

# WHITTIER greenleaf NEWSLETTER



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pto  
update

Yikes and the countdown begins... almost done with the school year. One month until the kids are out for the summer!

Beyond our end of year activities, the biggest task for the PTO at this time is to begin to prepare for next year. We are busy setting budgets and calendars and deciding the Board and Committee Chairs.

We have several open positions that need to be filled—both board and committee chairs.

Is there something you are passionate about or an event you really enjoyed? Maybe you would be the perfect person to take charge! Or maybe you are not ready to take the helm and lead, but want to be more involved.

We are looking to build committees next year to support the leadership positions. Maybe that is a great way for you to start. But don't be shy! It is a lot of fun!

## 2018/2019 Open Positions

### Co-President

The role is not as intimidating or time consuming as it sounds, and it will be fun!

### Co-VP of Fundraising

Since the sub-fundraising committees have all been filled, you will oversee and not be the main planner.

### WISE Volunteer Coordinator

The PTO WISE Committee is looking for a new team member! We are in need of a Volunteer Coordinator to take over beginning in the Fall 2018 and the role can be filled by either one person or the duties can be split between two people. This position is essential to the day-to-day running of the WISE program during each session and WISE cannot run without it.

We look forward to having you join the team! Or maybe you have names of people who would be great for these roles. Either way reach out to Brigitte (bbrostrom@hotmail.com) directly for more info. She'll get you excited to participate in such a fun and rewarding way!

Our next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, May 1st at 7:00 pm in the Community Room. All are welcome. If you miss a meeting, you can always catch the minutes on the Whittier PTO website.

Amy Soumar and Brigitte Brostrom, PTO Co Presidents

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## Whittier School Supply Kits – ON SALE NOW THRU JUNE 8!

Give yourself a break and let Whittier PTO do your school supply shopping for the 2018-2019 school year! With a few clicks now, you can purchase your child's school supplies for next year and have your child's school supply kit waiting in the classroom that first day of school.

Please note that items such as headphones, earbuds, and calculators are REQUIRED but listed as optional items in case you prefer to bring them from home. Under "optional" items, if you wish, you can also donate to our Specials Teachers' Supply Fund, which provides tissues, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer for our specials classrooms.

Not all items listed on the school supply list (such as backpacks and water bottles) will be included in the kits, so if you do choose to order a kit, please plan to check your child's supply list just to make sure you have everything.

You can place your order on the Whittier PTO website [whittierpto.org](http://whittierpto.org) now through June 8.

Questions? Please contact Kathy and Rekha at [whittierschoolkits@gmail.com](mailto:whittierschoolkits@gmail.com)



### Three Cheers for These Four Wildcats!

At the end of this school year, we'll say fare-the-well to Whittier teachers Beverly Duckett-Edwards, Laurie Volz, Wyatt Patterson, and Dawn Deaton.



Be sure to give them a big Wildcat hip hip hooray on a well-deserved retirement and a thank you for their service to our school. Congratulations!

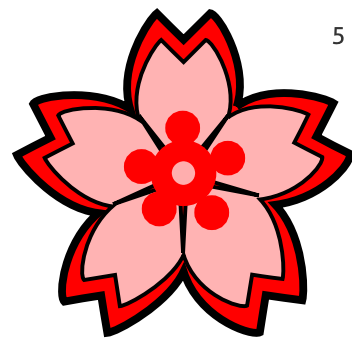


# WHITTIER GOES WILD FOR WONKA

4



*Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. Typically, haiku are written about nature, but they can be about any topic. Haiku have a very specific syllable structure. The first line of every haiku has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the last line has five syllables.*



## **Enjoy haiku from Mrs. Nelson's Writing Workshop!**

### **Tulips**

Pretty spring flowers  
Pink, white, yellow, purple red  
Dancing in the wind.  
By Mrs. Nelson's Writing Workshop

### **Lizards**

Green lizards up high  
Playing together up high  
Eating bugs up high.  
By Alejandro

### **Puppy Dog**

Fluffy furry cute  
Beautiful fuzzy creatures  
Running around in yards.  
By Anna

### **Bunnies**

Bunnies are so cute  
Hopping around the garden  
Bunnies are furry.  
By Milan

### **Flowers**

I love pink flowers  
Pretty Flowers as bee fly  
Wind blowing flowers.  
By Sophie

### **Animals In The Wild**

Jump walk swim gallop  
Getting food for their babies.  
Lions and tigers.  
By Joe'nay

### **Wolves**

Hearing the high sound  
Through my own bedroom window  
Hunting Food at night  
By Jackson

### **Spring**

Growing pink flowers  
Rain is watering flowers  
Helpful spring sunshine.  
By Nathan

### **Mice**

Mice scurry at night  
Mice run like the wind at night  
Munching greedily.  
By Loie

### **Bunnies**

Bunnies are so sweet  
Bunnies jump through grass, hop-hop  
Bunnies like carrots.  
By Sylvia

### **The Bush**

It's very prickly  
It's especially not soft  
Bushes everywhere.  
By Vivian

### **The Robin Sings**

Chirping in their nest  
What a beautiful soft sound  
Robins wake me up.  
By Vienna

### **Farm**

Yellow chicks cheeping  
Pink oinks loves mud fun  
Chicks and pigs are fun.  
By Cooper

### **Trees in the Forest**

Trees in the forest  
Swaying swiftly in the wind  
In that dark forest.  
By Zoe

### **Wolves**

Hunts creatures at night  
It is white, gray with sharp teeth  
They travel in groups.  
By Leo

### **Flowers**

Flowers drink water  
Beautiful smelling flowers  
Different colors  
By Tahlia

### **Owls Day**

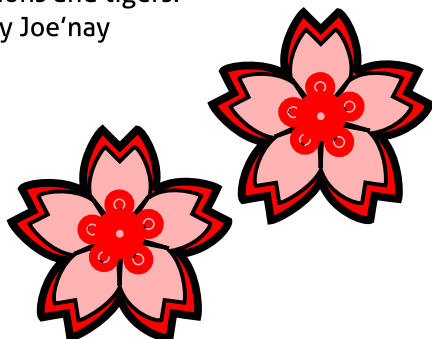
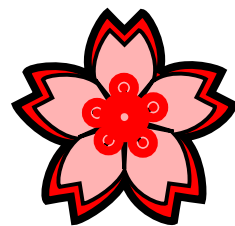
Owls sleep in the day  
Owls are awake in the night  
They are nocturnal.  
By Ashton

### **Bees in the Flowers**

Bees stinging people  
Bees find pollen from flowers  
Living in a hive.  
By Amoni

### **Summer Fun**

Swimming in the lake  
Swimming with everyone there  
We had so much fun.  
By Emmerson





## Earth Day Service Day

On Saturday, April 22, Whittier families came together to for Earth Day. The Greenleaf Garden was tended, repaired, tilled, and prepped. The front beds were mulched and the side yards trimmed of winter's growth. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and to Kristen Hollinden for organizing a fantastic day of service to our school and Earth!





# Ms. Dunn's Kindergarten Writing Workshop:

## Make the World A Better Place

### Persuasive Letters

Dear All of The Teachers,

There are people talking over you. This is bad because when you are talking and people are talking over you students won't know what to do. One time when I was listening very carefully to my teacher someone talked over the teacher and I couldn't hear. I asked my teacher again, "What am I supposed to do?" Teachers make a sign so everyone would know to be quiet. Put a picture of kids with a finger over their mouth on the sign, saying "Shhhh."

From, Ricardo

Dear Kids,

No running in the hall at school. You might fall. Tell kids to walk.

From, Dante

Dear Whittier,

No running in the hallway. Once my friends were running the hallway and they got hurt. You might cut your head open. Please stop.

From, Aria

Dear Kids,

The kids are saying bad words and people feel bad for them. Also they feel bad and if they are their friend they feel even sadder. Sometimes people say bad words to me. I feel sad. Please remember to use good words.

From, Arlo

Dear Kids,

Stop running in the hallway! You are going to be in trouble! You have to stop and walk.

From, Braylen

Dear Summer,

You should share your toys with me. You can say sorry and give my toys back.

From, Rocky

Dear Kids,

Do not RUN in the halls. No! Or else you will fall and be hurt. One time when we were getting in line outside someone ran to the line and bumped someone. They got hurt. You should walk.

From, Colin

Dear Ms. Plummer,

Did you know kids are getting hurt at recess time? Can you help pllleasssse! One time I saw a kid get hurt because he was play fighting. You can make a rule that says no play fighting.

From, Colleen

Dear Daddy,

I don't like math. Everyone is too loud and it is 100 minutes. Everyone should be quiet.

From, Jacob

Dear People,

No littering! It is bad for the environment. It is bad for the animals. It is really bad for the earth. Don't litter please. Put plastic in the recycling. NEVER litter. Please that's the rule forever. Once I got off the expressway and there was tons of garbage in the grass. There was a recycle bin right next to it! Never, never litter. It is really bad. Do you agree?

From, Elliott

Dear Boys,

No running in the hallway. Please walk.

From, Elizabeth

Dear Mom,

I need a water bottle at school, or else I will be hot. Once I forgot my water bottle and I was so hot. We should hang a sign on the door. It should have a picture of a water bottle on it.

From, Georgia

Dear Mom and Dad,  
 Since I don't clean up my room you can give me money. I have to clean up my room or else Mommy and Daddy will be mad. One time I stepped on my toy that I really love and it broke. If I get allowance then I will make sure it stays clean.  
 From, Jocelyn

Dear Kids,  
 Please go to bed at your bedtime or else you will sleep in and miss school! If you do your math journal in the morning you will not know what to do. Go to bed on time or else you might feel sick! Once I was on a plane and I went to bed at 12:12 and I felt sleepy. You can make yourself a chart that tells you your bedtime. You can put the chart in your room.  
 From, Jonah

Dear Whittier Wildcats,  
 There are too many people not following the rules. Can you help me. I don't know what to do! One day I saw a person kicking another person. The person didn't like it! Your teachers will remind you to not kick.  
 From, Julian

Dear Police,  
 This is a problem. Cars are passing the speed limit and they are getting into car crashes. Maybe we can put up signs on poles on the street. One time Ms. Dunn got in a car accident.  
 From, Karim

Dear Boys,  
 No running in the hallway or the office or else you will get in trouble. You will go to the office. I saw a boy in my class running in the hallway. He tripped and got hurt. Walk in the hallway and you will be okay.  
 From, Latifah

Dear Principals,  
 Have you seen this hall? There are more than 20 kids running in the hall. They could break their arm! Once I saw a person in the hall and he got hurt. So can you please put up a sign so no running in the hallway!  
 From, Madden

Dear Dad and Mom,  
 My room is sometimes messy. We have to clean up or else people might get hurt! Someone could walk in my room and step on my toys. My favorite toys might get broken. I think we will put up a sign. It will say- Remember to clean up your room! Thank you.  
 From, Mason

Dear Everyone in my Classroom,  
 We need to work on fighting because we can get hurt. One time I saw someone fighting. It hurt. Can you help us with that? You need to stop fighting. It is so important that you stop. If you see someone fighting tell them to stop!  
 From, Mimi

Dear Principals,  
 Some people are fighting and this problem is a bad. Not just bad, very, very bad! Stop fighting or else people get hurt. We need help!! You can put signs that say no fighting please! Once I saw a kid punching another kid and he was crying. May you help us please? Thank you! Hope you have a good day.  
 From, Mario

Dear Kids,  
 Stop! Please be nice. Follow the rules. Don't hit people. It hurts them. Be friends. Don't run in the hall.  
 From, Midori

Dear Ms. Dunn,  
 Will you help me? Kids are talking mean. They shouldn't get prizes or paws. They should be nice. They can say "I like your hair."  
 From, Maria



# palm leaves

PE, ART, LANGUAGE (SPANISH) + MUSIC

## Physical Education

In May, we will celebrate sport and fitness week. This will be the first week in May, and it leads up to the annual District 97 Fun Run.

The Physical Education Department is hosting the annual Fun Run on Saturday, May 5, at Lindberg Park. The first race will begin at 8am.

The event is open to all K-5th grade students in Oak Park District 97 and will take place rain or shine. We look forward to seeing everyone at this fun event!

~**Mr. Coglianese**

<http://www.op97.org/scoglianese>

The Young Athletes Culminating Event will be on Friday, May 18 at Julian Middle School. Stations will be set up for athletes and peer buddies to compete. Permission slips are due May 15!

~**Mr. McDonald**

## In the ART ROOM

WSCAE (West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence) held its Student Art Expo on Saturday April 28 at the Cheney Mansion.

The show features 15 participating districts, 55 schools, and 525 pieces of selected artwork! Whittier submitted work from 12 of our artists.

We hope you had a chance to celebrate our students and their fabulous artwork!

Check out the WSCAE Art Expo website:  
[wscaeartist.weebly.com](http://wscaeartist.weebly.com)

~**Mr. W.D. Patterson**

Visual Arts Teacher

## Language (Spanish FLES)

### Themes & topics:

**Kindergarten & 1:** Rainforest!! We are having lots of fun enjoying the sights, sounds, and animals of the Yunque Rainforest including the famous coquí frog, native to Puerto Rico.

We have talked about where Puerto Rico is, what the flag looks like, what we would see in the rainforest (animals, waterfalls, rivers, trees, etc.), what animals live in the Yunque and how they move, and of course, what the coquí looks and sounds like (ask your child). We have read books, sung, and acted out the animals. All en español! We will finish the year drawing and writing about our favorite rainforest animal.

**2nd & 3rd grade:** We are finishing up the year with very short stories, taking turns reading and acting them. So far we have done "Los robots," "Pobre, Nico!" and "Lalo and Lupita." Lots of fun!

We will continue with this, illustrating some of the stories and trying our hand at writing at our own.

**4th & 5th grade:** We have begun sharing our country projects digital travel brochures. Some amazing work!

Once presentations are finished we will begin working on Spring Sing and finish out the year with a bit of story and novel reading and sharing.

**Spanish Club:** We are in the final weeks of Spanish club -- having fun playing games, reading, and working on the story of the Whittier Quixote Tiles.

Club will meet till mid-May. Our fiesta be will either the week of May 7 or May 14. We will wait until we see Spring weather arrive to pick our outdoor fiesta dates.

### PTO Lunchtime World Language Program

This year's World Language lunchtime program is coming to a close soon, with classes ending in April and early May. These language classes will be celebrating the end of the session with parties, fiestas, and fêtes.

Thank you so much to all the participating students!

Please join us next year for more language enrichment. Contact Lori Robert if you have any questions about next year's language classes at [lori.robert@ymail.com](mailto:lori.robert@ymail.com).

### 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. All are welcome. Please join us if language is your passion. Among other things, this year the WLAC was instrumental in our celebration of National World (Foreign) Languages Week. As in the past, it also leads hands-on activities at Ethnic Festival & World Languages Day.

The WLAC meets in the Whittier School Community Room. The remaining meeting for this school year is May 14, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. The meeting agenda is posted on the D97 website or contact Sra. Deaton for more information



### 38th annual Ethnic Festival and World Languages Day Saturday May 5, 2018 Celebrating Diversity: The heART of Who We Are



A long-standing tradition celebrating our community's diversity, this year's Ethnic Festival and World Languages Day will again take place at Julian Middle School. Parade steps off at 10:00 am. Please join us in making this one of the biggest and best Whittier parade contingents ever! Our Student Council will lead the Whittier contingent.

Back at Julian following the parade, explore the mosaic of cultures through music performances, hands-on activities, language, dance, and art workshops, and more. D97 language teachers, OPRFHS students, and WLAC will be among those helping to lead the activities at the upcoming Ethnic Festival & World Languages Day.

***Come Celebrate Diversity: The heART of Who We Are.***

Stay tuned to ***Palm Leaves*** for further updates on our learning. For more info on our in-curricular Elementary World Language (Spanish-FLES) program, including language resources for supporting your child's learning, check out our District 97 Elementary Spanish Department website: <http://d97spanish.weebly.com>

Looking forward to lots of spring fun in our language learning. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. ¡Gracias por todo!

~Señora Deaton

~Señorita Ojeda

[ddeaton@op97.org](mailto:ddeaton@op97.org)   [eojeda@op97.org](mailto:eojeda@op97.org)

# Music

## **Band**

Elton John made a guest conducting appearance at the D97 Elementary Music Festival. Congratulations to all our Whittier instrumentalists in band and orchestra on their performance in the D97 festival at OPRF!

Remember the year is not over yet! Lessons continue till end of school year. We will work on completing our certificate work and the 5th grade groups will perform for the 3rd graders and at the Memorial Day ceremony. A reminder that practice at home is essential to success in band. We recommend a minimum 15-20 minutes a day, 5 days a week.

Don't forget about D97 Summer Music Camp July 30, 2018 to August 3, 2018. Choose from Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Improv, Orff ensemble, Chamber Music, Steel Pan Ensemble, Ukulele, and Percussion.

Check out the district website or contact Mr. Shannon or Ms. Korelc for more info.

Contact Mr. Shannon with any questions, [bshannon@op97.org](mailto:bshannon@op97.org).

**~Mr. Shannon**



## **Notes from the Music Room**

Hello Whittier Families,

Our 27th annual Choral Festival, held on Thursday, March 22nd, was a wonderful night of singing, enjoyed by families and students. Thanks to those of you who made it possible for your Whittier Chorus student to participate that evening! We are now busy preparing for Opera for the Young.

Our final vocal music concert for the year is listed below. I, along with 4th and 5th grade teachers, will update information about the concert via class newsletters & blogs and my **Musical Wildcats blog**.

## ***Upcoming Concert***

***Tuesday, May 15***

**6:30**

**Fourth Grade (Roskos, Lukehart, Darley, Tencate, Gawne)**

**Fifth Grade (Heide, McDaniels, Madsen, Tencate)**

# Mrs. Druckmiller's Writing Workshop

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**Free verse** features line breaks, power words, comparisons, personification, onomatopoeia.

## **Marathon Through the Air**

By Tatiana Vega

I feel wind rushing through my face  
darkness leaks through the sky  
as if ink in a bottle  
splattered on a white sheet of paper  
the shimmering air stream  
dreaded cantankerous spikes ramble  
across electricity sparks through the air  
the lightening aggravated the wind  
and they did a marathon through the  
air lightning splendiferously streaked  
then the thunder came and  
boomed through the air  
a cheetah raced on the wind and  
disappeared  
an unbearable sacrifice

## **The Autumn Gust**

By Emma Hartman

I feel the gust rushing  
through my face.  
I feel like an elephant's pushing me,  
the gust is strong.  
The gust blows on

Electricity sparks  
as the Autumn gust rushes.  
I feel a blaze of fire  
striking my face.  
The gust blows on

Lightning strikes  
as the gust soars through the air.  
Fingers clutch, winds rush  
as the gust blows on

Straight through our faces  
The night birds take off for flight  
The gust blows on

## **Believe**

By Mia Prince

Feel  
Believe in yourself  
Don't give up  
Ever  
Never

## **The Rainbow**

By Frannie Hill

A colorful treasure chest  
With gold and diamonds.

Gold gleaming against a colorful  
shower of rain  
above the shimmer light.

Sun gleaming against  
a shimmery colorful arch  
that is gleaming on me.

## **Fireflies**

By Caroline Sarah Slade

a dark night  
no stars in the sky  
until the fireflies  
come peeking by,

you never know  
what fascinating thoughts  
you'll have,

go and catch them,  
let them go

until the end of the night.

## **I Am**

By Caiden Whitehead

I am cool and nice.  
I wonder about games.  
I hear music.  
I see aliens dying on Mars.  
I want to meet Karan Brar.

I am cool and nice.  
I pretend to be a hero.  
I touch the light.  
I worry about time.

I cry at funerals.  
I am cool and nice.  
I understand friends.  
I say love.  
I dream fun.  
I try hard.  
I hope life.

I am cool and nice.

## **Don't Worry if Your Job is Small**

By Cole Daly

Don't worry  
If your job is small  
Don't worry if your job is tall  
If you are  
Struggling to  
Find the profit job  
Pick small

## **Noisy, Noisy**

By Joe Coligan

A noisy, noisy house  
Has a noisy, noisy family.

They don't know their neighbors  
So they don't stop yelling all night and  
all day.

So I made a noise complaint.  
Then the very next day...it was too  
quiet.

## **Songbirds**

By Alessandra Gerut

A swirling fairy  
Fluttering all around  
Twirling in the sky  
Dancing and singing  
Irresistibly wonderful  
With rainbow wings  
Reflecting the treasured gold Sunlight  
against their bright disco feathers  
Songbirds

## **Elephantangle**

By Brentais Hawkins

Flap, flap what a surprise-  
a flapping elephant.

An elephant with wings-  
What are those things?

From head to toe-  
I don't really know.

What kind of animal are you?  
I know it's not one but it may be two.

**Lantern poems** are a form of Japanese poetry like haiku. They feature a pattern of 1 syllable, 2 syllables, 3 syllables, 4 syllables, 1 syllable always written in the center of page thus takes on shape of a lantern.

### Having Fun

By Izzy Velasco

Play  
with friends  
in the park  
running, tagging  
Fun

### Labrador Retriever

By Alba Smith

dogs  
playful  
cuddly ball  
energetic  
bark



### Dad's Bread

By Luke Carrier

loaf  
crunchy  
jelly crack  
oven toasted  
yum

### Not Rich

By Gabriel Swaine

found  
penny  
pick it up  
you are not rich  
yet

### Gems

By Ammon Woodward

flint  
diamond  
amethyst  
luminous stone  
rocks

### Sun

By Ellie Hickok –Fletcher

shine  
all day  
burning bright  
warming my face  
sun

### Rocks

By Alex McNeal

stone  
bedrock  
resting underground  
obsidian

### Fall

By Maria VanHorn

Fall  
leaves slip  
bye summer  
breezy, chilly  
cool

### Pickles

By Danny Lesiowski

green  
bumpy  
delicious  
crunchy sour taste  
dill

### Sleep

By Stella Beasley

sleep  
dreaming  
wondering  
what will happen  
next

### Big Game

By Rayvon Gibson

sport  
football  
pass, kick, punt,  
scoring touchdowns  
cheer

### Cats

By Jessica Soumar

Cats  
Sassy  
demanding  
meow, hiss, lick  
purr

### Chevy

By Pippa Frantisak

cat  
meow  
petting fur  
hogging dad's side  
purr

### Rock Monsters

By Ian Hollinden

Gems  
Rumble  
Underneath your feet  
Nibble your food  
Strange

• • • • •  
• **What do you get when you cross a** •  
• **quarterback with a 3 line poem?** •  
• **A HIKE-U!** •  
• **Shared by Gabriel Swaine** •  
• • • • •

## Whittier at the Movies: *The Greatest Showman*

Friday, May 4

Whittier at the Movies presents "The Greatest Showman" sing-a-long version on Friday, 5/4 from 3-5:10 (later pick-up time) in the Whittier Auditorium. Admission is \$2 per person and snacks and drinks will be available for purchase at \$1 each. Permission slips are required for all children in grades 3-5 attending the movie without adult supervision. The permission slip must be completely filled out and turned in at the time of ticket purchase in order for a child to be admitted to the movie. **Please DO NOT turn it into the Whittier office beforehand.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Kids in grades K-2 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult and the adult must remain for the entire movie. Kids in these grades will not be admitted to the movie if they are without adult supervision.

## Student Cartoon Comedy Corner



## Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Wednesday, May 9

Whittier Families! Help honor the wonderful work of our teachers and staff at our annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, May 9th. We'd love for you to offer food, beverages, or volunteer for recess and lunch duty so our teachers can have a lunch hour to themselves. Sign up to help: <http://signup.com/go/xBDQB>

## Common Ground

Friday, May 4

Join us after drop off for coffee and conversation on Friday, May 4.

This month we'll have a special guest to talk about District 97's stance on equity.



May 1  
PTO Meeting

May 2  
Kindergarten Open House

May 4  
Common Ground  
Whittier at the Movies

May 5  
Ethnic Festival and World Languages Day  
D97 Fun Run

May 15  
4th & 5th Grade Concert

May 18  
Young Athletes Culminating Event  
End of Year Picnic

May 25  
Talent Show

May 29  
Olympic Day

May 30  
4th & 5th Honors Assembly

\*\*June 1\*\*  
Last Day of School, 1/2 Day