

WHITTIER
greenleaf
NEWSLETTER

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December 2017



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pto
update

Seasons Greetings Whittier Families!

Warmest wishes as we head into the winter season and celebrations!

We are definitely grateful for a much needed, extended break for our teachers, staff, and students to spend time with family. Hope your Thanksgiving was the best yet!

It was a great start to the 2017/2018 school year, now on to our second trimester. Where does the time go?

Our PTO Team has been hard at work fundraising and putting programs in place.

We have exceeded our fundraising goals, and we have our Whittier parents to thank for that.

Whether you chaired an event, volunteered, attended or donated money (or a combination), we could not accomplish what we do without you. You are what makes Whittier the community we are all so proud to be a part of.

Thank you to **Elizabeth Cruz** for our successful second annual restaurant fundraiser with Thai Oak Park Express. Our families turned out by the dozens which was great to see.

Thank you to **Stephanie Thomas** for organizing the sale of Geppetto's discount cards again, benefiting Whittier PTO. We hope you were able to purchase a card and get some shopping done.

Helping Whittier and supporting local businesses—a win-win!

And, thank you to the Girl Scouts for hosting another successful Harvest Dance! The Four Seasons theme was fun for all ages to jam to on the dance floor.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Tuesday December 5 - Our next PTO meeting is our holiday meeting held at Mancini's and, as always, all our welcome! If you miss a meeting, you can always catch the minutes on the Whittier PTO website.

Friday, December 8- Please join us in the Auditorium, right after school, for a viewing of Despicable Me 3. Watch your Tuesday News, Whittier PTO website and PTO Facebook page for more details.



Saturday, January 20- 3rd Annual Trivia night! This is a great date night and a chance to match wits with your fellow Wildcat parents.

Also for those less competitive types, it's simply a great time to socialize and unwind. Or volunteer!

Happy Holidays!
Amy Soumar and Brigitte Brostrom
PTO Co-Presidents

*Wondering what you missed
or what events are coming up?*

*PTO at Whittier has our very own Facebook page
and website, two great ways to stay tuned.*

*Please make sure to visit whittierpto.org for the
latest news and ways to get involved.*

*Time flies, so let's enjoy the elementary years
while they last!*

FUN RUN FESTIVITIES



Jimmy John's Lunch



All School Dance Party



VIP Lunch



Camp Edwards' Reflections

Mrs. Madsen's Homeroom

I realized I have a gift for hiking.
Simon Benedict

I conquered my fear of being alone when we walked in the woods and played predator and prey.
Chloe Comm

I loved when we ate the late night snacks.
Gabriel Corona

I think the best thing at camp was the night walk because you realize that sometimes you have to go it alone in life.
Molly Duffy

My advice to campers in the following years is to try everything.
Nathan Duschene

The most fun thing at camp had to be the predator and prey game!
Christie Elshain

I found that if you go up on stage, you always feel better afterward.
Ike Unsell

What I liked best about camp was the survival class because it helped us know what we need to survive in the woods by ourselves.
Kidarious Haynes

The tastiest thing was the desserts.
Nyara Hill-White

The best part of camp was the entertainment night.
Kiera Locke

I learned that I could be me.
Josie Smith



At camp, my friend Molly helped me conquer my fear of being outside at night in the forest.
Kate Shannon

The most exciting thing about camp was the night walk.
Tashawn Robey

My advice to next year's campers is, "You're scared. That's OK. Push forward and you will succeed."
Braedyn Lee

The funniest thing at camp was having to get all the food and do it again as a hopper.
Christian Waters

I enjoyed the first night when we all said goodnight to each other in our bunk room.
Micah Sappington

I walked alone in the woods at night. It was pitch black and I am braver than I thought I was.
Alana Slade

On the night of the night walk, I thought there were trees in front of me then saw movement and I backed away. I found out it was one of the teachers.
Kasper Moorman

My advice for next year's campers is: Trust yourself and don't get afraid on the night walk.
Bailey Mosbacher

I enjoyed the trust walk in the woods most because I like adventure and it was a good thrill.
Adrian Mutanka

The funniest thing was the skits.
Tristan Kidd

I liked archery best because it was my first time using the bow and arrow. It was a great experience that I think everyone should have the chance to do at least once.
Jessica Gilmore

Camp Edwards' Reflections

Mrs. Heide's Homeroom

I conquered my fear of missing my family.
Nina Kult-Banout

My advice to next year's campers is to look out for puddles.
Adam Doyle

The best thing about camp was all of the activities. The best activity was archery.
Zechariah Steiner

I loved when the lifesavers created sparks in the dark.
Malou Munch

The coolest part about camp is archery.
Siena Alfonsi

The tastiest thing was all of the food.
Gus Winter

The best thing about camp was being able to go outside and interact with more people than I usually do.
Brooks Beasley

The best thing about camp was the night walk.
Kishon Washington

I conquered my fear of walking in the woods by myself at night.
Riley Bazillion

When you go to camp don't miss the fun ga-ga pit and the huge slides.
Fayith Anderson

My advice to next year's campers is to wear a lot of layers.
Mia Barriuso

The best thing about camp was when I did archery. It was so fun!
Stella Shepley

The most exciting thing about camp was archery.
Evan Pisellini

The best thing about camp was the night walk.
Kate Benson

I learned that someone is always with you, yourself.
Sophia Silver

The most fun thing about camp was being with friends and having fun.
Angira Mishra

When you go to camp don't miss the beautiful scenery!
Maggie Salzman

The best thing at camp was playing gaga ball with all of my friends.
Jack Soumar

My favorite part of camp was the tube slides.
Charlotte Berg

The most exciting thing about camp was building a shelter.
Micah Lewis



Camp Edwards' Reflections

Mrs. McDaniels's Homeroom

I overcame my fear of being in the woods at night.

Brooklynn Crawl

The the coolest thing that we did at Camp Edwards was when went on the night hike and we got a mint and when we bit it and it lit up.

Griffin Wesley

My advice to next year's camper is not to be scared. Everything is cool, adventurous, and fun.

Brenden Lowenthal-Wojcik

I loved being a hopper, I thought it was going to be boring but it was actually fun.

Gracie Maidlow

I liked the tube slides best.

Elia Wei-Henrys

When you go to Camp Edwards you need to know that you should not do pranks or be disrespectful. Because it will make your trip shorter and you will have no fun.

Aniya White

The funniest part of Camp was the skits we performed. I couldn't stop laughing!

Ellie Smith

The most exciting thing at Camp was the night hike.

Will Kaegi

I would say the most frightening thing at Camp was when we were told we must walk through the dark and scary forest all alone! I am extremely afraid of the dark.

Nicola Stolfa



The most surprising thing was that I was actually good at archery.

Eli Thomas

The funniest thing at Camp was the word pozo that me and my friend made up.

Imani Sanders

I conquered my fear of walking in the woods alone.

Mackenzie Hamer

The most exciting thing at Camp was when we did the nighttime walk and we had to walk in the dark woods alone.

Noah Stelzer-Jocks

I was able to be myself with no fear that someone would judge me.

Olivia Collins

The first day was tough but I loved the next two days and the food.

Sophie Mullen

I conquered my fear of walking in the middle of the night in the woods alone, I have never ever done that before.

Ella Coffaro

My advice to next year's campers is to have fun, do good things, and make new friends.

Vashon Tapia

The most fun thing at Camp is having fun and laughing a lot with my friends.

Jada Noyes

I am no longer afraid of walking in the forest alone.

Dimitri Azu-Popow

When you go to camp, don't miss the slides, they are so much fun!

Avery Buczek

When you go to camp, don't miss the fun, giant tube slides!

Pearl Griffin

73rd Annual Pumpkin Festival Winners



Early Childhood, Kindergarten and 1st Grade

3rd place: Evan Perez / Mrs. Baker
 2nd place: Alec Sabev / Mrs. Baker
 1st place: Lyla Macky / Mrs. Volz



4th and 5th Grade

3rd place: Siena Alfonsi / Mrs. Heide
 2nd place: Avery Buczek / Mrs. McDaniels
 1st place: Caroline Webb / Mrs. Roskos



2nd and 3rd Grade

3rd place: Maria Van Horn/ Mrs. Druckmiller
 2nd place: Raena Pruss / Mrs. Swason
 1st place: Nico Lopez / Mrs. Wright



Family

3rd place: Journee Hart/ Mrs. Weiss
 2nd place: Finnleigh Higgins- Urban/ Mrs. Hoehne
 1st place: Milan and Sorbah Gandhi / Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Roskos

Halloween Parade





Congratulations Turkey Trot Winners!

3rd Grade
Troy Gerut & Mallory McConville

4th Grade
Kingston Petersen & Caroline McGinnis

5th Grade
Griffin Wesley & Siena Alfonsi

Drawing winner
Natalia Aguilar-Ripley

Four Seasons Harvest Dance



Thanksgiving Feast!

The students of
Dunn-Nelson-Druckmiller
are thankful for...



Dante - Robot Batman	Anna- candy	Frannie - my sister
Karim - my family	Latifah - my dad and God	Ian - Groot
Ricardo - family and friends	Julian - a turkey!	Danny - Toby
Elizabeth - my friends	Madden - having friends	Alejandro - my grandparents and cousins
Mario - turkey	Mimi - my family	Alba - my family
Colleen - my family, my baby, all the food we eat and all the friends we meet.	Jocelyn - my family	Gabriel- todas classroom
Jonah - my mom and dad and everyone in the entire world except for mean guys!	Mason - my birthday!	Maria- mi familia
Georgia - my cousins because they are coming over	Aria- my family	Tatiana - books, studies, animals, family, friends, & arts
Arlo - my family	Alex - food	Izzy - my family
Elliott - everything	Amoni - my family	Tahlia - my family
Jacob - dinner!	Ashton - mommy	Emmerson - I have a pet that lives with my grandma.
Rocky - smiley faces	Loie - my family	Vivian - that my dog liked my dad so my dad would buy her.
Braylen - hotdogs	Zoe - my family	Milan - my family, friends, food
Midori - my daddy and food	Sophia - my family	Mia - god, my family
	Nathan - Thanksgiving dinner	
	Vienna - dragon powers	
	Alessandra - everything	
	Emma - my teacher	

Caiden - for anything that makes me happy like my friends

Cooper - my parents and my teacher

Jessica - my friends, family

Joe'nay - my family and my friends

Leo - my family

Pippa - chocolate and my cat

Ellie - food, friends and family

Caroline - My family, my friends and cats

Ammon - my family

Sylvia - my family because they treat me good and they take care of me

Luke - my friends and family

Jackson - my food and my house



WAY TO GO, WILDCATS!



Charlotte Berg was given the Youth Appreciation Award from the Optimist Club of Oak Park. Whittier teachers are asked to select a student each year who demonstrates good citizenship, is a positive role model, and has been involved in a variety of service oriented activities. Way to go, Charlotte!

WHITTIER GIVES BACK

Hurricane relief efforts:

We collected over 130 pounds in change, and the grand total of bills, change and checks came to \$2,058.08! This is an amazing amount in such a short period of time!

It was heartwarming to see many of the kids bring in their own change in addition to family donations. What a great way for them to be a bigger part of positive change and action.

From the third graders:

Thanks to all who participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF! We collected a total of **\$500.72**.

This money will provide 150 packets of therapeutic food to at least 7 children who are malnourished or provide a kit to give 50 families clean water to drink. Every little bit makes a difference and your support is appreciated.

GIVE BACK TO WHITTIER

Did you know that you can support the Whittier PTO just by shopping at Amazon?

Using Amazon Smile, shop as you normally would, but now a percentage of the money you spend gets donated back to the Whittier PTO!

To sign up, visit smile.amazon.com and search for "Whittier School Parent Teacher Organization PTO" as the organization.

Then, when you shop at Amazon, just be sure to go back through smile.amazon.com.

Anything you purchase will help the PTO earn money to support our school!

Early Bird Tickets On Sale Now!

Saturday January 20
Nineteenth Century Club
7PM-11PM

You have till December 10 to get Trivia Night tickets for just \$30.

After that, tickets will cost \$35 in advance or \$45 at door.

You can download the order form or buy tickets online at www.whittierpto.org



Building Leadership Team Shares an Overview of School Improvement Plan with Community

The Whittier School Building Leadership Team (BLT) has created a School Improvement Plan (SIP) with three goals for the 2017-2018 school year. Two of the goals are focused on increasing student achievement in Reading and Math. The reason and purpose of The PLES (Positive Learning Environment Survey) is to gain student voice at the elementary level in order to help us in the process of achieving our vision of creating a positive learning environment for all students that is equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child. The survey, an adaptation of the Education for the Future survey, is researched based and is designed to gain knowledge on improvement on our operations.

READING	Grade K - 2	60% of students will meet growth projections as measured by Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System.*
	Grades 2 - 5	57% of students in these grade levels will meet or exceed their MAP - Reading growth targets from Fall to Spring. This is a 10% increase over the 2016-17 school
MATH	Grades 2 - 5	57% of students in these grade levels will meet or exceed their MAP - Math growth targets from Fall to Spring. This is a 10% increase over the 2016-17 school year.
POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	Grades 1 - 5	The percentage of positive responses to the following questions on the Positive Learning Environment Survey (PLES) will increase by at least 10% over the 2016-17 school year results; last year's results are in parentheses: At school, I belong. (71%) At school, I am recognized for good work. (66%) Students at my school treat me with respect. (53%)

*The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) is a one-on-one assessment that helps teachers identify a child's specific reading strengths and appropriate instructional reading level for small-group instruction. The data gained from this standardized assessment helps teachers identify goals and plan effective instruction that supports a child's reading progress across the school year.

To find out more about the Whittier SIP, visit the Whittier school webpage, and click on the "School Improvement Plan" button at the left side of the page.



WILDCAT ACADEMY Presented by: PBIS TEAM



The WHITTIER WAY means we are Respectful, Responsible, and Powerful with Peace.

One Positive Behavior Intervention available to help students follow the Whittier Way is Wildcat Academy.

What is Wildcat Academy?

- A Check In-Check Out (CICO) intervention.
- CICO is a short-term positive, proactive approach to checking in with students as they arrive to school and before they leave school each day.
- Students are selected to be in a check in – check out program to help support the choices they make and to build positive relationships with adults at school.
- Check In-Check Out (CICO) is not a punishment nor is it a consequence.

How does it work?

- Your child will be assigned an adult to check in with at the beginning and end of each school day.
- Students are greeted, encouraged to have a wonderful day and reminded their daily goal is set for 80%.

What can I do to support my child at home?

- Your child will bring home a daily goal sheet for you to see. Please praise your child and recognize the positive choices he/she made regarding behavior.
- Remind him/her how to make better choices when goals are not met.

If you would like more information on PBIS or Wildcat Academy please contact:

Mrs. Chasity McComb-Williams
Chasity McComb-Williams
Student Support Specialist

Mr. Jim Doyle
Jim Doyle
Principal

Mr. Scott Kasik
Scott Kasik
Principal



PTO HOLIDAY MEETING
TUESDAY DECEMBER 5

REPORT CARDS
FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

AFTER SCHOOL MOVIE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

WINTER SING FOR K & 1/2 MULTIAGE
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

WINTER BREAK STARTS
SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

SCHOOL RESUMES
MONDAY JANUARY 8

PTO MEETING
TUESDAY JANUARY 9

MLK DAY - NO SCHOOL
MONDAY JANUARY 15

TRIVIA NIGHT
SATURDAY JANUARY 20

INSTITUTE DAY - NO SCHOOL
FRIDAY JANUARY 26