

Whittier Wave

September 17, 2009 – Confidentiality and Healthy Communities

I am so impressed with the Whittier community. There have been a number of school wide events to herald the year including a Welcome Tea, First Day Coffee, and Community Potluck. The community “shows up” in myriad wonderful ways! Big thanks from me to all the hard working volunteers who make these events happen.

I do believe that shared experiences over time have great potential to build community. The six years of a child’s elementary education is prime time for shared experience through school activities, sports, neighborhood camaraderie, play dates and sleepovers. In the best sense, classrooms of teachers, children, and families become small communities within the larger community. Beyond shared experience, trust and respect are also essential.

Trust is not given freely. It is earned and once broken is difficult to repair. We also know that respect often requires “agreeing to disagree”. Why do I bring this up?

One of our teaching teams brought me a concern about ensuring confidentiality for all children, teachers, and families in our classrooms and school. Volunteers are asked to remember that sometimes things happen at school or information is shared that needs to stay at school. Trust, respect, and confidentiality need to be honored. A safe and healthy learning environment is our first priority.

One of my professional guidelines is a commitment not to discuss “other people’s children”. Academic standing, health concerns, family situations, and behavior are all private issues that require confidentiality.

Things happen. Please let your child’s teacher know or let me know when this is the case. While it is tempting, I ask that you not call another parent to tell them about something you may have seen or heard at school. While we assume best intentions, sometimes there can be unintended consequences.

Teachers and children need to know they are trusted and respected and that if they make a mistake it will be handled with discretion. You may take concerns directly to the teacher or the principal.

Thank you for your understanding and for your own commitment to this wonderful Whittier community.

Do take care and thanks for keeping in touch,

Linda Jambor Robinson

- New Attendance Line: **252-1652**. Please call if your child will be late or absent.
- H1N1 (swine) flu letter to families on back
- Building Leadership Team (BLT) Parent application attached