



WHITTIER WILDCAT NEWS

June 2017

June Events



- 2 Volunteer Breakfast
- 6 Celebration of Learning & Book Exchange 5-7pm
- 8 Dress your Best Day
EHS Senior Walk @ Whittier
- 8 STEM Expo @ Xfinity
5:00-8:00 pm
- 9 Library Books Due
- 12 Talent Show 6-7 pm
- 13 Whittier Walk-a-thon
- 14 Kindergarten Celebration
6:30 PM in Cafeteria
- 15 Doughnuts w/Dads
7:45-8:30am in Library
- 15 5th Grade Party @ Legion
- 20 5th Grade Bridging 6:30-7:30
- 21 Field Day 9 am-2 pm
- 22 Last Day of School
12:20 pm release

Upcoming Dates

August

Uniform Sale TBD

September

First Day of school will be
Wednesday, September 6th

October

5th Grade Outdoor Education
10/2-10/4/17 @ Camp Killoqua



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to June and our final three weeks of the school year! I would first like to thank all third, fourth, and fifth grade students for their outstanding focus, perseverance, and grit in taking the state assessments in April and May. Students gave their absolute best effort and that's the most important characteristic that we could ask of anyone. Parents and guardians, thank you for your support, encouragement, and the positive perspective that you instilled in your children during the testing process. It made a difference and our staff is very proud of what your children accomplished.

Our parent support in the Whittier community helps to ensure that all students have successful learning opportunities and experiences every day. To show our appreciation for everything that you do, we are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast tomorrow, Jun 2 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the Whittier library. We want to show our appreciation for the great work you have done this year. Thank you!

I would like to recognize a Whittier staff member who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mr. Bob Lee, who is currently Whittier's reading specialist, will be retiring after **33 years of service to the students and families at Whittier Elementary School, and 41 total years of service with the Everett Public Schools**. We thank Bob for his dedication, commitment, and service to students, families, staff, and our Whittier community! Please take the time to say good-bye to a great Whittier educator. We will miss you Mr. Lee!

Whittier's library will be open this summer to support students with the Everett Public Schools "Summer Reading Challenge." The district is very committed to promoting a strong culture of reading for all students and looks forward to a second successful year. Students who read steadily over the summer can gain a month of reading skills, while students who don't read over the summer can lose 2-3 months of reading skills. Here is how you can promote a positive summer reading culture in your home:

- Use the *Summer Reading Challenge* booklet to track your child's progress toward their goal.
- Booklets will be mailed home with student report cards on June 22.
- Come to the Whittier library on Tuesdays and Thursdays this summer (7/10, 7/12, 7/17, 7/19, 7/24, 7/26, 8/1, 8/3, 8/8, 8/10) between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- Access the reading brochures and information at www.everettsd.org/summerreading.

We have many important events as we head towards the end of the school year that I want to highlight for everyone. Please mark these events on your calendar.

- Celebration of Learning/Book Exchange/Avocados Dinner – June 6 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- June PTA Meeting – June 7 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- College and Career Spirit Day – June 8
- Whittier Talent Show – June 12 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Kindergarten Celebration of Learning – June 14 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Doughnuts with Dads Celebration – June 15 from 7:45 – 8:30 a.m.
- Fifth Grade Bridging Ceremony – June 20 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Whittier Field Day – June 21

It has been a great 2016-2017 school year at Whittier and I want to thank all of our parents for your incredible support throughout the year to ensure that our students have successful learning experiences. Have a great end to the school year and a wonderful summer!

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

PTA President's Message

Happy June Whittier Families!

Can you believe the end of the year is upon us? It seems like just yesterday we were having the back to school BBQ!! I want to thank everybody who has participated in or volunteered for all our amazing events this year. We couldn't do this without your support! We still have a few things left before we wrap up the year, and I hope everyone is looking forward to Literacy Night and Field Day! And for the students participating in the Kindergarten Celebration of Learning and the 5th Grade Bridging Ceremony, enjoy your special nights!

We do have one last PTA meeting on Wednesday June 7th at 7pm in the Whittier Library. Even if you haven't made a single PTA meeting up to this point, I strongly encourage you to come to this one. We have a lot of end of the year business to go over and need a quorum of at least 10 general members in attendance so we can make financial decisions related to last minute teacher/specialty grants and the budget for next year, as well as formally voting on in the officers for Vice-President (2017-2019), Secretary (2017-2019), and Treasurer (2017-2018). This will help facilitate a smooth transition into next year and allow us to continue supporting all the fun activities for students and families.

Thank you again for all your wonderful support this past year. Have a great last few weeks of school and an amazing summer. See you next fall!

-Chell Black
Whittier PTA President
chell.black@gmail.com

2017-18 PTA Executive Board

President: Chell Black
Co-President: Brenda White
Treasurer: Heather Reid
Secretary: TBD

If you are interested in helping out with PTA activities and are curious about volunteer opportunities for next year, please call the school for more information or e-mail Chell Black at chell.black@gmail.com.

All are welcome to join in the fun! Everyone is invited to PTA meetings, usually the first Monday of each month. Stay tuned for specific dates and times. This is a great way to become more involved in your child's education and support your student's success!

Summer reading challenge

Everett Public Schools looks forward to another successful year of its summer reading program. We are partnering with Everett Public Library and Sno-Isle Libraries again this year. Watch your school's website for details about this summer's reading program. Students will receive incentives for reaching their reading goals, and schools that have at least 75 percent of their students reach their reading goals will be recognized by the district.



Mr. Lee is Retiring



After serving the families of the Everett School District for 41 years, Bob Lee will be retiring at the end of this school year. Bob started his career at Jackson Elementary and has been the Reading Specialist at Whittier Elementary for the last 33 years. Please join the staff of Whittier in congratulating Mr. Lee for his commitment to our community! He has made a huge impact on the staff and students of Whittier.

Congratulations Mr. Lee...We will miss you!

Lost & Found

If your child is missing coats, hats, gloves, sweatshirts or lunchboxes please make sure and check out the lost and found before the end of school. All unclaimed items are donated to charity after **June 22**. If your child's name is written in the garment, we make every effort to reunite the item with your student...



PLEASE MARK YOUR STUDENT'S CLOTHING WITH THEIR NAME. If your student is missing glasses or small trinkets, please check in the main office. We have many pairs of prescription eyeglasses that have yet to be claimed. If you have any questions, please call the main office at 425-385-4300.

Learn to Speak a Foreign Language

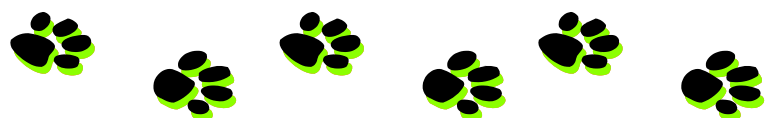
Foreign Language for Youth is offering French and Spanish language classes to students at Whittier Elementary after school, beginning October 2017 and ending in Spring 2018. Classes meet at Whittier Elementary. Tuition is \$389 for the year. If you are interested, please visit us at <https://www.foreignlanguageforyouth.org/Whittier>. Let us know your language preferences and we will try to offer your choice. Classes are being planned now and students can get a \$25 discount if they pre-register before June 30th. For more information, contact Konni Barich at konni@fl4y.org or 425-420-2854.



Whittier 10th Annual Walk-a-thon

Tuesday, June 13, from 2-2:45 pm Whittier students will participate in our annual walk-a-thon. Since its inception, Whittier students have funded a climbing wall, emergency disaster supplies, playground equipment, and a school wide AR reading subscription. This year we will be raising money for **PE equipment & emergency disaster supplies.**

Although everyone will have the opportunity to run, jog, or walk for their health, the fundraising part is completely voluntary. Sponsor forms will be sent home and your child's participation is up to you. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Kummerle at jkummerle@everettsd.org.



Student Library Overdue Books Reminder

As the year winds down, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank parents and students at Whittier for their support this year in helping keep our library a great place to be. Our library is a valuable asset to both our students and staff, and we are very proud of Whittier's collection. It is extremely important to maintain our collection, so please assist in the effort to make sure all books are turned in on time. All library books will be due back to the school library **no later than Friday, June 9**. If your child still has overdue library books past June 10, the book will be marked as lost and a fine will be assessed for the cost of the overdue book. Your student will receive a notice on Friday June 9 to inform them that a book has not been returned or paid for. **If fines are not paid by Monday, June 19, your child's report card will be held until the book is returned or payment is received.** Please direct all payments to the main office.



Thank you for your support, and I look forward to checking in those missing books soon. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Remember to sign up at the Everett Public Library for the summer reading program. Have a wonderful summer break. Happy Reading!

Mrs. Bailey
Whittier Librarian
jsievers-bailey@everettsd.org
425.385.4308

Attention fifth-grade parents



Now is the time to plan ahead for the vaccinations that your child will need before he or she enrolls in the 6th grade next fall. One dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine are required before the first day of the 6th grade. We encourage you to obtain these vaccinations this school year and report them to the school nurse or office staff at Whittier. The information will be entered into the school database, which means you will then avoid getting a reminder letter next September.

Fifth Grade End of Year Celebration

This year the fifth grade end of the year party will be at Legion Park on Thursday, June 15 from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. The planning process has begun for this party and we would love to have your help to make this an unforgettable event for our terrific fifth grade class. We need volunteers who are able to come and serve lunch or help coordinate games the day of the event. Any amount of time you can contribute would be welcome! If you are able to help at the party or donate juice or water, chips, or cookies for the party please contact the school office. If you would like to volunteer please make sure your volunteer paperwork has been cleared through the school district!

***We wish the 5th grade class the very best
as they move on to Middle School!***

Whittier Field Day Wednesday, June 21

Please come join your children for our annual Field Day at Whittier Elementary on Wednesday, June 21, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Plan on a day of fun activities! The grown-ups who volunteer have just as much fun as the kids.

We need many hands to make this day a success for all of the children. Moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, and big brothers and sisters are a huge help to us, and your kids love to have you here! We can really use some muscles for set-up at 7:30 AM and at 2:00 PM for take down. So check your schedules and put Field Day on your calendars. Remember to make sure you have your **volunteer paperwork** up to date. If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form sent home with your child, or drop a note in the office with your name, your child's name and your phone number.

Field Day will be Summer dress day, but please make sure clothing is appropriate for the weather. If you don't participate, please wear your school uniform. Children should not wear spaghetti straps and short shorts, and for safety's sake, no flip-flops please! Contact Heather Reid by email at heatherannerosereid@gmail.com if you have questions. Thank you!

Kindergarten Celebration of Learning

Wednesday, June 14 @ 6:30pm

Please join Ms. Gerla, Mrs. Zacky, and Ms. Hull for our **Kindergarten Celebration of Learning**. This evening event will showcase the great work our kindergarten students have been working on this school year. They will also be entertaining the audience with some of their favorite songs from this year. Please invite your family and friends to share in your child's achievement.

Kindergarten

Uniform Information

As the school year comes to a close, we kindly ask you to donate your gently used uniform clothing. You may bring your donations into the school office at any time. Through our Uniform Sales proceeds, we are able to offer uniform assistance to families in need throughout the school year. **Uniform assistance is available to students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.** Please consider giving to this worthy cause. If your student is in need of Uniform assistance for next school year, please pick up the required form from the main office. This form has to be filled out each school year. Upcoming Uniform Sales for next school year will be communicated through our summer letter.

Whittier is only able to accept checks and cash. Please plan accordingly.

Thank you from the Uniform Committee



Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?

<http://www.ortingschools.org/>

Top 15 Things Every Child Should Know Before Entering Kindergarten

1. Be able to state first and last name when asked.
2. Be able to write first name with first letter upper case and remaining letters lower case.
3. Use appropriate three-finger grasp when using writing instruments (pencils, crayons and scissors)
4. Count to at least thirty and tells what number comes before or after a given number to 20.
5. Know all the letters in their first name.
6. Identify basic geometric shapes (triangle, circle, square, rectangle, oval, star, rhombus (diamond) and heart)
7. Know basic colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple, black, white, brown, pink)
8. Identify numerals 1-10 in random order.
9. Make most letter/sound matches.
10. Identify most upper and lower case letters.
11. Use finger to accurately touch count items to ten.
12. Knows concepts of print (front and back of book, which page comes first, track words left to right).
13. Be able to rhyme words.
14. Retells simple stories in sequence.
15. When given a word (“man”) and a new beginning sound (/f/), creates the familiar word (“fan”)



Socially Your child should be able to

1. Adjust own clothing before and after using restroom.
2. Use restroom independently including washing hands without reminder.
3. Take off and put on outer clothing
4. Sit for a story for 5-10 minutes
5. Clean up after themselves
6. Shares materials and toys with other children.
7. Attend kindergarten with a positive attitude
8. Be confident and ready to separate from parent.
9. Be able to listen and follow 2-3 step directions.
10. Be able to solve problems without aggression.



Help Prepare Your Child by

1. Going to interesting places such as the beach, park, zoo, airport, farm or lake.
2. Encourage your children to observe and talk about their experiences, as conversations with adults who care enrich a child’s vocabulary and understanding of world.
3. Make eye contact with your child while listening to them speak, showing them that you value what they say.
4. Expose your child to many kinds of literature by reading to them daily.
5. Praise and encourage your child’s efforts and curiosity, knowing that from mistakes come learning and confidence. Criticism can discourage children from trying new things and lower self confidence.

Every Minute at Whittier Matters!



FINISH THE YEAR WITH STRONG ATTENDANCE

As this school year is nearing the end, it is a good time for you and your child to reflect on his/her attendance and set a goal to finish the year strong, knowing that every day counts when it comes to success in school. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the total school days within one calendar year. Frequently when a student is chronically absent, it leads to gaps in learning, falling behind in school, and placing the student at an increased risk of not graduating or dropping out. School attendance is a strong predictor of student performance.

Students who are chronically absent in the younger grades are less likely to read proficiently by third grade and are more likely to have learning gaps in math. Math instruction requires learning prerequisite skills to access more advanced learning. It's difficult to learn how to multiply if the child does not have a solid understanding of place value that is taught in the earlier grades.

Tackling the problem of absenteeism requires a collaborative approach among the school, parents and the child to understand the barriers that are causing the child to be absent. Families need to work with the schools to help identify strategies that can assist in improving attendance like scheduling appointments and vacations when school is not in session. It's important to analyze the data around the student's absences, as sometimes parents' beliefs about their student's total absences may be inaccurate. Parents may believe that their child has missed far fewer days of school than they have. There may be other contributing factors for the number of absences like arriving late and leaving early, which adds up to days of lost instruction.

Children should be allowed to stay home when they are truly sick, but oftentimes that occasional stomachache is more a sign of anxiety than a contagious virus. Families need to work with the schools to help identify strategies that can assist in lessening the anxiety, rather than allowing the child to stay home, which usually leads to increased anxiety, as they now have missed the instruction needed to complete the missing assignments. Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign that children are off track for success. Attendance matters not only at school, but is an essential skill needed after schooling is completed. Focusing on good attendance from the time the child enters kindergarten will not only help them be more prepared and successful in college, but equally important, it prepares them for success in their future workplace.

The expectation of good attendance should be embedded into the culture of the school, classroom, family and the student.

~Adapted from: The Forcaster, ***Every School Day Counts***, By Becky Foley, May 8, 2017

SBA scores are coming soon. Are you ready?

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) scores will be available for all families and students this summer in the online Home Access Center (HAC). Families will also receive a hard copy in September. Find tools for parents to understand those SBA scores on the [district assessment website](#).

How do I get test scores?

[Instructions are online](#). If you don't have an account or have questions, contact LMS@everettsd.org.

New Attendance procedures

Please provide written notice of your student's absence by using the **newly added attendance email address** on the school home page. If you leave a voicemail with your child's school, please also provide a written note or email within 30 days of your student's first day back to school.

Stuff the Bus is Coming!



A partnership coordinated by the Everett Public Schools Foundation with community organizations and businesses has become an annual effort to gather backpacks and school supplies to help our students in need start the year prepared. Last year, more than 1,800 students received backpacks filled with school


supplies, and the Foundation has the same goal this year. Look for collection bins in businesses during the month of August and Durham buses parked outside local businesses **Aug. 11-13**. Each item collected helps prepare a student with the tools needed to learn.

When does school end this year and begin next fall?

Last Day of 2016-17 School year - Thursday, June 22nd

First Day of 2017-18 School year - Wednesday, September 6th

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3rd Grade to EVCC Robotics -2:50-4:00pm	2 Volunteer Celebration 8:30-9:30 in Library LIF- 1:35 dismissal Taekwondo 1:45-2:30	3
4	5	6 Delanty to Legion Park 5th Grade to EVCC Celebration of Learning & Book Exchange 5-7 pm	7 Taekwondo 1:45-2:30	8 EHS Senior Walk 8:45	9 12:20 Early dismissal Taekwondo 12:30-1:15	10
11	12 Whittier Talent Show 6-7:00 pm	13 Walk-a-Thon 2-2:45pm	14 1st Grade to Legion Park Kinder Celebration of Learning 6:30-7:30pm	15 Doughnuts w/Dads 7:45-8:30am in Library 5th Grade Party @ Legion Park 9:30-2:30	16 LIF- 1:35 dismissal	17
18	19	20 5th Grade Bridging 6:30-7:30pm	21 Field Day	22 Last Day! 12:20 Early dismissal	23  IT'S SUMMER!	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Whittier Office closes Until August 14th	1

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:
Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106
Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104
504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063
ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, bclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250
 Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201