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FEBRUARY 2018

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Happy New Year Whittier Families!

Welcome back!

We hope that everyone had a wonderful, relaxing holiday season with friends and family. We are looking forward to a fun-filled winter/spring and are already off to a great start!

Talk about a real “FUN RAISER”... we were so grateful to have had our 3rd Annual Trivia Night! What a super way for parents to get out and socialize with other Whittier parents all while raising funds for our organization.

Thanks to Elizabeth Cruz and her committee who worked very hard to make this year’s event yet another huge success! Special thanks to our Whittier parents who donated to make for a high bidding auction and amazing raffle ticket sales. And lastly thank you to all our hard working volunteers... we couldn’t have done this alone! Congrats to Team “A” (or maybe “The A TEAM”..wink wink) as the new team claiming the trophy!

We have a very busy spring coming up with many activities planned and hope to see you at one or all.

Also we are anticipating our book announcement for this year’s ONE BOOK ONE SCHOOL...stay tuned!

And, Whittier Wear is back in style! Catch the new look on the new website and get something for the whole family! Place your order online by February 15.

Now here are some dates to put on your calendar:

February 7-9 - Our next Book Fair! Plan to volunteer and shop! Our Teacher Dinner is on the books that week so please volunteer to bring in food via the Signup link on the PTO website.

Friday, February 23 - Right after school, join us for a showing of Despicable Me in the auditorium. More details will follow but, responsibility forms will need to be filled out and as always, we need volunteers to make this fun and rewarding event happen!

Upcoming features will be revealed soon, but it’s never too late to mark your calendar for the next two movies: March 23 and April 20.

Saturday, March 3rd - Fun Fair and Silent Auction. 11 am - 3 pm, throughout the school. Carnival games, cake walks, raffles and a silent auction. Fun for the whole family!

Early April - Restaurant fundraiser coming your way at Lou Malnati’s. Keep an eye out for more details as they become available.

Our next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, February 6th at 7 pm in the Community Room. All our welcome! Even if you’ve never been to one, now is a great time to start! If you ever miss a meeting, you can always catch the minutes on the Whittier PTO website.

Amy Soumar and Brigitte Brostrom
Your PTO Co-Presidents

Did you know?
If you take pictures at a school event, you can upload them directly to the PTO for use in the Greenleaf, Yearbook, the PTO website, and on social media.

Just go to www.tinyurl.com/whittierpix to upload.

Don’t have the link handy? You can always find access to submit photos through the Whittier PTO website, under “News & Events,” and at the bottom of the Tuesday Newsday Digital Backpack emails.
Dear Whittier Families,

Hope you’re staying warm during these cold winter months. I’ve been keeping busy reading some of our new books, including Restart by Gordon Korman - a book about a bully who gets a new start after he gets a bump on the head and Girls Who Code: The Friendship Code by Stacia Deutch - an easier chapter book about a diverse group of girls who form a computer coding club. Please stop by and let me know about any books you or your families have enjoyed!

Reading Olympics is back up and running. Congratulations to our winners from the fall round – the Double Bubble Gum. Avery Buczek, Griffin Wesley and Nicola Stolfa competed at the Oak Park Public Library against thirteen other teams from schools from around the area. They did an amazing job representing Whittier! I’m looking forward to seeing which team wins the Spring competition to compete at the River Forest Library in March.

This winter, all grades participated in the Hour of Code! The Hour of Code is designed to demystify “code,” to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. In our Whittier celebration of computer science, our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students participated in 1-hour coding activities such as Flappy Bird, Minecraft, and Frozen, while our younger students learned to code while “unplugged” - using Lego Minifigures and chart paper. We also borrowed Beebots from the Oak Park Public Library and practiced coding them to spell letters, get into and out of a maze and run races! We’ve been coding up a storm in the library!

Our younger classes are also continuing to read the Monarch Award Books. Students loved Pink is the New Blobfish by Jess Keating, in which we learned about all different kinds of gross and scary animals that are pink. Older students have the option to participate in the Bluestem Award - if they read four books from our list of 20, they’re eligible to vote in the statewide election in March. One of my favorite books from the Bluestem list is The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett and Jory John - it’s a hilarious chapter book about two pranksters who enter a prank war.

Come to the book fair on February 7th, 8th and 9th and support Whittier through your purchases. There will be many hardcovers, paperbacks, board books and more in a variety of price ranges. The book fair will be open on Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. through 7:30 p.m. and on Friday from 8:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m.. Please stop by before or after conferences to support our school. Many thanks to the PTO for organizing this fantastic book fair!

Stay warm and happy reading!

Laurie Conley
Whittier Teacher Librarian
lconley@op97.org
Our Experience With

HUBBARD STREET
DANCE CHICAGO

In HSD our teachers’ names were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. HSD is a dance class. We do something called a Brain Dance. You start the Brain Dance with a big breath, then we scratch all over, then when you are done you pat all over. When you are done patting, you brush all over, and then you are done with the Brain Dance. We had HSD every Monday. On our last Monday of the residency, we had our Showcase with Ms. William’s class and two fourth grade classes. My father, brother, and aunt saw me dance! I was a Wright class helper. It was fun! - Nico

I like the smooth movements we learned in HSD. These movements are relaxing, and they also help you calm your body. I really liked to move around with HSD with low and high movements. I really liked being on stage to move around with my class. One of my favorite lessons was on locomotor. I like locomotor because it helps get your body moving! - Jalissa

What I liked about HSD was learning about Pathways. Pathways we learned about were straight, curved, angular, and twisted. Non-locomotor means staying in place but still moving. Locomotor means to travel to other spots. Sharp movements use a lot of stopping and starting movements. Smooth movements are moving without stopping. I liked Pathways best because I like moving in lots of different ways. My favorite pathway is zigzag. -Will

I like dancing for the HSD Showcase. Our dance teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. I liked moving with sharp and smooth movements. We did core distal movements too. I liked Hubbard Street Dance. - Ayden

In Hubbard Street Dance I learned so many things with Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. We had fun learning lots of things. For example, we learned what sharp means in dance. Sharp means to move with start, stop, start, and stop motions. We also learned what smooth means. Smooth means you are nonstop moving. We also learned about locomotor and non-locomotor. Locomotor means you are moving all around the room. Non-locomotor means staying in the same place, but still moving. I had so much fun dancing with Hubbard Street Dance. - Roxy

With Hubbard Street Dance, I learned new movements to dance with. I liked to move with sharp and smooth movements. I liked being in the Showcase because it was fun! - Christian

With our HSD classes, I love moving with locomotor and non-locomotor. My favorite part about HSD was dancing. My other favorite part of HSD was moving with different pathways. My favorite pathway is zigzag. Thank you to Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma for teaching us. - Elaina

I liked when we dance with HSD. HSD is when you learn how to dance. I liked when we learned about pathways. Pathways are when you move in straight, zigzag, and curved ways. My pathway was zigzag. I moved at a low level. I liked moving on a low level and zigzagged because it felt good. - Kayden

In our HSD classes, I liked making shapes with our bodies. Shapes can be straight, curved, angular, or twisted. I also liked moving with a partner. Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma were our teachers. We had HSD every Monday for 9 weeks and then we had our Showcase with the 4th graders. It was cool seeing the 4th graders’ dances. - Noah Z.

I am going to tell you about Hubbard Street Dance. My teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. My favorite movements that I learned were core distal and moving through the space. Core distal is when you bring your body into your core; your stomach and then you stretch out. I liked to move with the pathway zigzag too. - Joshua

I love Hubbard Street Dance! My teachers are Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. I moved with the pathways zigzag, curved, and straight. I also made shapes with my body like curved, twisted, and angular. HSD is so fun! - Delilah
HSD was soooo fun! A hard shape we learned to do was how to hang. Hang was hard because we didn’t have a bar to hang off of! I loved doing pathways because it was easy. I loved dancing in the Showcase! I love HSD! -Madison

I love HSD. Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma taught us well. We danced on Mondays. HSD is our dance group. We learned about core distal and we danced as a class. We learned how to do the Brain Dance too. We had fun! -Marley

When we danced with HSD I liked moving with the different pathways. I also liked moving with the Brain Dance. But I really liked dancing in the Showcase. -Zachary

I liked HSD because you can learn about movement. HSD is when you practice movement and at the end, you will have a Showcase. Our teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. My favorite movements were moving fast and sharp. -Jewan

I liked moving with HSD. I liked moving in slow motion because it looks cool. I like moving with the locomotor smooth and fast because it looks cool too! Sometimes when we moved with locomotor it looked like a robot moving. -Alex

In our Hubbard Street Dance class I loved the calm, nice and soft music. It felt like owls flying in the air. Speaking of owls, our class had a Showcase, but first we had a lot of practices. My favorite move was blinking. Our blinking movement was at the end of our Showcase. My feeling was cheerful and happy. We had partners for the blinking movement. My partner was Roxy. I also liked the Brain Dance. Ms. Emma told the class that if you have butterflies in your tummy about the Showcase because you are nervous that being excited is like the same feeling. -Gwen

What I liked about Hubbard Street Dance is that I learned a lot. I learned about shapes your body can make like angular, twisted, straight, and curved. I also learned about using your head and tail. It is like you want your head and tail to connect, but you can’t do it! HSD was so much fun! -Seren

Our HSD teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. My favorite movements are smooth and sharp. I learned to balance and be calm. We practiced our movements. It was fun dance in our Showcase! -Wyatt

Our HSD teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. I like HSD. When I moved sharp, I felt stiff. When I moved smooth, I felt free. When I moved zigzag, I felt fast! -Noah B.

What I liked about HSD was to move with sharp and smooth movements. I also liked the games that Ms. Jamie made for us. I liked moving with locomotor because I like to move through the space. Thank you Ms. Jamie. -Khaliq

In HSD classes I learned to dance. I never could dance before. I learned how to do tactile with the Brain Dance. When you move with tactile you start by crawling your hands up and down your body. My teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. We did lots of fun things. I hope I can do HSD again. -Henry

In HSD my teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. I learned about the pathways curved, zigzagged, and straight. My pathway was zigzag. I also learned about core distal. With core distal you move your body in and out. We had a Showcase too. I had a great time with HSD! -Tessa

My Experience With HSD - In HSD my favorite dance movement was the Brain Dance. I liked vestibular where you spin around. My favorite pathway to move was straight. I like moving in locomotor because I can go low on the ground. Our teachers were Ms. Jamie and Ms. Emma. We had HSD every Monday until we had our Showcase. We had the Showcase with Ms. Roskos, Ms. Darley, and Ms Williams’ classes. -Cameron

From Mrs. Wright's Class
**Physical Education**

Coach Meglan (Julian special education teacher) coaches Special Olympics soccer, basketball and track in D97. He is participating in the SUPER POLAR PLUNGE in February 2018 to support the 22,000 Special Olympics athletes in Illinois. This is a HUGE deal! He will plunge (fully submerge his body) into the frigid waters of Lake Michigan in February one time each hour for 24 straight hours!!! You can pledge to support his plunge: tinyurl.com/polarpluge

Thanks for all of your support! Please spread the word to family and friends.

—“Mr. Tim”
Mr. Timothy McDonald

Physical educations classes move into January and February, which is our gymnastics unit. All grade levels participate in gymnastics where the emphasis is to safely try new and challenging things. All students are introduced to some basic and introductory level stunts and tumbling skills.

As always there is a strong emphasis on safety, showing a good effort, and positive sportsmanship. It is impressive to see the progress all students are making in the gym.

—Mr. Coglianese
http://www.op97.org/scoglianese

**In the Art Room**

Kindergarten through second graders began a unit on weaving. We have discussed why weaving is important to us all. We have also recognized that threads and yarns are used to make the fabric that is needed to make our clothing. We tried paper weaving first, to familiarize ourselves with the tabby weave pattern. Next we created our looms out of corrugated cardboard, and added thread and yarn. There is nothing greater than to see students start off intimidated by an activity, and finally master the pattern with full confidence.

Third graders are finishing their color unit. They have learned about primary, secondary, and tertiary colors, and how to create colors through careful sensitive mixing. After each project our third graders have learned to photograph, edit and upload their assignments to their digital portfolio. Using technology has made it possible for, 3rd through 5th grade, students to document and maintain a file on their artistic accomplishments.

—Mr. W.D. Patterson
Visual Arts Teacher
Language (Spanish FLES)

Here's a taste of what we've been up to in our learning and where we are headed next.

Themes & Topics

Kindergarten
Family drawing; Talking about how we are feeling, likes and dislikes (Me gusta, No me gusta), fruits/food and action verbs (part of our "Healthy Lifestyle" Unit); Continuation of earlier themes and vocabulary; Movement and Music.

1st/2nd
Moving into Level B with our Calico units and more developed language on our families; places in the school and what we do there; continued work with months of the year, days of the week, and our birthdays; time out to work with numbers from 0-10, 1-31, 10-100 (by 10s), 100-1,000 (by 100s), and 1,000-25,000 (by 1,000); Movement and music.

3rd grade
Spanish alphabet; sound-letter correspondence (as in English, fundamental for reading and writing). We practiced reading and writing and played some fun games.

We even learned some funny songs to help us practice our vowel sounds —ask your child to sing "Una mosca paraba en la pared" and "Me gusta comer Plátanos y Manzanas."

Next up: Places in the community, talking about where we go, and what we do there.

4th/ 5th grade
Continued work on the "Super Siete"—essential verbs that really expand speaking: quiero (I want), quiere (he/she wants), me gusta (I like/it is pleasing to me), le gusta (he/she likes), voy (I go), va (he/she goes), hay (there is/there are), tengo (I have), tiene (he/she has), estoy (I am), está (he/she is): question words; "Lee Sobre Todo Mi" (Read all about me)—writing and drawing sheet about ourselves (description, hobbies, family, favorites etc.) which each will present to the class.

Next up: Travel unit

In class enrichment
Students who speak Spanish at home or who have had intensive early Spanish exposure always have the option for in-class enrichment when we are working on basic vocabulary and structures.

This includes choosing to participate in games in more of a leadership role, writing or reading independently, or working in small groups.

Choice Day
You may have heard about "Choice Day"—it is an incentive in the Spanish room for classes to do their best learning, participating fully and not chatting in "inglés." In doing so, they accumulate enough points to earn "Choice Day."

Once the points have been earned, the class generates a list of ideas of activities for a "Choice Day" celebration and then votes for one. Three classes have earned their first Choice Day! ¡Felicitades! Congratulations!
Spanish Club
Lots of fun in 317 at lunchtime! Third grade meets on Wednesday. We have also added a small group on Monday for those who participate in lunchtime language on Weds. 4th/5th grades meet on Thursday.

We are enjoying some new games and puzzles. One group is writing a "reader's theater" for Go, Dog, Go (Corre perro corre) which will be performed at Spanish club, as well as for some of the younger classes. It's exciting seeing the students take more and more risk in using their español!

We will soon begin our Don Quixote project—photographing and writing about the tiles in the central stairway and documenting them for posterity. We will also run a revision of an article on the history of the tiles first written by Spanish club a few years back.

Fun Fair Spanish games
Fun Fair comes in March featuring Spanish games run by some of the Spanish club kids! Come play with us! ¡Vengan a jugar!

Middle school choices
So excited to hear the enthusiasm as students are deciding on which language to pursue in middle school. The kids often worry that I might be upset or sad if they choose French. Au contraire! Either one is great with me. While my French is not as strong as my Spanish because I have not used it as much since studying, I actually have a dual major in both! As I will tell the kids when I send them off, it doesn't matter which language (2 choices at middle school; 7 at OPRFHS!!), it's continuing and giving it your best that is important because it is a key life skill, makes your brain smarter, opens so many doors, and enriches life beyond measure. Their Spanish foundation will serve them well, no matter which they study (and the more languages the better!). As they soon will head off to middle school language, know that I am always here to help them at any time—I'm just an email away. If you have any questions or concerns regarding their choice of language or middle school language in general, please do not hesitate to contact me. I know they will have a great experience and having language on daily basis will grow so much more quickly!

World Language Advisory Committee
The World Language Advisory Committee (WLAC) is a broad-based district committee, comprised of teachers, administrators, board members, parents, and community members, including business professionals, consultants, university academics and researchers, bilingual teachers and other experts in second language acquisition. It is open to all for whom language learning is a passion.

Next meeting:
March 12, 7-8:30 pm
Whittier School Community Room

Other dates for this academic year:
March 12, April 23, May 14

Please join us or contact Señora Deaton (ddeaton@op97.org) if you would like to be involved or for more information.

Lunchtime (PTO) World Language
Whittier's World Language program is in full swing and the participating students are really enjoying learning new languages during lunch hour. French, German, Spanish and Sign Language students have already shown a lot of progress. Some topics covered include greetings, colors, numbers, food, and action verbs. The students love playing language games and using their new language skills with each other. We are looking forward to more language-building fun in the coming weeks!

Merci beaucoup!

-Madame Robert
Music

Band
Band members are finishing up Opus 2 (beginners) and Opus 5 (intermediate) certificate work and starting to move on into the next Opus. We have also been working on our music for the April 10th D97 Instrumental Music Festival at OPRF high school. (More info coming!)

I encourage all 5th grade band members to choose band as their middle school elective. Band meets every day as a class and the musical opportunities increase exponentially from middle school on. Students also benefit from a built-in group of friends as they move to Brooks and later to high school.

Contact me with any questions: bshannon@op97.org.

—Mr. Shannon

Music Notes from Ms. Duckett-Edwards

Hello everyone,

As we move into the next month, students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade will be preparing for their Spring Sing in March. Watch my teacher page for further details.

Recorder Information letters will be sent home with 3rd graders next week!

A reminder that practice at home is essential to succeed in band. We recommend a minimum 15-20 minutes a day, 5 days a week.

****Upcoming Concert Dates****

Thursday, March 15th @ 6:00
First Grade (Weiss, Volz), Second Grade (Wright, Williams, Molnar), Third Grade (Hoehne, Little, Swanson, Jacobson)

March 22nd @ 7:00
District 97 Choral Festival at OPRFHS

Tuesday, May 15th - 6:30
Fourth Grade (Roskos, Lukehart, Darley, Tencate, Gawne), Fifth Grade (Heide, McDaniels, Madsen, Tencate)

****Upcoming Concert Dates****
If I lived in a snow globe...
from the students in Mrs. Weiss' class

I would make a snowman with my friends Lukey and Cara. It would have a carrot nose and two eyes made of coal. - Archie Frieling

I would play with Ava. We would bake cookies and drink hot chocolate. We would go sledding with her. - Kaedyn Smith

I would...look for Elsa and bury myself in snow. It will be magic. Brrr the snow is cold. - Madeline Morales

I would make a snowman friend. I would throw snowballs at him. It would be fun. - Diya Mody

I would tilt the snowglobe I can go through the exit. If the snowglobe fell on me then I would have a snowball fight. - Michael Mackey

I'd be on a train zooming across Chicago on a speeding train following a trail of rails. - Ryan Newport

I would play with my mama. I would make a snowball in the fort. - Reuben Karp

I would bury myself in snow. I would build a snow fort. It is cold. - Fischer Lind

I would ice skate. I would not slip. - Alpha Pare
I call my parents to go ice skating with me. I would have fun. - Josette Washington

I would build a snowman with my sister. It would be fun. - Amadou Mbengue

I would meet Santa with the elves and ZOOM! Across Chicago. IT WOULD BE SO FUN! - Mason Croom

I would go sledding and look for buddy. I would go around the snowglobe. - Journey Hart

I would go ice skating with Lucy. It would be fun. It would be cold. - Zoe Irvine

I would go ice skating with Lucy. It would be fun. - Zoe Irvine

I would look for my elf. I would look for my elf became I love him. I would also play with myself. - Lucy Koschman

My whole family would set into it. I would play marbles. They are pink. - Lex Ritchie

I find buddy the elf and make a snowman with Leo. It will have a corn cob pipe and a button nose and eyes of coal. - Addie Goehl

I would meet Santa. I would do whatever I want. I would make a robot. - Ben Diedrich

It would be fun. I would have to try my best to find buddy. - Matthew Ash

I would go ice skating with Elsa and Zoe. - Marlee Tracy

I would bake cookies and make hot chocolate. I would drink and eat it with Kaedyn. - Ava Oliver

I would meet Santa and ask for a present and play in the snow. - William Van Horn

I would play with my mum. I would make a snowball in the fort. - Connor Leonard
If I lived in a snow globe...
from the students in Mrs. Volz’s class

I would make a snowman at 7:30AM. I would drink hot cocoa at 12:30AM. I would say this is so fun!!!! - Aden Liss

I would break out! I would run to my house and I would make snow cookies! - Sebastian Villafane

I will play with snow. I will drink hot cocoa. I will make a snowman and snow woman. The last thing I would do...I will make a snow boy and a snow girl. Then I will play with them. Then at night I will go to bed. - Anya Mathai

I would have hot cocoa and build an igloo and go skiing outside of my igloo. - Arun Noah-Majmudar

I would drink hot coco. I would relax on the snow. I would pick flowers. I would sled down the hill. I would climb a hill. I would have fun. - Bailey Milburn

I would ice skate with my friends. We would eat hot chocolate. I will play with Shopkins) and my friends too. - Chloe Ronde

I would drink hot cocoa when I get cold. I would build a snow man when I get lonely. I would make a snow angel when I am tired. I would stick out my tongue when I am hungry. I would ice skate when I have energy. And when I decide I want to leave I will tell my owner. - Clara Soto

I would make hot cocoa. - Journey Streeter

I would wait for the snow and make a snowman and drink hot cocoa. I would make a snow castle and I would live in it. - Eleanor Shepley

I would drink hot cocoa and have snow for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I would make cookies and I would make a snow man and it would come alive. - Jaxon Mitchell

I would drink hot cocoa and I would dig a hole. I would ice skate. I would stick my tongue out. I would build a snow man. - Julian Liss

I would run around in circles, make a snow angel, and make a snow man. I would make a snow castle. It would be a good place to live. - Kathleen Cohen

I would ice skate with my mom and my friends. I would drink hot cocoa and I would dance on the dance floor. I would have a drawing contest with my friends. It would be fun! - Lena Hamilton

I would drink hot cocoa. I would stick my tongue out. I would build a snowman and I would try to get out of the snow globe. - Lyla Mackey

I would drink hot cocoa. When it was snowy, I would build a snowman and eat hot lunch. After lunch, I would have a sleepover with my friends. I would go sledding. It would be fun! - Luke Beaver

I would do whatever I wanted to do. It would be fun because I like snow globes. I would eat a hot dog. I would drink hot cocoa. I wouldn’t come out and I would play for ever. - Markist Washington

I would break out and go to Santa’s at the North Pole. I would have fun, so much fun, lots of fun! I would play with Frosty and Rudolph. - Max Beaver

I would be happy because it would be Christmas soon. - Max Pruss

I would drink hot cocoa, jump up and down, and play, play, play, play. I would stay warm. Then I would go sledding and have a snow ball fight with friends. - Mae Medlar

I would drink hot cocoa. I would build a snow man. I would make angels. I would ice skate with my family and have s’mores and have soup. It would be fun! - Aminah Mbengue

I would see the sparkles in the sun. I would jump and eat dinner. I would build a tunnel. I would put carrots for the snow man. I would ride on a sleigh. I would play with the snow girl. I would have fun! - Wynne Huels
The Whittier Refugee Project

Two years ago, the Whittier school community launched the Refugee Welcome Project and, over that time, we’ve done amazing things:

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Whittier community donated “Home Starter Kits” that contained essential household items and, in partnership with Exodus World Service, helped to set-up the homes for two refugee families and two refugee individuals from Somalia, Syria, Burma, and Ethiopia. We then hosted these families and individuals at Whittier for a Welcome Party where many families from the Whittier community attended.

During the 2016-2017 school year, in an effort to help educate Whittier families about the refugee experience, we hosted a movie screening of “The Good Lie” and facilitated a discussion with two former Lost Boys of Sudan and, for the kids, we facilitated a mock-refugee camp experience for 3rd-5th graders in partnership with Exodus World Service, which was a huge success. The Whittier community also donated “Good Neighbor Kits” that contained household items for 30 recently-arrived refugee families from Iraq and Burma. These kits were delivered to families during two Community Meals, one hosted by the Iraqi Mutual Aid Society and the other hosted by the Rohingya Cultural Center, and families from the Whittier community both prepared and ate meals with our new friends.

The Refugee Welcome Project has been embraced with such enthusiasm that we are continuing it again this year. In an effort to both further educate the Whittier community on the refugee experience and to help those in need, we have scheduled the following events.

“The Good Lie” Movie Screening and Post-Movie Discussion with two former Lost Boys of Sudan
Friday, February 2nd, 6-9pm in the Whittier Auditorium
Kids are invited to attend, at parents’ discretion (movie is rated PG-13). Hearty snacks will be provided.

Immigrant and Refugee Story and Craft Time
Friday, March 9th, 3-5pm at the Dole Branch Library
In partnership with the Oak Park Public Library, kids will learn about the experience of immigrants and refugees through rich literature, crafts and a celebration of different cultures. Try out cultural artifacts, listen to music and begin to understand what it might be like to be an immigrant or a refugee. Recommended for grades K-5; snacks will be provided.

Q & A with Refugee Kids for 3rd– 5th grade, Wednesday, April 4th
Whittier parent Shana Wills has arranged for two kids from her organization, Refugee Education & Adventure Challenge (REACH), to visit Whittier and answer questions posed by our kids.

Exodus World Service’s 30th Anniversary Celebration of Hope Friday, April 13th from 6:30-9:30pm at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace
The Refugee Welcome Project has reserved a table to celebrate Exodus World Service, a faith-based organization that mobilizes its community to welcome and befriend refugees by educating about the refugee experience, connecting volunteers with refugees through practical service projects, and equipping leaders to advocate on behalf of refugees (www.exodusworldservice.org). Join us as we enjoy an inspirational evening celebrating the courage and resiliency of refugees who are building new lives in the Chicagoland area. This is a free dinner event but donations to Exodus World Service will be requested. Seats must be reserved in advance. To RSVP, please contact whittierrefugeeproject@gmail.com

All-School Fundraising Event
Friday, April 27th, 12:30-2:45
To help kids be more involved in helping refugee families, we are hosting an all-school fundraising event. Our kids will gather pledges from family/friends for participating in an outdoor afternoon of fun that will include activities such as jumping jacks, running laps around the field, Simon says, kicking a soccer ball into a goal, hula hoop, jump rope, and dancing. All money raised will be split between the Rohingya Culture Center and the Iraqi Mutual Aid Society,ethnic community-based organizations, known as Mutual Aid Associations, that provide refugee populations with critical services to assist them in becoming integrated members of American society. These are the same two organizations with which we partnered last year for our Community Meals. More information to come, so stay tuned.

We hope that you will play a role in helping Chicagoland refugee families and, also important, in helping us to educate our kids about the refugee experience.

If you have any questions about the Whittier Refugee Welcome Project, the refugee resettlement process, or would like information regarding kid-friendly learning resources about refugees, you may contact members of the Committee at whittierrefugeeproject@gmail.com.
SAVE THE DATE
for the annual
WHITTIER FUN FAIR
Saturday, March 3rd
11 am - 3 pm
GAMES.....CAKE WALK.....TEACHER RAFFLE.....SILENT AUCTION
FOOD.....PRIZES
Fun for the whole family!

BOOK FAIR
FEBRUARY 7-9
HALF DAYS - CONFERENCES
FEBRUARY 8-9
GREEN TEAM MEETING
FEBRUARY 15
PRESIDENTS’ DAY - NO SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 19
AFTER SCHOOL MOVIE
FEBRUARY 23

COMMON GROUND
MARCH 2
FUN FAIR
MARCH 3
PTO MEETING
MARCH 6
1/2/3 CONCERT
MARCH 15
INSTITUTE DAY - NO SCHOOL
MARCH 22