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T.E.A.M. Report

**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 lessons are very engaging and the students are very focused. Please take the time to follow through on this conversation with the Home Link sheets.

**Pennies for Patients – Continues!**

Dear Whittier Community,

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 4 -28th, 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, February 28,2020.  In addition, parents, friends, and family members can also [**donate online**](https://events.lls.org/pages/il/Whittier-Elementary-School-2019-2020) using the teacher link at <https://events.lls.org/pages/il/Whittier-Elementary-School-2019-2020> . 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 $2,020 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

Curriculum

***Reading*** –We finished up our Non-fiction Reading Unit this week and we will be moving into a new unit called Character Studies. We will focus on character traits while we read fiction books and possibly work in book clubs. We will also be learning about the Chicago Fire of 1871 through some readings. It’s a fun unit.

***Writing-*** Today we wrapped up our non-fiction writing unit when we shared our “books” with the other third graders. The students were very proud to present their work. From the Table of Contents to the summary, most students did solid work. And the additional text features that they included were interesting additions.

***Math*** – We have a good start on our new unit on area. We are working with tiles and shapes as we construct area models and count the shapes. Soon we will move into the area formula—length x width. Please ask about the name project we are making while calculating the area of each letter in our names.

***Science/Social Studies –*** We began our unit on Life Structures two weeks ago. This coming week we will focus on the human skeletal system and the importance of our bones. We will also complete all of our Country Project presentations throughout the week and be done by Friday. I am so excited to hear what everyone learned.

**IAR Test – Headphones Needed!**

Third graders will take IAR test (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) the Week of March 16. 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 and that theirs are still working.** 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.

**Black History Month!!**

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a special assembly by the Numufatima African Dance Ensemble. We participated in call and response singing and dancing, heard different rhythms on a jemba (please ask your 3rd grader what this is!), and watched an incredible tap dancer. It was really fun!!

Whittier’s second annual Black History Family Night was a success!! From the storyteller to the stations to the Wax Museum (by the 4th and 5th graders) to the beautiful doors, there was something for everyone. Thanks to so many of you who came out and joined the fun!!

Upcoming Dates

**Pennies for Patients Collection** - Feb. 10–28

**End of the Trimester** - Feb. 28

**PTO Meeting** – Tues., Mar. 3, 7:00-8:00

**Fun Fair** - March 7, 11:00-3:00

**Report Cards** - March 13

Mrs. Hoehne’s 3rd Grade Newsletter February 21, 2020