Black History Month Assembly

This past Wednesday we had our Black History Assembly. The students were enthralled by a one woman show about Harriet Tubman, performed by Cynthia Maddox. You could have heard a pin drop in our Auditorium because our students were so focused! We also sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and heard a song about Harriet Tubman performed by some of our students. Thanks to all who were involved with planning this special event!

**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

Upcoming Dates

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

**Whittier Fun Fair**- **TOMORROW,** Mar. 2 **-** 11-3:00

**Motivation Slips due back**- Mon., Mar. 4

**IAR 3rd Grade Testing-** March 11-13

**Report cards go home-** March 11-13

**Spring Recess-** Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29

**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” went home at the end of last week. If you can turn them back as soon as possible and before the first test on March 11 we would greatly appreciate it.** They are always a welcome surprise! **Also, please check with your child to make sure that they have ear buds/ headphones.**

 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. A letter from the Mr. Robinson went home on Tuesday of this week with more information.

Curriculum

***Reading*** – We continue our work on character study looking deeply at why characters behave as they do and then developing deeper theories about them. With practice, we are improving at this. This week we started Book Clubs. Every student is in a small group reading the same book. The group will determine how many chapters to read and meet twice a week to discuss how the character is acting, reacting and changing in the story. Allowing the students to have discussions with each other about what they are reading will help them to develop ideas about the characters and their motivations. Finding common ground in a story takes a book to a different level. It’s very validating to know that others are thinking the same way you are about a part of a book or it can be eye-opening to consider a different point of view. It should be a fun and interesting experience!

***Writing-*** Our work on persuasive writing continues. We finished our 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 revise into a final copy.

**Math-** We started our unit on fractions this week and we’re working very deliberately to understand what a fraction is, how we identify them and how we partition a whole to make a fractional part. We have also learned that the size of the fraction can vary depending on how big the whole is and that a bigger number in the denominator doesn’t mean the piece is bigger like it can with a whole number. Excellent observations, thinking, and discussions throughout the whole week!

T.E.A.M. REPORT

Mrs. Hoehne's 3rd Grade Newsletter March 1, 2019