

March 1, 2022



Covid Updates

- SPS has no current plans to change mask mandate requirements at school. Read more direct from SPS [here](#).
- At-school testing is based upon test availability. Please contact [Nurse Marissa](#) with questions regarding testing or learn more about SPS' policy and regional testing clinics [here](#).
- Principal Watters' believes we'll be able to open up our campus to volunteers in early March! Check out volunteer information in the article below.

PTA COMMUNITY MEETING
Tuesday, March 15
7-9pm (Zoom)

Community meetings are a great way to learn about the PTA, vote on issues that affect your school community, and make sure your voice is represented. PTA members will also vote on next year's budget at this month's meeting.

All are welcome to join! Want to vote? Be sure to renew or become a member (whittierptaseattle.org/membership) today!

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!



Learn More: Emergency Drills at Whittier

Over the course of the year, Whittier students participate in several types of emergency preparedness drills that cover a range of potential events. Some types of these drills include:

- **Shelter-In-Place Drills:** Shelter-In-Place is the process of keeping students and staff safe from dangers within the community. Schools would Shelter-In-Place in events such as a hazardous material incident, radiation incident, snowstorm, vague threats, or unsafe incidents in the community that are not directed at the school. During a Shelter-In-Place, teachers keep students in their classrooms and instruction continues.
- **Evacuation Drills:** Evacuation occurs when we need all of our learning community out of the building (e.g. fire, gas leak, etc.). Classrooms will evacuate with the classroom emergency kit, and lead all individuals in the area through the planned evacuation route to the pre-designated area outside the building and line up by classroom. This is also often accompanied by another drill, like an earthquake drill.
- **Earthquake Drills:** Earthquake drills cover safe practices in place (drop, cover and hold, then follow instructions from the main office) and often includes an evacuation drill.
- **Lock Down Drills:** Lock Down is a process of keeping students and staff safe from danger inside/outside the building. All staff, students, and volunteers clear the hallways immediately and seek a room that can be locked to keep an intruder out; assist any students needing a secure place. Students and staff wait quietly for additional instructions from the main office.
- **Reverse Evacuation Drill:** Reverse Evacuation occurs when classes are outside and need to immediately return to the building and classrooms.

If anything happens at school requiring the use of any of these emergency preparedness plans, you'll hear directly from Principal Watters' so you never have to wonder if something happened at school.

Your student may want to learn more about these types of emergencies and may even have fear or anxiety after participating in or learning about potential emergency situations. Other Whittier parents have found [T.A.L.K. S.C.A.R.E.D.](#) framework is a helpful resource for learning how to approach these conversations with age-appropriate information and empathy.

Want to learn more about Whittier's emergency preparedness? Contact [Principal Watters'](#) with questions.

Useful Links

- [Whittier Elementary School Website](#)

Thank You to our 2022 Sponsor!

Illuminati
Learning Studio

Prides of March

In the spirit of this hope, during March, we are going to celebrate the "Prides of March." From March 7 - April 1 we will embrace kindness, bravery and joyful flexibility. Additionally, students will have opportunities to participate in dress up days, door decorating contests and community support projects.

As a school we are also partnering with [Share/Wheel](#). Share/Wheel is a Seattle based organization that has been supporting individuals who are experiencing homelessness since 1990. The organization sponsors democratically self-run Tent Cities and small permanent shelters throughout Seattle. Share/Wheel community needs include non-perishable food, hygiene supplies, tarps, tools and more. Each week we will have a different focus and invite our scholars to donate to wagons placed at each gate in the morning. The last week of March we will ask for "Move Day Supplies" for Tent City 3 currently at Phinney Lutheran Church as they will be moving to their next location in early April. Stay tuned for more information!



WILDCATS GO
WILDCATS GO
SPRING FLING FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022

HELP THE PTA RAISE \$30,000 AT THIS FUN OUTDOOR BLOCK PARTY!

PART AUCTION	PART BLOCK PARTY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>class-created art projects</i>• <i>themed buckets crafted by each classroom</i>• <i>products and gift certificates from local businesses</i>• <i>hosted parties by wildcat families</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>in-person event for adult Wildcats!</i>• <i>food trucks</i>• <i>beverages</i>• <i>music</i>• <i>on the streets around Whittier!</i>

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- *decorations & supplies*
- *food/beverage*
- *budget & data entry*
- *classroom art leads*
- *class theme bucket leads*
- *"hosted party" host volunteers*
- *local business auction items*

CLICK TO SIGN-UP
<https://lnk.bio/whittierpta>

Classroom Art Volunteers

Volunteers help develop a project idea that incorporates each student into a single work of art, coordinate with your classroom teacher to find time(s) to work on the project, collect supplies to create the artwork, and deliver the finished piece to school. Whether it's cross-stitch, a collage, or something entirely new, Wildcats will love making this art piece while helping the PTA reach its annual fundraising goals. [Sign up here](#) or contact emily.a.grosse@gmail.com to learn more!

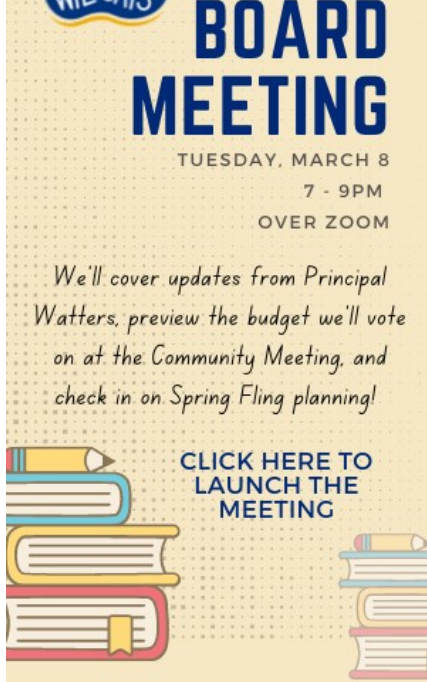
Coordinate Your Classroom Bucket!

One volunteer per classroom to to heads up building a themed bucket to be auctioned off for the Whittier Spring Fling Fundraiser! Volunteers are in charge of picking the theme for a bucket and recruiting other parents from the classroom to contribute. Bucket themes in the past have included things such as Family Game Night, STEAM, Hop Around the Hood, Seattle Sports, Outdoor Adventures, Wine and Dine, Local Beers and Breweries, Emergency Kit, Mariners, Legos, and Date Night. But the sky is the limit, use your imagination. [Sign up here!](#)



Quick Tip: Digital Directory

Looking for a friend or parent to connect with? Did you know [Konstella](#) houses a digital directory



of almost all Whittier families?

To find someone on Konstella, go to "Directory" and Search for users or Browse Classrooms (if you know their grade and teacher, but are fuzzier on the name). Once you find who you're looking for, tap their name and you'll find any contact information they've provided when signing up for Konstella. You can also send a private message directly through Konstella!

Host a Party to Benefit Whittier!

What are Hosted Parties? They are "sign-up" events that parents, or a group of parents, agree to host for as many people as they find appropriate for the specific activity/party. Attendees can be adults, kids or a combination of the two. The hosts cover all expenses of the party, and 100% of the funds raised by the event benefit Whittier. Prices range from \$25 to \$50+ per person depending on the event. Past events include pie and beverage pairings, grade-level happy hours, outdoor movie nights in a backyard, gardening lessons, and more!

Would you like to host an event and help Whittier raise its fundraising goals? [Fill out this form with your party idea!](#)

Connected to a Local Business?

Do you work at a local business? Know a business that'd like to donate? We'd love to feature products and services from local businesses in our auction! Past auctions have included weekends at family cabins, gift certificates for spa services, wine tasting tickets, credit for a birthday party rental, dinner for two at a local restaurant, and so much more! [Contact us](#) for more information or [fill out this form to submit your donation!](#) Remember--all donations are tax deductible!

Volunteers Welcome! How to Sign Up

We are excited to begin to welcome volunteers back to Whittier beginning in March to help with lunch & recess and other volunteer needs. To volunteer, you'll need to first complete the SPS Volunteer Process:

- If you are a new volunteer, you will need to complete a volunteer application. [NEW VOLUNTEER APPLICATION](#)
- If you have volunteered in the past, you will just need to renew your application using your log-in information. [RENEWING YOUR VOLUNTEER APPLICATION](#)
- All volunteers are required to complete an online Health & Safety Course and show proof of receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Please visit the SPS Volunteer page to read about the entire volunteer process: [SPS VOLUNTEER PAGE](#)

If you need any help or have any questions, please contact Ms. Monica maganyard@seattleschools.org. Go Wildcats!



Summer Camp Confusion? Let's Crowdsource!



Spring FUN

**@ PICK-UP
MAR 4**

Main Entrance
WHITTIER ELEMENTARY
ON 75TH

Join the PTA and friends at the front of Whittier every First Friday of the month for some fun!

This is a great time to connect with Whittier friends and family (and learn more about Spring Fling)! See you there!



On the hunt for Summer Camp options? Feel like you're missing options to complete your perfect summer schedule? Join the "School Break Camps & Activities" social group on [Konstella](#). We've posted a bunch of summer camp options--and invite you to add yours! Have a Wildcat signed up for a camp and looking for a Whittier friend? Let us know!

To find this group, click on "Social Groups" and browse until you see "School Break Camps & Activities." Click to enter or join--and you're set! Good luck!



YOU DID IT!

Thanks to everyone who voted for Props 1 & 2!

With 79% approval, we've maintained school funding through 2025.

GO WILDCATS!



HAVE YOU RENEWED?

Are you a returning Whittier parent? Have you renewed your PTA membership this year?

PTA members can vote on issues, including budgets, that directly impact the Whittier community--but you have to renew your membership annually.

Click to **RENEW**

**Next EDI Meeting: Thurs, March 24
(6:30-8pm over Zoom)**

Reminder: Pick-up Annual Donor Gifts before 3/13

If you still need to collect your Annual Give donor gift, please contact fundraising@whittierptaseattle.org to make arrangements. Not sure? Look for an email from that same address in your inbox or junk mail folder. Gifts are available as a porch pick up near Take 5 Market. **We will hold all items until Sunday, March 13.** At that time, all remaining items will be donated to the school or released to our Spirit Gear sales team as new inventory.

Thank you, Wildcats!