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May 3, 2022

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ELEMENTARY'S PTA NEWSLETTER

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WILDCHAT



Feedback Opportunities for Proposed SPS Bell Changes

If you'd like to provide feedback on SPS' Proposal to change the bell times (e.g. 7:30am/2pm with 12:45pm early dismissal on Wednesdays), here are ways you can share your voice:

- To provide feedback to SPS, you can use their feedback form: Let's Talk Bell Times Change Questions & Feedback page: https://www.k12insight.com/Lets-Talk/Dialogue.aspx? k=WF7G2YLT@DY8N1B7LT
- To provide feedback to the School Board (who will vote to approve or reject this proposal), contact our D2 School Board Director, Lisa Rivera Smith (lisa.rivera.smith@seattleschools.org).
- Attend the SPS' presentation of their bell time proposal (called "Transportation Service Standards") at the upcoming School Board meeting, May 4 (learn more about watching a school board meeting). A time for limited public testimony is offered; you can learn more about how to sign up for public testimony here.

Here's more from School Board Director Lisa Rivera Smith about her point of view on the Bell Time change, including some informative background information of the proposal itself. The School Board will vote on this proposal at their board meeting on May 18.

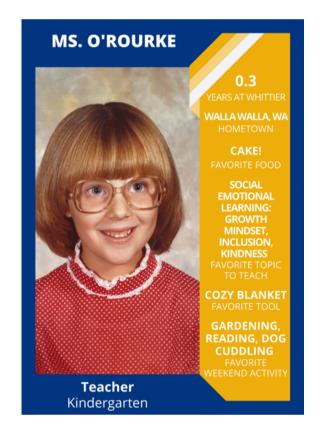
We Appreciate Our Wildcat Teachers!

At Whittier, we're lucky to have some of the most dedicated, passionate, and creative educators. We are so grateful for the commitment and flexibility our Wildcat teachers have shown our scholars this year. Thank you, teachers, for sharing your talent with our students and families! We couldn't be Whittier without you! If you're lucky enough to be returning to Whittier, here's a chance to get to know a little something about other teachers in our community (and maybe your teacher next year)! And maybe you'll also learn something new about your teacher this year!

Kindergarten









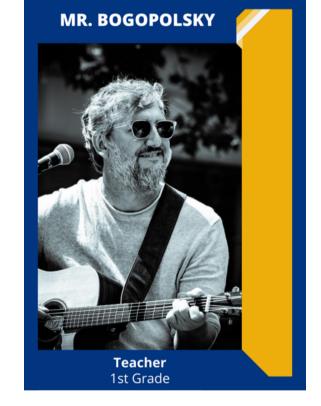


First Grade



2nd Grade

MS. HALE





MS. MAYO







3rd Grade





4th Grade







5th Grade









Contribute to our Student-Led Book Drive!

Whittier students, alongside Ms. Newcomb, have started a book drive to add books to our school library that accurately represent and celebrate diverse groups. Students realized the importance of students being able to identify with characters, see themselves represented in books in our collection, and learn about others and co-created a list of books they're seeking to add to our Whittier library.

You can purchase books from this list from this Wishlist using Amazon, (or you can click on the "buying this gift elsewhere" button and purchase from our local bookstores of Phinney Books, Secret Garden, or Third Place Books). Hard cover copies are preferred if they are available. We thank you for your help to grow our collection!

"I wanted other kids to be able to read books and learn that it's okay to be yourself, so I chose to diversify the school library with other students and the librarian. So kids can not only read the books at school, but also at home." - Chloe

"I started working on this with two of my friends. We're kind of the only kids anyone ever asks about social justice stuff. We all felt underrepresented with what the school library has had, and we wanted to make it so that the kids here and the kids coming won't have to hunt for representation." - Lyn

"A little while ago I wanted to learn more about people who aren't usually acknowledged. At the time I hadn't known that. I searched for an LGBTQ+ book on the computer but only one came up. I had read the entire thing but hadn't learned anything. We need an expanded and more diverse library, please help that happen." -Julia

Go, Wildcats!

Seeking Nominations for Golden Acorn Award

Whittier PTA is seeking nominations for the Golden Acorn Award. This Award is presented by a local PTA or council to a school or community volunteer in recognition of her or his dedication and service to children and youth. The recipient(s) of this award will receive loads of Wildcat appreciation, a Golden Acorn pin, special recognition at a General PTA meeting, a contribution in their name to the Washington State PTA Financial Grant Program, and their name engraved on the Golden Acorn plaque in the lobby.

Please help us recognize and reward those amazing individuals within our school and community who meet the criteria for this award. Email your nomination along with an explanation for why your nominee deserves this recognition by May 9th to vp.whittierpta@gmail.com.

Washington State PTA **Recognizes Whittier PTA** with the Gold Membership Growth Award

Whittier PTA has recently been recognized by Washington State PTA as a Gold Membership Growth Award recipient! PTAs are presented with this award for enrolling at least 10% more members this year than all of last year. That means our PTA is growing! Thank you to everyone who has become a member so far this year: YOU are the reason our PTA achieved this award! If you haven't yet signed up for a 2021-2022 PTA membership, please consider joining today! By doing so, you are demonstrating your support for our PTA and all it does for Whittier. Interested to join? Learn more here.



Join the PTA and friends for First Friday this month in a new location (behind the school, under the covered area near the blacktop)! There will be fun, music, and a preview of the Classroom Art for the Spring Fling auction!

Are you a 5th Grade Family Headed to Whitman?



The Whitman PTSA needs you! We have roles of all sizes - from formal Executive Board roles, to smaller projects. Some roles are done

from home only a few hours a year. We need your help to make Whitman the best place it can be. There truly is a role for everyone! A full list of formal roles and groups is here. Every voice matters and we will find a way that you can participate on your terms.

Please reach out to the current PTSA president Erika Goodmanson to share your interest and we will find a role that fits your availability and skills.

The Executive Board roles are elected positions so if you are interested in any of those, we are currently collecting nominations for all elected positions (descriptions here), but especially for VP Communications, VP Advocacy, VP Fundraising, VP Volunteer Coordinator, and VP Equity. If you're interested in any of these roles, you can nominate yourself or someone else using this form, or e-mail questions

to whitman-ptsanomcom@googlegroups.com.

whittierptaseattle.org

Help Save Northgate's Art Program!

Northgate Elementary has lost its funding for the 2022-23 school year for its full-time arts program, which means all students at the school will get only 30 minutes of art each week given next year's budget.

The Northgate PTO is able to pay the additional \$55,000 in funding to keep its arts program full time, but need Seattle community's help! People can donate using their Paypal link.

Thank you for considering helping our neighbor school! Support the SE Seattle Schools Fundraising Alliance



Did you know that Seattle public school PTAs raise about \$400/student/year but that in 2019, Southeast Seattle PTAs raise an average of \$92/student/year? The discrepancy is significant -Southeast Seattle PTAs have less than 25% of funding/student/year than other Seattle area schools. Please help the Southeast Seattle Schools Fundraising Alliance (SESSFA) as they work to address this funding inequity. The Fundraising Alliance is a group of 15 SE Seattle public school PTAs and PTOs who have joined together to create an equitable and collaborative fundraising model while encouraging kids to actively engage in their school and greater SE Seattle community. The Funding Alliance is raising money for their 2nd annual

DONATE HERE:

Move-a-thon.

- https://secure.givelively.org/donate/alliancefor-education/se-seattleschools-fundraisingalliance-2nd-annualmove-a-thon
- LEARN MORE HERE: https://sites.google.com/view/southeast-
- seattle-schoolsfund/home?authuser=0 SUPPORT: Like and follow the SESSFA Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/D7MOVES

Nominations for these elected roles will be collected until May 10.



BALLARD Freibh GIRLS' BASKETBALL CAMP WHEN: JUNE 27-30, 9:00AM-3:00PM WHERE: BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL WHO: GIRLS' GOING INTO 4TH GRADE - 8TH GRADE RUN BY: BHS PLAYERS AND COACHES WHAT TO BRING: BASKETBALL, SACK LUNCH & WATER BOTTLE WHAT YOU GET: BASKETBALL SKILLS AND GAMES, BALLARD BASKETBALL T-SHIRT, PRIZES & LOTS OF FUN! COST: \$200 REGISTRATION: https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/2022-Ballard-Girls-Basketball-Summer-Cam/SemwxJ0 PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS: MICHELLE GALLAGHER mcgallagher@seattleschools.org

Whittier Kids is Enrolling! SUMMER 2022

PNA's Whittier Kids Summer Camp offers fun and enriching experiences in a welcoming and caring community. A variety of kidapproved weekly themes provide opportunities for making new friends while building social confidence and leadership skills. Kids entering Kindergarten – 5th Grade are welcome. (Kindergarteners must have turned 5 years old before attending a camp session.) Choose from ten weekly sessions starting the week of June 20th. See here for details and a link to register.

FALL 2022

- PNA's Whittier Kids Preschool has a few openings for next school year! See here for more information on our play-oriented program for Whittier's youngest Wildcats.
- PNA's Whittier Kids Afterschool Program 2022-2023 enrollment opened on April 26. Spots are filling up quickly! See here for details and a link to register.

Thank you, Wildcats!