

February 15, 2022



## This Week's Covid Updates

- If your Wildcat or a family member tests positive, please contact [Nurse Marissa](#) and [Principal Watters](#) for information related to next steps.
- Nurse Marissa will continue contacting families with Wildcats that have known or close exposures at school. These emails will include any next steps to follow to keep our community safe.
- Looking for a vaccine? Learn more about upcoming [SPS Vaccination Clinics](#).
- SPS recently sent an email to families around testing. The takeaway? As the Omicron surge slows down, Covid testing will continue to be available dependent upon test supply provided by DOH. Read more about [SPS's Covid 19 testing here](#). Want support for testing at Whittier? Please contact [Nurse Marissa](#).
- Our Mask Drive continues! Help keep students and staff safe at both Whittier and Northgate Elementary using our [Amazon shopping list](#).
- Principal Watters is hoping to have a volunteer update after mid-winter break!
- Looking for Mask reviews and recommendations from other Wildcats? Check out our "Masks & Covid Resources" social group on Konstellat!
- Traveling for mid-winter break? Please [review and follow CDC's health guidelines for after travel](#).

## Save the Date: Spring Fling 2022

Spring Fling is back! Spring Fling is an annual in-person, adults-only fundraiser that allows Whittier families to connect, have fun, and raise necessary funds for the Whittier PTA through auction sales. This year, our "Whittier Goes Wild" event's fundraising goal is \$30,000 and we'll be hosting an outdoor block party-style event around the streets of the school on Saturday, May 21, 2022!

To make this event a success, we need volunteers and support! We're seeking volunteers to help plan and work the event that day! Interested to help? Please [contact Sandra](#), our Spring Fling Chair.

## 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

# Highlight: Special Education Services at Whittier

School levies fund a wide range of services, including funds that allow Whittier to support a neurodiverse environment where all students can thrive. At Whittier, we believe all students are our students, all adults lead and support learning, and all students can learn at high levels. From Ms. Trilby's Reading Club and early intervention support to Audiology resources to Access and Focus Classrooms, Wildcats have an array of academic, emotional, and social supports.

## TYPES OF SUPPORT

- **Social & Emotional** - Students can work with our school social worker (Ms. Nebiat) 1-on-1 or in small groups for support with friendship, stress, etc.
- **504 Accommodations** - Students with an identified or suspected disability who do not need special education services but benefit from accommodations (more time, seating preference, etc)
- **Audiology Supports** - Students who have hearing loss and need additional classroom supports (e.g. an amplification or FM system)
- **Reading Club** - A small reading group to support students who need additional time and/or instruction in reading. Groups meet 2-3 times per week with our reading specialist Ms. Trilby.
- **Speech & Language Supports** - Students who have difficulty communicating, impacting their learning and/or social interactions work with Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) individually or in small groups.
- **Resource Support** - Students who have mild to moderate differences in their instructional needs for specific academic needs and social skills. Instruction is based on each student's IEP.
- **Access Support** - Students who have moderate to intensive differences in their instructional needs for specific academic, functional skills, and social skills. Students vary in how much time they spend in smaller and larger group settings. Instruction is based on each student's IEP.
- **Focus Support** - Students who have moderate to intensive differences in their instructional needs for specific academic, functional skills, and social skills. Students vary in how much time they spend in smaller and larger group settings. Instruction is based on each student's IEP. Students benefit from spending much of their instructional time in smaller group settings.

At Whittier, we're proud to offer excellence in instruction for all students. One well-known and long-standing support used at Whittier is our Reading Club, led by Ms. Trilby. In addition to student instruction, Ms. Trilby also assists teachers with support to tackle reading challenges they encounter in their classrooms. SPS and State discretionary funding and weighted staffing models mean schools like Whittier use additional funds, including PTA discretionary dollars, to help fund early intervention support, like Ms. Trilby, along with other staff. Both Principal Watters and the PTA are working together to advocate that early intervention services should be a minimum educational support that's funded by state and district dollars--regardless of the school's socio-economic neighborhood.

Interested to learn more about special education services? [Connect with Principal Watters](#) to learn more about services at Whittier and connect with [Seattle's Special Education PTSA](#) to learn more about services across Seattle.

Want to help participate in future advocacy efforts regarding special education services and early intervention funding? Contact our [Advocacy Chair](#).

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## Volunteers Needed: Spring Fling Classroom Buckets



## Volunteers Needed: Spring Fling Classroom Art!



We are looking for one volunteer per classroom to head 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!](#)

**WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CLASSROOM ART"?**  
Parent volunteers from each class lead students in making piece of art to be auctioned at the Spring Fling. 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.

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR**  
We're asking for volunteers to 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**.  
Interested? [Sign up here](#) or contact [emily.a.grosse@gmail.com](mailto:emily.a.grosse@gmail.com) to learn more!

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## Preview: Prides of March

This March, Whittier will be participating in a student-driven community service effort we're calling "Prides of March." We'll show our commitment to our community and Whittier pride by primarily supporting Tent City 3 (currently located at the Phinney Lutheran Church). This democratically organized tent community is the longest-running (and oldest) tent community in Seattle. With a code of conduct and barrier requirements, we feel this organization best suits our interest to connect our Wildcats' energy to a community in need. This remote drive will include more typical wish list items (clothing, hygiene supplies, and food) along with more unique supplies requested by this community (like tools and construction supplies).

Please stay tuned for more information from Principal Watters on this Prides of March community service opportunity (and potentially more!) coming this March.

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## Spring Fling Donation Items Needed!



Do you own, work for, or know a local business that might like to support Whittier and make connections with our loyal Wildcat community? We're seeking donations for our Spring Fling's auction! We're seeking any and all donations that could be used in an auction--from products to gift cards to whatever else you can think of!

We're also looking to connect with local restaurants and breweries that may want to contribute food or drink to our event!

Please pass along your ideas or contacts to our Procurement coordinator, [Elliot](#). Thank you!

## Summer Camps Recommended by Whittier Families!



Ballard Boys & Girls Club:  
<https://positiveplace.org/summer/>

Peter Fewing Soccer Camp (right at Loyal Heights Community Center & Greenlake)  
<https://www.peterfewingsoccercamp.com/>

Parkour through Kong Academy at Carkeek Park  
<https://www.kongacademy.org/summercamps>

Lacrosse Camp through Egg & Spoon  
<https://www.eggandspoonlacrosse.com/>

Math for Love  
<https://mathforlove.com/2022/01/math-for-love-day-camps/>

## Know a Family Considering Whittier Next Year?

Please encourage them to enroll!! Funding allocations based on next year's enrollment start soon, so families considering Whittier should go ahead and enroll today!

### Spirit Gear Available



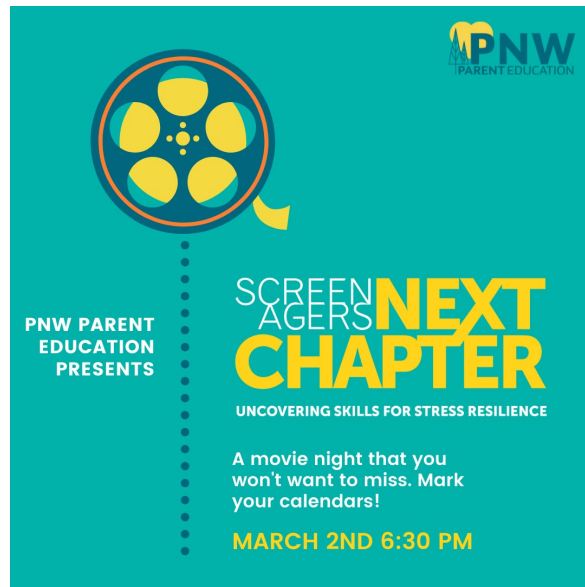
Looking for Wildcat Spirit Gear? We have hoodies, youth and adult Black Lives Matter t-shirts, and more!

#### Contact

[president@whittierptaseattle.org](mailto:president@whittierptaseattle.org) for information about ordering.

And look for Spirit Gear at our next First Friday Fun (while supplies last)!

### PNW Parent Education: Uncovering Skills For Stress Resilience



Join PNW Parent Education for a special event as they partner with Screenagers to bring you Screenagers Next Chapter: Uncovering Skills For Stress Resilience. This FREE event will include a showing of the documentary Screenagers Next Chapter (69 minutes) followed by a moderated Q&A with Ali Tabb, Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

#### Register via EventCombo:

<https://pnwparent.eventcombo.com>

### We Need Your Input! 5-Minute Budget Survey

Whittier families--we need your input! Please [complete this 5-question budget survey](#) to share how you'd like to see PTA funds work for our Wildcat community! This anonymous survey should take about 3 minutes and we'd like to hear from every Whittier family! Survey closes on 2/18, so please submit today!

### Annual Give Donor Gift Pick-up

If you still need to collect your Annual Give donor gift, please contact [fundraising@whittierptaseattle.org](mailto:fundraising@whittierptaseattle.org) to make arrangements for pick-up. 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!

### Where's the Lunch Menu?

Looking for the lunch menu? Bookmark our [News page](#) for the latest weekly Wildcat lunch menu, provided by the amazing Jo-Nell! [This week's lunch looks amazing!](#)



Thank you, Wildcats!