



# the WILDCHAT

WHITTIER  
 ELEMENTARY'S  
 PTA NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

JUN 14	5th Grade Adventure Day
JUN 16	5th Grade Promotion (during school)
JUN 17	End of Year Assembly & Last Day of School (1-hour early dismissal)
JUN 17	Donut You Think It Was a Great Year?!

Main Entrance @ 1:25pm

## SPS & Principal Watters' Covid-related Round-up

Here's a wrap-up of the essential info you might have seen in emails, social media, and more:

- Covid Testing - In addition to known testing sites around Seattle, [your Wildcat can get tested at school](#). If you'd like to request your Wildcat be Covid-tested, please contact [Nurse Marissa](#) and [Principal Watters](#) directly (do not complete the online registration form sent by SPS).
- Test positive? [Here are the requirements for returning to school](#).
- Wildcats are encouraged to swap cloth masks for KN95 masks and bring at least one "afternoon swap" mask to school. You can find KN95s at [Project N95](#) and [can purchase masks on Amazon to donate to our Wildcat mask drive](#). These masks will also offered to our Wildcat faculty and staff to help keep them safe!
- Last week saw an increased presence of Covid cases at Whittier. Nurse Marissa will contact any impacted families with school-related guidelines to follow in case of exposure. We are following CDC guidelines regarding quarantines following exposure.
- Our student community is approaching 90% fully vaccinated!
- Order your free at-home Covid test kits: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

## Follow Us!



## PTA Endorses "Yes" Vote on the EP&O and BTA Levy

Ballots for Seattle's upcoming EP&O and BTA Levies (Propositions 1 & 2) should arrive after 1/19 and are due on 2/8! In advance of this vote, the PTA recently reviewed the proposed levies and the board voted to formally endorse a "yes" vote for these levies. As a reminder, these levies do not increase funding for our schools, but simply maintains existing budgets. This means Seattle schools need these levies passed to continue operating as they are today, as state and federal funding presents a significant budget gap.

A timely example of this funding gap can be seen in state allocated funding for school nurses. Washington State's current state formula funds one full-time school nurse for every 5,263 elementary students, which doesn't come close to filling the service needs (especially now). Proposition 1 closes that funding gap to allow for roughly 60 more nurses across SPS than the state funds.

Want more information on what the levies fund? [Check out more information from SPS on Propositions 1 & 2](#). Interested to participate in more advocacy efforts? [Contact our Advocacy Chair!](#)

## Get & Share Mask Recos!

Want to get guidance from other parents on mask fit and sources? Check out our new [Konstella social group](#) "Masks and Covid Resources" where we encourage families to ask questions and share experiences around masks (what brand fits this age, what retailer shipped quickly, and more) and any other relevant Covid-related parenting resources.



## Useful Links

- [Whittier Elementary School Website](#)

Thank You to our 2022 Sponsor!



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

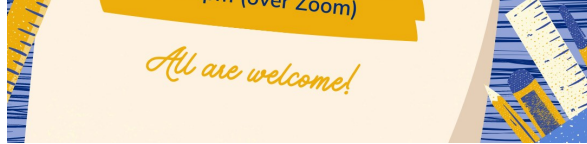
**SPRING FLING COMMITTEE**  
 From Treasurer to Decor to day-of roles, join this super fun committee plan our Wildcat social event of the year!

**PTA BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
 Learn more about the PTA and help suggest members for next year on this short-term committee!

## Whittier PTA community meeting

Learn about & vote on issues impacting your school community, including budget priorities for next school year

**Tuesday, January 18**  
 7 - 9pm (over 7)



## Welcome, Ms. O'Rourke - Our New Wildcat Kindergarten Teacher!

### MASK DRIVE

Help keep students safe! Please donate KF94 masks using our Amazon Wishlist (created by Nurse Marissa). Overflow donations will benefit a community partner school, Northgate Elementary. Paws up for Wildcats!

[SHORTURL.AT/ELSI9](https://shorturl.at/elsi9)



### Upcoming Seattle Special Education PTSA Events

- 1/18: Sip & Chat 2e/Twice Exceptional (7-8pm) over [Zoom](#)
- 2/8: Special Education PTSA General Meeting (7-9pm) over [Zoom](#)

## Let's Make Some Noise - It's Focus on Advocacy Week!

The Washington State PTA has designated January 17-21st for [Focus on Advocacy Week](#).

Each day will focus on legislative priorities that are critical to children across the state. It is super easy to get involved and make your voice heard! You can sign up to receive action alerts through WSPTA's [Action Network](#) and follow @whittier\_pta on [Instagram](#) and Whittier PTA on [Facebook](#) for easy sharing. These actions will take less than 2 minutes and allow you to quickly contact state representatives. Please share them widely!

Questions or want to get more involved? Please contact our [Advocacy Chair](#)!

## The Whittier Ultimate Frisbee (WUF) Gang is back!

The season goes from March 5th through May 14th and is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Games are on Saturdays at fields around Seattle. Practice will be on Wednesdays starting sometime between 2pm and 4:15pm for 1.5 hours at Loyal Heights playfield (exact details to TBD). The cost will be \$30 - \$60 per player (scholarships available upon request). [League Info](#).

We have two coaches so far, Alex Pecoraro (dad of 3rd grader Reese), and Anna Hume (mom of 4th grader Finley), but need more help, whether it be coaching or parental supervision at practice. If your child is interested, [please fill out this survey to get added to the mailing list](#). Questions? Email [alex@pecorarofamily.net](mailto:alex@pecorarofamily.net).

## New Outdoor Play to Brighten Your Day

Want to get your Wildcats' wiggles out? If you've already been to the newly reopened [Loyal Heights Playfield](#), here are some other new Seattle-area playgrounds that might be off your beaten path:

- Wildcats looking for a challenge will love climbing the enormous pyramid at Renton's [Sunset](#)

Neighborhood Park (2680 Sunset Ln NE, Renton, WA 98056)

- Enjoy activities for kids of all abilities at Everett's [Forest Park Playground](#) (802 E Mukilteo Blvd. Everett, WA 98203)
- Practice balance skills at Kirkland's [Totem Lake Playground](#) (12033 Totem Lake Way, Kirkland, WA 98034)
- Learn more about Chief Seattle and the Suquamish Tribe at [Suquamish Shores Natural Play Area](#) (6861 NE South St, Suquamish, WA 98392)
- Become part of a life-sized board game at Kent's [West Fenwick Park Playground](#) (3808 Reith Road Kent, WA 98032)

Have a playground or outdoor activity that would be great to share with our Wildcat community? Please [contact us!](#)



## UPCOMING LUNCH MENU

1/17	1/18	1/19	1/20	1/21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NO SCHOOL</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chicken Dumplings w/ veggies and rice</li><li>• Turkey Bacon BLT Sandwich</li><li>• Chicken Caesar Salad</li><li>• Seasonal Veggie</li><li>• Seasonal Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mac and Cheese</li><li>• Florentine Chicken Pasta Salad</li><li>• BBQ Turkey Salad</li><li>• Seasonal Veggie</li><li>• Seasonal Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuna Melt</li><li>• Chicken Banh Mi</li><li>• Veggie Tex Mex Salad</li><li>• Seasonal Veggie</li><li>• Seasonal Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chef's Choice</li><li>• Moroccan Quinoa Chicken Salad</li><li>• Chicken Caesar Salad</li><li>• Seasonal Veggie</li><li>• Seasonal Fruit</li></ul>

Thank you, Wildcats!