



# the WILDCHAT

WHITTIER  
ELEMENTARY'S  
PTA NEWSLETTER

## So, What Does the PTA Do?



PTAs are a common pop culture trope (generally characterized as a band of loud talking, coffee-wielding parents), but the Whittier PTA's role in shaping and supporting the Whittier Elementary community is well-established. Since its inception, the Whittier PTA has provided necessary funding, volunteers, and supplies to ensure our Whittier students are supported physically, emotionally, academically, and socially. This year's budget includes:

- \$80,000 in Flexible Staffing Grants
- \$20,000 for Curriculum Enrichment (traditionally used for field trips, author visits, science fairs, enrichment residencies, & more)
- \$10,000 for supplies and services for Whittier families in need
- \$5,000 to support Funding Proposals from the Whittier community
- \$4,000 towards Parent Education events
- \$450 for Playground and Safety Patrol supplies

In addition to financial support, the Whittier PTA is also passionate about community building. Please [join us on Konstella](#) to hear the latest opportunities to connect as a community.

Throughout this year, the PTA will reach out for fundraising and volunteer support. You'll also learn about opportunities to participate in more substantial advocacy efforts to improve the systemic issues around educational funding, so we can help make lasting change for our community and beyond. If you'd like to volunteer to support fundraising or advocacy efforts this year, please contact [volunteers@whittierptaseattle.org](mailto:volunteers@whittierptaseattle.org).

## Continued Welcome to Our New Wildcats!



This October, we're continuing to welcome our new Wildcat teachers & staff!

- Konstantin Avakyan - Instrumental Music
- David Bricker - Focus Long Term Sub
- Sarah DiTullio - Kindergarten
- Marissa Fitzpatrick - Nurse
- Katie Jacolev - Speech
- Stephanie Jansson - Speech
- Nooria Miskell - Assistant Principal
- Nauder Motamedi - Kindergarten
- Olivia Nielson - Physical Therapist
- Riley Paul - 4th Grade
- Chris Phengphachanh - Custodian
- Nebiat Tessema - Social Worker
- Cindy Watters - Principal

## 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

## Follow Us!



## Useful Links

- [Whittier Elementary School Website](#)

Thank You to our 2022 Sponsor!

**Illuminati**  
Learning Studio



## UPCOMING LUNCH MENU

10/11	10/12	10/13	10/14	10/15
Cheese Enchilada Verde Seeds & Cheese Lunch Box Bagel Lunch Box	Shredded Beef Burrito Hummus Lunch Box Chicken Caprese Salad	Chicken Wings Turkey & Cheese Pinwheel Veggie Cobb Salad	General Tso Chicken w Rice & Veggies Asian Chicken Udon Salad Fall Butternut Squash Salad	Chef's Choice Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Chicken Caesar
10/18	10/19	10/20	10/21	10/22
Chicken Nuggets w Roll & Fries Turkey Sub Supreme Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich	BBQ Chicken, Corn, & TX Toast Yogurt Lunch Box Chicken Caesar Salad	Chicken Wings Turkey & Cheese Pinwheel Veggie Cobb Salad	Salmon Pesto Pasta Tuna Bowtie Pasta Salad Fall Butternut Squash Salad	Chef's Choice Hummus Lunch Box BBQ Turkey Salad

Download a print-friendly version of this [menu](#)!

## Calling All 5th Grade Families!

This year, we're celebrating monthly staff appreciation with hosted grab-and-go lunches and supplies, sponsored by each grade. For October, we're asking fifth grade families to sign-up to provide supplies and show their appreciation.

[Learn More & Sign-Up](#)

## Our PTA Committees Make It Happen

How does the all-volunteer PTA put on events, raise funds, support students and staff, connect families, and more? We have great volunteers and families join committees to support one-time and day-to-day tasks. Check out the "Committees" forum on Konstella, Whittier PTA's app that connects classroom families, offers Directory information, and has the most updated, comprehensive events calendar. Haven't joined Konstella yet? [Join here!](#) Want help navigating Konstella? [Check out our new help guide!](#)

[Join Konstella](#)

**NEW**  
**Whittier Spirit Gear launches Oct 15!**  
[kotisibuy.com/whittierelementarymerch](https://kotisibuy.com/whittierelementarymerch)  
FULL COLLECTION LAUNCH  
YES, THERE ARE HOODIES

## Calling All Artists!

**NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS**  
**2021-2022 CALL FOR ENTRIES!**  
Learn more and get involved!  
[PTA.org/Reflections](https://PTA.org/Reflections)  
**I WILL CHANGE THE WORLD BY...**  
EXPLORE THE ARTS AND EXPRESS YOURSELF!  
DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY, FILM PRODUCTION, LITERATURE, MUSIC COMPOSITION, PHOTOGRAPHY, VISUAL ARTS

The 2021-2022 PTA Reflections Art Contest will be virtual once again and this year's theme is "I Will Change The World By..."

[Submit your artwork here](#) by November 1, 2021.

Looking for ideas and more info?

- [Submission Ideas](#)
- [Informational Flyer](#)
- [En Español](#)

[Submit Your Artwork](#)

**CALLING ART LOVERS!**  
We are forming a small committee to review Reflections submissions for advancement to the district and state levels.  
If you would like to serve on this committee please contact  
vp  
[@whittierptaseattle.org](mailto:vp@whittierptaseattle.org)

Thanks to  
Illumination  
Learning  
Studio!

**Illumination**  
Learning Studio

Thanks to PTA's new sponsor,

Whittier Students  
Make a  
Difference!



Thanks for  
October's First  
Friday Fun!



Illumination Learning Studio!  
Your support helps makes the Wildcats great! For more information on ILS, including their School Break camps, visit [Illumination Learning Studio](#).

Do you know a local business that wants to support the Whittier community? [Contact us!](#)

When 2020's 5th grade class was unable to attend their planned NatureBridge trip, the class decided to donate their trip funds to the Whittier PTA. Thanks to their generosity, this year the PTA will be installing a [Buddy Bench](#) and [Funnel ball pole](#) on the playground. Paws up for Wildcats!



Thanks to PTA Events & Hospitality for First Friday Fun, where we picked pumpkins, celebrated with the Wildcat, were reunited with Lost & Found items, and reconnected at pick-up. Join us for our next First Friday Fun on November 5 at pick-up outside of the main entrance!



Fun Fact: Whittier Elementary was originally called the "North End School" and opened in 1908.



Tuesday, October 19  
7-9pm (Zoom)

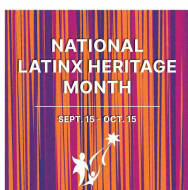
Community meetings are a great way to learn about the PTA's current focus, vote on issues that affect your school community, and make sure your voice is represented. All are welcome to join and attendees will be entered into a drawing to win a Whittier spirit gear prize!



Tuesday, November 9  
7-9pm (Zoom)

All are invited to attend Whittier PTA meetings, held each month over Zoom. November's meeting will also feature two special guests, Representatives Liz Berry and Noel Frame. Please join us for a rich conversation about the intersection of education and advocacy!

## Did You Know?



In the US, [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is celebrated from September 15 - October 15, during a time when several Latin American countries celebrate the anniversary of their independence. Some people call this celebration Latinx Heritage Month - let's explore why!

People sometimes use Hispanic and Latinx interchangeably - but they're not the same at all. The term "Hispanic" refers to a shared language, and includes Spanish-speaking people from Spain and Latin American countries where Spanish is spoken, but excludes countries that speak languages other than Spanish. The term "Latinx" is a non-binary, inclusive term that refers to a tie to the land, including countries that were formerly colonized by Spain as well as countries where indigenous languages are spoken. You may also hear the terms "Latine" or "Latinidad." Latinx, Latine, and Latinidad refer to a spectrum of races, countries, and languages that all have a tie to a culture or place.

Does your family celebrate Hispanic or Latinx Heritage Month? How do you like to celebrate?

[Learn more](#)

## Fundraise While You Shop!

**DAY-TO-DAY SHOPPING**

**% PTA DONATION !**



These retailers donate a % of your purchases to the Whittier PTA at no additional cost to you:



#### AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com))

Select "Whittier PTA Seattle Council" during the easy set-up at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). **Always** shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) (bookmark it!) and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to Whittier PTA. NEW: Find instructions at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app, too (requires renewal twice per year).

#### Fred Meyer ([fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards))

Link your Fred Meyer Rewards card to "Whittier PTA" (Organization #DV522). You keep your Rewards points!

#### Ballard Market (1400 NW 56th St.)

Collect your receipts in an envelope labeled **"Whittier PTA - Ballard Market Receipts"** and deliver them to school via your student's Take-Home Tuesday folder; in the mail slot at the front entrance; or at the Whittier PTA tent on First Fridays. Ballard Market donates 1% of all purchases to Whittier PTA.

[Learn More About Fundraising](#)



## Mr. Pule's Walk & Wheel Challenge!



Let's try to decrease the number of Wildcats driven to school by private vehicle whenever possible! Mr. Pule is challenging the Whittier community to walk, bike, bus, unicycle, park/walk all month long (and beyond!).

Here is a ["Walk and Wheel Calendar"](#) to help track your efforts. Mark if you walked, bussed, biked or "wheeled" to school roundtrip for each day in October! Walks to the bus stop count, as do trips using skateboards, scooters and unicycles. Even those who need to be car-dropped, there is a "park and walk" option (park and walk at least 1/4 mile or approx. 2-4 blocks). Tally your trips and turn the calendar in by Thursday, November 4th to the box outside the gym. Wildcats can earn an incentive or two.

Please remember that both 13th Ave NW and 14th Ave NW are closed to traffic and there are a number of No Parking Zones (corners and near crosswalks) on NW 75th St. Our Wildcat Safety Patrol would appreciate the assistance in keeping our community safe throughout the school year.

---

# Thank you, Whittier Families!