

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

Dear Families,

October is here and with it comes the glory of autumn, the whimsy of Halloween, and the bittersweet ending to another summer season. Children are comfortable with the daily routines as we all settle into the rhythm of school. All in all, it is my favorite time of year. We have lots of news...

PTA PLANS & PLANTS FOR THE FUTURE

Last Saturday something very special happened at Whittier. Thanks to our PTA Beautification Committee and a host of volunteers, twelve new trees were added to the school grounds. Ginkgo, maple, honey locust, as well as other beautiful specimens, were chosen specifically for their designated spot by parent volunteer, Julie Janoski, our resident landscape expert. Julie also prepared a three to five year master plan for sprucing up the Whittier property. This document will be an excellent resource for the Beautification Committee members of the future and keep our long-range vision clear and focused. What a legacy the new trees are for the future students and families who enter Whittier School – I can't think of a gift that will last longer, be more beautiful, or give so much pleasure!

We offer a very special thank you to Chairperson Heidi Carr for her planning and organizational skills. The "helping hands" gardeners were Jeanne, Ethan & Claire Weseman, Andy Mack, the Keyes family – Brian, Theresa, Emily, & John, Dave & Peter Marra, Tom & Jack Kleve, Stacy & Joe Adamek, Jim & Connor Caulfield, Coleman & Max Wolf, Gail & Tommy Kaenel, Myles & Simon Hoffman, Kina, Sela, Jackson, & Tyler Dieden, and the Carr family – Steve, Heidi, Alex, & Sami. Also, we owe Schmidt Landscaping a round of applause for digging the holes for our trees – that made the volunteers' jobs a bit easier. Again, thank you for your hard work, community spirit, and giving ways.

CELEBRATE SUMMER READING – IT'S MAGIC!

Whittier students had the opportunity this summer to participate in District 200's Summer Reading Program. One hundred and three students enjoyed *Discover the Magic of Books – Read* with a very special culminating activity – a magic show put on by a former Whittier student, Jeanette Andrews. The children cheered as Jeanette wowed them with tricks that amazed and amused the enthusiastic readers. Tee shirts were given to the three readers at each grade level who read the most minutes over the summer. They are:

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Mia Michalski (4,890)	Sarah O'Connell (5,592)	Claire Weseman (9,695)
Luca Olivito (3,652)	Kristopher Navar (4,127)	Meijia Oltman (3,643)
Ethan Seng (2,750)	Julie Dworkin (4,115)	Solomon Michalak (3,530)
Grade 4	Grade 5	
Lily Jarzabkowski (9,060)	Kaleigh Richetti (15,093)	Congratulations to all our readers. Each is a big winner!
Ethan Weseman (6,151)	Jessica Halder (10,097)	
Valerie Kunkel (5,140)	Jackelyn Navar (9,883)	

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Remember that Monday, October 13th, is a school holiday. There will not be school on that day. While you are marking your calendar, you might want to highlight our next early dismissal day. On Friday, October 24th, we will dismiss at 12:15pm. It is an **afternoon kindergarten day**.

SMILE! IT'S PICTURE DAY

Color Portraits will be here on Tuesday, October 14th, to take individual and class pictures. Information was sent home in your child's Friday Folder today. You must submit money for your pictures before Picture Day itself. There are a variety of packages to choose from, including the very popular friendship cards. Please return your picture packets back to school and don't forget to dress the children in their biggest, best smile!

PTA REFLECTIONS 2008

Reflections is a terrific cultural arts program sponsored by the national PTA. Its purpose is to encourage all students to express their thoughts and feelings through the creative arts. Students are invited to produce entries based on the theme, "WOW!" in the categories of literature, music, visual arts, and photography. If you have not received the information and entry form, we have more available in the office. All entries are due by Monday, October 27th. Encourage your children to participate in this worthwhile program.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTIES

We'll have our annual Halloween parade and room parties on Friday, October 31st. If the weather is reasonable, we will have our outdoor mini-parade for all children beginning at 2:15pm. Plan on us following our usual route through the school, out Door 3 which is near the flagpole, into the Administration Center, and back into classrooms. If the weather is poor, we will have an indoor parade through our gyms with the primary students. No matter what the weather, our room parties will begin at 2:45pm.

WHAT TO WEAR, WHAT TO WEAR

Before you and your little goblins decide on a Halloween costume for this year's parade and party, I thought it would be a good idea to review once again our building's guidelines. Parents, I ask that you use good judgment when helping your child choose a Halloween costume. No play weapons of any kind should be brought to school. That includes plastic swords, knives, guns, ninja items, and anything else that is used to inflict harm on another person in the real world.

Due to safety issues, children will not be allowed to wear masks in the parade. They can impede vision, depth perception, and physical mobility, which have caused tripping and falling accidents. If masks are worn at the parties, they should not depict a character from any of the violent "slasher" movies that are popular with the teenage crowd.

Even on a special day like Halloween, the message to our children must be clear and consistent. It is not acceptable to bring weapons to school, nor is it appropriate to inflict harm on one another. We can have fun without admitting such negative influences into school, a place that we want safe 100% of the time. Thank you for your help and support with this important message to children.

PTA CULTURAL ARTS ASSEMBLY

We have our first all-school assembly sponsored by the PTA Cultural Arts Committee on Tuesday morning. The *George Washington Follies* by Chicago's Face to Face production will be presented on Tuesday, October 7th.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

October 7	PTA Cultural Arts Assemblies
October 9	Market Day & PRC Collection
October 13	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
October 14	Picture Day
October 24	12:15 Early Dismissal – ONLY PM Kindergarten Attends
October 25	Make A Difference Day!
October 31	Halloween Parade & Parties

