

WORDS FROM WHITTIER
Wheaton Warrenville School District 200
Inspiring in Everyone a Passion to Excel
A Newsletter from Joanne Hall, Principal
June 3, 2008

Dear Families,

...the end of another school year! For me, these endings seem to be occurring much more quickly than I would anticipate. Thank you for sharing this quick journey with me, the students, and the staff of Whittier.

We educators mark the flow of our lives not by the calendar year, but by the school year. As parents with children in school, you probably also feel the urge to celebrate beginnings and endings by the August-June cycle of time. Even though in June we say good-bye to our students, we are earnestly planning for next year and our new crop of children. School is that important to us!

I want to thank our wonderful PTA Board members, Melissa Stelik, Kristin Lydon, Holly Pierce, Sue Hoffman, Becky Bucholz, and Heidi Carr. Heidi has completed her role as treasurer and we welcome Jeanne Weseman as her replacement. Holly Piece will be replaced by Mary Anderson. These people did an outstanding job this year, along with many terrific parent volunteers. Our school would not be the same without your steadfast support.

This marks the end of my eleventh year at Whittier which also amazes me. I remember taking my first tour through the building and wondering if I would ever feel at home in it. Now, of course, I feel such strong ties to our children and their families, the staff, and to the building itself that Whittier truly has become my other home. I know that it is a great privilege, as well as an important responsibility, to be your principal and I will endeavor to act in a manner that reflects this. Thank you for your continued support for all of us at Whittier.

Have a safe and happy summer and enjoy your wonderful children. We'll see you in August with another jam-packed year of education and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

ADVENTURE DAY SUCCESS

We had an exciting Adventure Day, complicated by the weather's random behavior throughout the day. But in usual Whittier fashion, the event was pulled together and smoothly orchestrated by the hard working chair people. A giant thank you to our chair person, Sue Hoffman, Faye Adams, Maria Romano, Meg Zubak, Sharon Negris, and Corinne Sampalis, along with lunch organizer, Melissa Stehlik. Our cultural arts chair person, Gina Moticik, found a great program – the Rope Warrior- that the children really enjoyed. Mr. Spontak did a tremendous job of creating new indoor activities to compensate for the scheduled outdoor sports and games that had to be scrapped due to thunder, lightening and down pours. Finally, the event couldn't happen without the numerous parent volunteers who made the day very special for all the kids! It is an elementary school memory that Whittier students cherish.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

We will hold Curriculum Night for the 2008-09 school year on Thursday, August 28th. We wanted you to mark your calendar for this important event. I hope to see all of you at this important event!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Don't put that calendar away yet – you want to note that our back-to-school Ice Cream Social will be held on Wednesday, August 20th. That is our first full day of school and your opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors, while having a tasty treat provided for us by our terrific PTA.

REGISTRATION PACKETS

I encourage you to get your registration pack back to us by June 15 so we can process your payments before we leave for summer break. Please remember if you return your packet June 30th or later you are subject to a \$10.00 late fee.

POSTCARDS

Class placement postcards will be mailed on Monday, August 11th. I know that is a very exciting day in the neighborhood!

LOOKING TO NEXT YEAR

If it is June, I know it is “rumor season” in our community, so I thought I would tell you as much as I currently know about teacher staffing for the coming school year. This will help answer your questions and perhaps slow down the flow of misinformation.

Often people will ask me if I am excited about the end of another school year. They anticipate that I will reply with a gleeful affirmation. Nothing could be further from the truth. I really do not like the end of the year for many reasons, one of them being that we have to say good-bye to many teachers we respect and admire. Erin Young, kindergarten teacher, will be staying home for the year to enjoy her new baby and her daughter, Abigail. Cindy May, first grade teacher, will be here full time, so that means we must say good-bye to her job share partner, Kris Kaminski. We will really miss Kris, her friendly demeanor, and her fine teaching. All of us wish her the best as she pursues a full time position in District 200. Jim Duda will be teaching fifth grade, instead of fourth. There may be other changes through the summer months, but currently, this is all I know for certain.

Some of you have questions about the number of grade level sections for next year. Here is what I know as of today: Kindergarten – 3 sections, First Grade – 3 sections, Second Grade – 3 sections, Third Grade – 3 sections, Fourth Grade – 3 sections, Fifth Grade – 4 sections. That is the latest news about staffing for the 2008-09 school year.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

June 4	Good Bye for the Summer! 11:15am dismissal Grades 1-5
June 30	Registration Packets Due
August 19	Welcome Back Grades 1-5! 12:15pm Dismissal
August 20	Kindergarten Begins Ice Cream Social
August 28	Curriculum Night 7:00pm
September 1	Labor Day – No School

