

WORDS FROM WHITTIER  
Wheaton Warrenville School District 200  
*Inspiring in Everyone a Passion to Excel*  
A Newsletter from Joanne Hall, Principal  
September 11, 2009

Dear Families,

School is going very well. The children are settling in nicely to the routine of a new school year. Everyday I can see the growth in their understanding of the patterns and procedures at Whittier. Kindergarteners get off buses with confidence and proudly march to their classroom lines. First graders glow with pride as they master the skill of opening their own milk cartons in the lunchroom. Older students are eager to help younger boys and girls find their way to the speech room or the nurse's office. All in all, it is a wonderful tribute to children's adaptability, as well as their amazing flexibility. We adults could take lessons from them!

Now that we are in the swing of things I want to address the importance of good student attendance. Regular attendance at school is critical to a child's learning. In the best of situations, it is rarely possible to provide students with the same experiences they would receive in the classroom in a "make-up" situation because many daily classroom activities and instruction cannot be packaged and sent home. Of course, all of us recognize that a child needs to stay home when she/he is ill or when there is a rare family emergency, but there are other situations where parents can really help get their child to school.

Not only is a child's learning impacted by attendance, the District's bottom line is affected as well. The state aid formula is based, in part, on the District's average daily attendance. When attendance declines, the District's share of state aid declines. Did you know that when your child misses just 16 minutes of school, the state considers the student absent for a half-day? If the child is not in school for at least two and a half hours, it cannot be counted as a half day. That costs you, the tax payer, money in the form of state aid.

Please try to schedule medical and dental appointments outside the school day. More importantly, try to plan family travel during school vacations and on school holidays. If we work together, we can make a difference for the children and for our pocketbooks.

#### FUN RUN COMING SOON!

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 19, 2009, at 10:00am for the fourth annual New 200 Fun Run. This year's event will be held at the old Hubble Middle School site at Main and Roosevelt. Runners can participate in either a 5K run or 1 mile Fun Run, with all ages welcome. After the run, there will be a festival with free rides and attractions.

The New 200 Foundation is a district-wide non-profit foundation, focused on enhancing the educational experiences of students and teachers by providing funding for innovative educational programs throughout all 20 schools in District 200. Last year approximately \$15,000 was raised to support a wide variety of programs. Over the four years, all 20 schools have benefited from these grants.

The New 200 organization is offering a \$1000 grant to both the elementary and middle school that has the highest percentage of participants. Let's see if Whittier can win that prize! Contact [www.new200foundation.org](http://www.new200foundation.org)

## YOUNG ARTISTS ON DISPLAY

Every year we beautify the school by framing exceptional artwork created by students during the previous school year. Currently these works can be seen hanging in the office. Our resident artists from 2008-09 were:

Ryan Moore	Kindergarten	Cut Paper Cat
Abby Dannegger	Grade 1	Striped Cat in Watercolor
Ally Phillips	Grade 2	Cut Paper Panda
Rachel Raser	Grade 3	Japanese Sumie Watercolor
Kate Kortenhoeven	Grade 3	Laurel Burch Cat
Leyla Habibovic	Grade 4	Green Dragon in chalk
Maddie Kretschmer	Grade 5	White House in crayon

## DON'T FORGET

We have an early dismissal day on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Children in grades 1 through 5 will be dismissed at 12:15pm. Only morning kindergarten children attend school and they will be dismissed at their regular time, 11:45am. There is no afternoon kindergarten session on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

## TO ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The entire Whittier staff values and appreciates the support you offer to our students and we thank you for the hours of volunteer time you give to us. When you are a volunteer in our school, I would remind you that confidentiality about all students must be maintained. Also, I would ask you to seek a teacher's intervention if there is a behavior problem with a child. It is not appropriate for a parent to reprimand any child who is not their own. I would ask you to treat every child the way you would want a visiting adult to treat your child. Thank you for your cooperation with this very important issue.

## OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

Most of us at Whittier really love animals, especially dogs. It is fun to meet the "rest of the family" when parents include their pup in the morning walk to school with the children, or to see a fuzzy pooch face in the afternoon car pick-up line. Some children, however, can have an adverse reaction to these pets due to severe allergies or fears connected to dogs. In the morning, I would ask you to keep your pets away from our school doors, off the black top, and confined to the sidewalks in front of the school building. In the afternoon, I would appreciate if you would keep pets near the car loading area. Thank you for your assistance.

## HELP WANTED FOR LLC

As you may remember, one of the District 200's budget cuts reduced the amount of assistance we have in the LLC. Mrs. Jones, LLC Director, would welcome adult volunteers to fill in the gaps. If you are interested in helping in the library, please call the school office. Thanks!

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

September 15	Vision & Hearing Screenings
September 17	Market Day & PRC Collection
September 18	Grades 1-5 12:15pm Dismissal AM Kindergarten only! No PM Kindergarten
September 19	New 200 Fun Run

