* T.E.A.M. Report 

**Can Do Community Challenge**
For the month of April, Whittier School Student Council will help Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry fight hunger in a friendly competition with other Oak Park schools to see who can raise the most points (earned through donated food, dollars, and volunteer hours).  You can support Team Whittier by bringing canned goods to school and there is a link on the flyer in the digital backpack. Thank you!!

**There is still Homework**

It is that time of year…when I hear “Sorry Mrs. Hoehne but I didn’t do my homework because I was busy last night.” It never fails that this conversation happens at the start of spring. I do understand that lives are busy, especially with the outdoor activities. However, homework still needs to get finished. Please help your child look ahead if possible and plan to get things done. Thank you!!!

Curriculum

***Reading*** – We are loving the Mystery unit! Some students can’t finish one fast enough. I have been very impressed at how students are really choosing books that challenge them. I am enjoying my conversations with each of them as well as in Book Clubs. They talk about what makes a mystery a mystery. They examine who would be likely suspects and what are the clues/evidence that support their thinking. The students make predictions about what they think will happen next. They have been fully engaged!

***Writing –*** The unit we have been working is called “Once upon a time…” which is rewriting classic fairy tales. The unit is teaching us that with keeping some of the basic ideas and tweaking a few elements the fairy tale can come to life in a different way. I was very impressed with some of the adaptations that students came up with from this experience. Be sure to ask them what ideas he/she did for this assignment and what classic fairy tale they have chosen to rewrite.

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***Math*** – We are finishing up with fractions in the next week. We have learned to compare different fractions and identify equivalent fractions. The students enjoyed the creative project designing a picture with fraction pieces. We will move on to our final units on Data and Geometry. We will read graphs, collect and organize data, and answer questions using the information in the data. The Geometry unit will not be too lengthy. Students will learn the different shapes and their attributes. In this same unit, we will also review perimeter.

***Social Studies*** – We have been studying articles, watching videos and reading aloud *I Survived the Great Chicago Fire* in preparation for our field trip to the Chicago History Museum. The students have really found this topic fascinating. Be sure to ask questions about what they have learned!

Upcoming Dates:

 **No School** – Fri., April 19

 **Field Trip** – Fri., April 26 – Chicago History Museum

 **PTO Meeting** – Tues., May 7 – 7:00

 **PTO End-of-the Year Picnic** – May 17 – 5:00-7:00

**Memorial Day Tribute** –May 23 3rd-5th grade classes

**Memorial Day, No School** –Mon., May 27

**Olympic Day-**Tues., May 28

**One School One Book Begins!**

 We are so excited to be reading the same book with ALL of Whittier. Our book this year is ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** by Kate DiCamillo. Edward Tulane is a china rabbit who has an amazing adventure and along the way he learns about himself.

 This is our seventh year doing this school-wide reading program and it is my one of my favorite activities to see how everyone in the building is engaged by the book that we read together. This program does a wonderful job building and connecting our community of readers and creating a sense of belonging within our school. Third graders are welcome to bring the book home nightly or on weekends to read with their families. Just make sure the book comes back daily and on Mondays. The opening assembly on Wednesday got us all very excited to READ and we look forward to the experience.

Mrs. Hoehne's Newsletter nhoehne@ op97.org April 12, 2019