**Black History Literacy Night**

Whittier is hosting its second annual Black History Family Night on Wednesday, February 19. Join us for a night of fun and family friendly activities to celebrate Black History month! The evening will start with a storytelling performance, followed by fun stations for adults and kids. From crafts to history fun facts, African drums to all school door decorating contest (and a raffle too). There is something for everyone. Hope to see you there! 6:00pm Guest Performance 6:30-7:30 Stations

**IAR Test**

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.

Upcoming Dates

**PTO Meeting**- Feb. 11 7:00

**President’s Day**- Mon., Feb. 17 - No School

**Black History Literacy Night** - Feb. 19 6:00-7:30

**Pennies for Patients Collection** - Feb. 4 – 28

**End of the Trimester** - Feb. 28

**Report Cards**- March 13

**Valentine’s Day**

Our Valentine’s Day party will be in the afternoon on Friday, February 14. We will have a snack, pass out Valentine’s and just chill, relax and appreciate each other. More information to come.

**Pennies for Patients**

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 links 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*** –Our focus is reading narrative non-fiction books like Biographies. We will read with a different lens and try to think about the person and his/her traits, motivations and wants that drove him/her to be the person he/she became. It has created some great conversations about all types of people that have impacted our world.

***Writing-*** Our non-fiction books are coming along in Book Creator. We started over a week ago. Some of the information is from books, encyclopedias, articles, and what we know through life experiences with this topic. Each student needs to have at least an introduction, 3 chapters, and a closing page that shares what the student learned. The books can have at least 1 to 2 text features (diagrams, pictures and captions, maps, charts, etc.). I may send the book home for it to be proofread in the next week or so by another set of eyes. Typing on the iPad is a whole new experience. I will let you know.

 ***Math*** – We are heading to the end of the Multiplication and Division unit. We are reading *The Best of Times* by Greg Tang and learning different strategies to figure out math facts. Be sure to ask your child which one he/she likes the best. Greg Tang has some very clever ideas.

***Science –*** Our first lessons in Life Structures is the study of seeds. The focus questions were: How much water does a seed soak up? and What effect does water have on seeds? The four seeds we are observing: Bush beans, pea, popcorn and sunflower.

***Social Studies:*** For the Country Project, we are in Week 4. I am hoping that the written form of the project is wrapping up. I would like everyone to start having a conversation about what creative project will go well with the country as well as with your child’s schedule. Please ask questions if needed.

T.E.A.M. REPORT

Mrs. Hoehne's 3rd Grade Newsletter February 7, 2020