



Whittier PTA Mission: To support and enhance the Whittier model of academic excellence, community, and respect, so that all Whittier students can become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

PTA General Meeting and Activity Fair Wednesday, September 19

All are welcome to the first PTA General Meeting and Activity Fair of the school year. The Activity Fair and social time begin at 6:30; come learn about the various programs and events sponsored by the PTA, and sign up to volunteer for any and all that interest you. The PTA meeting will start at 7:00. Principal McMillian will be our guest speaker, and you can find the entire agenda for the meeting posted on the PTA bulletin board, which is in the hallway next to the front office. We hope to see many new faces, as it will be an interesting and informative evening!

Volunteers needed for book fair

On September 27 we will hold a Scholastic Book Fair in conjunction with Curriculum Night. Set-up in the library is at 1:30pm, the fair runs from 5:30 - 8:45pm, and then we tear down. We need lots of helping hands both to cashier, and to help direct people and straighten books. (Yes, you can volunteer and still attend Curriculum Night.)

Sign-up forms are coming home in your child's folder, or email or call Regan Hopper with your availability: regan@nwlinc.com or 706-8882. We can't do it without you. Go, books!

Spanish news

The Whittier Spanish Committee is in the process of hiring a new Spanish Instructor to head up a revised Spanish program for the 07-08 school year. Our Spanish Instructor Vika Parulava from last year is no longer available to teach at Whittier. Additionally, the Spanish program will be taking on a slightly different shape this year. Last spring, the Whittier staff re-examined the daily schedule to ensure that classroom teachers had enough core classroom time. They decided to change the schedule so that 4th and 5th grade students would be offered the opportunity to take Spanish lessons after school with the Spanish instructor (funded by the Spanish budget), rather than attending Spanish class during the school day. Consequently, Spanish this year will be optional for 4th and 5th graders. (Information as to how to sign up for the optional program will be forthcoming.) Kindergarten through 3rd graders will have Spanish lessons in the afternoons during the regular school day.

Another change to the program involves classroom space. With the addition of the Special Education class at Whittier, Spanish no longer has a dedicated classroom. Hence, the Spanish teacher will now travel from room to room, teaching students in their regular classrooms. Spanish classes will be held on weekday afternoons from October through May. As in the past, students in grades K-3 will have two half-hour sessions of Spanish each week. The goal of the program will remain as it has been in the past—to introduce Whittier students to the look and feel of another language and to expose them to the cultures who speak that language. If you have any questions or would like to be involved in the Spanish committee, please contact one of the co-chairs: Dana Miller (dt.miller@comcast.net), Leah Spence (kldcspence@hotmail.com) OR Marie Fritzberg (fritzbergs@comcast.net).

Direct Appeal 2007 off to a great start

Thanks for the GREAT response to the Direct Appeal 2007 campaign! This year, our goal is \$20,000 — and with \$2500 **already raised, we're well on our way!** We have created our own Snorkel sea serpent in the lobby (thanks to Lynda Zeis) to track and report how much money we have received from the 2007 campaign. Each week, Snorkel will report on a few of the over 40 different ways that the Direct Appeal PTA dollars benefit Whittier students, including:

- Our awesome free-to-you After School Art program costs around \$4000 per year. Who knew?
- The PTA provides field trip scholarships for kids who need it — about \$200.
- Can you imagine not having Field Day? Food and other supplies cost around \$200

Happy 100th Birthday, Whittier School!



Please join the Centennial Committee on Wednesday, Sept 19, to help plan Whittier School's birthday party! We'll meet at 9:30 AM in the PTA room. New families very welcome! Please contact Marie Talcott (marie_talcott@hotmail.com) with questions.

Join the PTA ! (or renew your membership)

By joining the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), you become part of the most powerful lobbying organization for kids in Washington State, and nationally as well. At Whittier, the PTA is responsible for a lot of the fun, educational, and creative extras our kids receive at school every day, including the Carnival, Science Fair, After School Art and Drama, and playground improvements! And these are just some of the projects the Whittier PTA supports. Membership forms are in the office, or you can sign up when you attend the first PTA meeting/activity fair, next week. Remember that your membership must be renewed each year in order to remain current. Please contact Merilyn at merilyln@msn.com, if you have any questions.

Enjoy coffee, support the PTA

China Cat Coffee and Teas on 1417 NW 70th St. will donate 10 cents to the PTA with each beverage purchased. They serve Lighthouse coffee, Republic of Teas, Morning Glory Chai, pastries from Honore bakery, and fresh sandwiches and salads daily.

Cameras delivered to teachers

Last spring the PTA unanimously voted to purchase digital cameras for the classrooms at Whittier. The cameras were gift-wrapped and delivered to all classrooms, including the gym and music room, before the start of school this year! Check them out next time you are in your child's classroom.

Innisbrook wrapping paper sale

Get ready! Wrapping paper sales start Wednesday, September 19th. Expect more info soon, via kid-mail.

From the Wildchat editors

The Whittier Wildchat newsletter provides PTA news and other information to the Whittier school community. Look for it on Thursdays in your student's folder, or read the latest installment on the web at www.whittierway.org. If you have news items to share, please send your submission to us no later than Tuesday evening for publication on the following Thursday. Note that we may (lightly) edit your submission to fit our limited space. Please send submissions and questions to: annaforse@yahoo.com.

Whittier Grounds Work Party Sunday, Sept. 30, 12:00 - 4:00pm

Save the date! Everyone is invited on Sunday 9/30 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm to Whittier School, where we'll be weeding and cleaning the school grounds. Questions? Contact Chris and Erica Welch: ericajwelch@comcast.net, or 206-783-0729.

It's Auction Year at Whittier

The excitement is already beginning! Our PTA auction co-chairs, Barbara Hazzard and Shawn Severin, are busy creating an informational packet to be sent home to each family in the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, check out the auction volunteer opportunities on the school's website: www.whittierway.org, and keep your eye on the wonderful new PTA bulletin board in the main hall for forthcoming auction news and updates.

Thank you !

Welcome back scrip supporters!

Thanks to all the families who jumped on board the first week of school to buy scrip! Last year our profit was over \$11,000 thanks to your participation. Please remember those checkbooks, and we will see you at the table Tuesday through Friday mornings, and Friday afternoon.

Good times at back-to-school potluck

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2nd annual back to school potluck such a huge success. It was great to see so many families and staff and enjoy such fabulous food.

Successful school supply drive

Thanks to all the families who purchased school supplies for the Gatzert school supply drive. Our school community collected 9 boxes full of supplies. When we delivered we were greeted with big smiles and these kind words "Whittier school is so good to us".