

Whittier Wave

January 21, 2010

Principal's Corner

Dear Whittier Families,

In the last WAVE I wrote about emergency planning and the Whittier Safety Committee. As we struggle to make sense of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, emergency preparedness is once again on our hearts and minds.

Emergency drills are a fact of life in schools and include a repertoire of emergency procedures that are practiced routinely. These include fire drills and earthquake drop and cover drills. In addition, schools now drill for reverse evacuations, lock downs, and shelter-in-place. Procedures and protocols are articulated through NIMS, the National Incident Management System.

Fire Drills: Once a month every school practices a quick and orderly evacuation of the building. Evacuation routes are well known and we are able to fully evacuate the building in less than four minutes. During a fire drill, the entire school convenes on the playground where roll call is conducted and instructions given.

Drop and Cover: Standard earthquake response includes the traditional drop and cover. In an emergency, building evacuation would be ordered after the building had been accessed for structural damage and an evacuation order given. Drop and cover drills are routinely held immediately following fire drills. Evacuation routes specific to earthquakes are in place.

Reverse Evacuation: This procedure is implemented in the event of danger occurring when students are outside. The objective of a reverse evacuation is to return all students to the building as quickly as possible. Once inside the building all students are accounted for through a roll-call. Adults are always last off the playground.

Shelter-In-Place: Shelter-In-Place is called when there is need for speedy containment within the building. Movement within the building is limited and classrooms are locked. Teaching and learning continues uninterrupted as much as possible. Doors to the building may be locked and outside communication closely monitored. Building administration, in consultation with the Seattle Police Department and/or Seattle Public Schools, determines the need for a shelter-in-place.

Lock Down: Lock Down is implemented in the most serious of situations. In a lock-down all doors to the building are immediately locked and students and staff are asked to lock classroom doors, close window blinds, turn off lights, and shelter away from windows. Outside communication is closely monitored for accuracy of information. Once the situation has stabilized, a shelter-in-place may be implemented. Again, building administration, in consultation with the Seattle Police Department and Seattle Public Schools, determines the need for a lock down. We do our best to notify the community before practicing lock down drills.

Our goal for all drills is to ensure a calm, confident, orderly response to any emergency. Teachers do an excellent job of preparation and our students are magnificent. During a drill or actual emergency, all adults in the building are asked to follow the established protocols.

You can help. Please make sure your emergency contact information remains current. And please remember that we are legally responsible for all children in our care. Even in an emergency, children must never be taken from school without following proper sign out procedures.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. (lrobinson@seattleschools.org)

IMPORTANT DATES

January 25

Dr. Martin Luther King Assembly
9:30 AM

January 27

Winter Concert ~ K - 2nd
7:00 PM

January 29

NO SCHOOL:
Day between semesters

February 3

1:30 Early Dismissal

Looking Ahead...

February 4

Next Whittier Wave

February 5

Family Activity Night 6:30-8:00PM

February 9

Lunar New Year Assembly
10:45 AM

February 9

Whittier New Family Open House
6:30 - 8:30 PM

February 10

Winter Concert ~ 3rd - 5th
7:00 PM

February 15-19

NO SCHOOL: Mid Winter Break

February 25

School Tour 9:45 AM

March 9

School Tour 9:45 AM

March 24

School Tour 9:45 AM

March 25

Science Fair 6:00-8:00 PM

**THE FIRST
SHELTER-IN-PLACE DRILL OF
THE YEAR WILL BE HELD ON
FRIDAY JANUARY 22ND AT
2:00ISH.**

Whittier Elementary School

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WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL – Open House & School Visits

Whitman Middle School will be hosting school visits for incoming students for the 2010/2011 school year starting in February. Visits are on specific dates (see below) from 8:30 am to approximately 10:00 am with both students and parents welcome to attend. We will also be hosting an Open House on Thursday, February 11 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. No appointments are necessary. Whitman is located at 9201 15th Ave NW. Call 252-1200 for information or directions.

Morning School Visit Dates:

Thursday, 2/4
Tuesday, 2/9
Thursday, 2/11

These are the ONLY dates we will be offering.

SITE BASED INTERVIEW TRAINING

Hiring teachers and staff is one of the most important administrative tasks in schools. Building a solid core of teachers and parents who have completed interview training is one way to ensure strong hiring teams. Once trained, forever trained. Please consider attending one of the upcoming trainings.

There are trainings coming up for teachers and parents who would like to be on an interview committee. This class is required for anyone who would like to be on a teacher hiring team. In order to register, parents need to contact redmond@washington.org or call (206) 283-8433

February 25	4:00 – 5:00 p.m	JSCEE – 2776
March 16	4:00 – 5:00 p.m	SEA Board Room – 5501 4th Ave S
March 25	6:00 – 7:00 p.m	JSCEE – Room 2776
April 8	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	JSCEE – Room 2700
April 15	6:00 – 7:00 p.m	JSCEE – Auditorium
May 13	4:00 – 5:00 p.m	JSCEE – Room 2700
June 17	4:00 – 5:00 p.m	JSCEE – Room 2700
July 15	4:00 – 5:00 p.m	JSCEE – Room 2700

Questions, please give me a call. Linda Robinson

COLLECTION FOR HAITI

In the wake of the Haiti earthquakes, many Whittier students may be wondering how they can help the earthquake victims. Starting next Tuesday, January 26th the students will have the opportunity to donate their small change, even just a nickel or dime, to support the relief efforts of the Red Cross in Haiti. There will be a donation jar located by the Scrip table in the main hallway every morning before school for two weeks. By donating just a few coins from their piggy banks, the students can feel that they are a part of the global effort to help the earthquake victims, and that their small change can make a big difference. PTA has voted to match donations up to \$500!

This effort is being coordinated by parent Lenny Rennalls. Thanks to all for their support and participation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teaching and learning goes on at a rapid pace at Whittier but occasionally we need to take a breath to reflect and have a bit of fun. Two upcoming assemblies will help us do just that.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Assembly will be held on Monday morning January 25th at 9:30. Big thanks to Mr. Hall, kindergarten students, and kindergarten teachers Ms. DeBoie, Ms. Monson, and Ms. Smart for their participation and preparation.

Lunar New Year Assembly will be held on February 9th at 10:45. Whittier will welcome Dearborn Park Elementary with a traditional dragon dance choreographed by Anne Wong Ramsey with the help of fifth grade students and Mr. Pule. Following the dragon dance Dearborn Park students will entertain with dances and acrobatics.

Big thanks to the Whittier PTA for their generous financial support for assembly programs. We welcome parents and community members.

WHITTIER OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 9th ~ 6:30 - 8:30PM

TOUR DATES

Thursday, February 25th ~ 9:45AM

Wednesday, March 9th ~ 9:45AM

Tuesday, March 24th ~ 9:45AM