’ll receive a tax-deductible receipt. There are many prize opportunities online that are not available if you bring in the money.

 Overall, the class that raises the most money both online and in school combined will receive an Olive Garden lunch including pasta, salad, and breadsticks at a future date determined by their classroom teacher.  Plus, if Whittier School meets our goal of  $2,019 we will have a fun celebration at school.

 For more information on The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s mission, please visit [www.schoolandyouth.org/il](http://www.schoolandyouth.org/il).

Thank you,

Whittier Student Council