

# Whittier Primary School Newsletter

May 01, 2009

Mrs. Andrews, Principal  
Mrs. Price, Secretary

## May Important Dates

- 01 Happy Birthday Ms. Hardimon
- 04 School Board Meeting
- 05 Blood Drive Assembly 1:30
- 05 Cinco de Mayo
- 06 Early Dismissal 11:45
- 06 Pre-K to Fire Station
- 07 McPherson's Play at 1:30 and 2:15
- 08 3<sup>rd</sup> Presentation 10:00
- 10 Mother's Day
- 12 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to Calvin Coolidge
- 12 P.T.O. Meeting
- 12 Happy Birthday Ms. McNamara
- 15 Last Day for AR testing
- 15 Blood Drive 3:30-6:30
- 18 School Board Meeting
- 19 First Grade AR Trip
- 20 Early Dismissal at 1:45/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade AR Trip
- 21 Pre-K to Horse Ranch
- 21 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Ar Trip
- 22 K to Fondulac Park
- 25 No School Memorial Day
- 28 4<sup>th</sup> Grade "Fun Day"

## Principal's News:

### May/June Parent Newsletter Info

This is our last newsletter for the school year. It is hard to imagine that we are merely weeks away from ending this school year! As the year draws to a close, I want to again thank you for your continued support and dedication to Whittier Primary School and to your child's education. This has been a fantastic year and I wish you all a wonderful and exciting summer. Be sure to take some time this summer to enjoy the simple things in life with your family!

~ **Mrs. Andrews**

**AFTER SCHOOL PARKING/DISMISSAL**~ When picking up your child(ren) after school, please be mindful of how you park on Fredonia. Each day there are parents that are parked the wrong way on the opposite side of the street from the school and it causes problems when parents try to leave after picking up their child. Fredonia becomes a one way street in front of our school in the afternoons. There are children present and we need to be sure to keep them safe. When you see the large orange and white barricade up, please do not attempt to go around it. It is truly up there to keep our students and families safe. Thanks in advance for your help and cooperation.

**NO DOGS, PLEASE**~ We have recently received complaints that students are afraid of the dogs that sometimes are outside after school. We are asking that everyone refrain from bringing their dogs before or after school when children are present.

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**~ Once again we will be challenging our students to read 42 books this summer and become members of our Readers Are Leaders club! You will receive a form at the end of the school year. We would like for all of our students to participate!

## Continued From Mrs. Andrews:

"IT ISN'T OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER!!" .....As parents, I would request that you share with your children in a conversation (or two) that we still have five weeks of school remaining and that we have a lot of necessary teaching and learning to be done. This is always a challenging time of year for schools when the weather improves and young minds tend to want "to go on summer vacation" all too soon!

LATER START NEXT YEAR~ please be advised that school will begin 15 minutes later next year. We will start school at 9:00.

UNIFORMS... There is an attachment this month that highlights Whittier's new uniform policy. Please call the office if you have any questions (672-6569).

DROPPING STUDENTS OFF BEFORE SCHOOL~ After many please, we still have students being dropped off at school before 8:20. I cannot stress enough how unsafe this is. Contractually our teachers are not on duty until 8:30. When you drop your child(ren) off before 8:20, they are not supervised and many times we are unaware that they are here unless we see them walking the halls, coming out of bathrooms, or sitting in the gym by themselves. If we see students in the building (that are not in ESP) before 8:20, they will be sent to ESP and you will be charged. This is a huge liability matter. I thank you in advance for your understanding and I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we must ensure the safety of our students. Contact the office for information regarding ESP.

SUMMER FUN - The city library has many exciting opportunities for your child. Your child can check out books, listen to books on tapes, rent videos/DVD's and read magazines. If your child does not already have a library card, be sure he/she gets one. What a great way to keep your child's learning moving forward during the summer.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL~ The last day of school will be Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We will return on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

IF YOU WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO WHITTIER~ If your child will be in K-4<sup>th</sup> grade next year and you DO NOT plan on them returning to Whittier, please send Mrs. Andrews a note stating that.

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!~ The next few weeks will be filled with exciting learning opportunities for your child. Many of the grade levels are going on field trips. Please be sure to read your child's classroom newsletter for more information.

**Mrs. Andrews**

**Proud Principal of Whittier Primary School**

# From Mrs. Ingels Our Reading Coach :

## What is a reluctant reader?

There is no universally accepted definition of the term *reluctant reader*. Children who are or become reluctant readers can do so for a variety of reasons. Their reluctance may occur because of limited prior learning experiences, low self-esteem, stumbling blocks to their growth as readers and a host of other reasons.

Broadly speaking, reluctant readers often fall into three categories:

1. *Dormant*: they like to read but often don't have time or don't make time for reading.
2. *Uncommitted*: they do not like to read but may read in the future.
3. *Unmotivated*: they do not like to read and do not ever expect to like to read.

## How do parents turn reluctance into motivation?

- Celebrate and be proud of your children's successes in reading.
- Continue to read to your children every day, regardless of their age, and let them choose what to read.
- Encourage your children to read and write letters, postcards, emails, lists, and messages.
- Leave notes and riddles around the house for them to find.
- Read some of the books and other materials that your children enjoy so that you can share reactions and pleasures together.
- Browse together in bookstores, and through library collections or magazine racks.

## What types of reading material can we show we value to encourage them to read more?

We need to widen our definition of both literacy and what it means to read. We can expose our children to a variety of reading materials and opportunities outside of books. Other types of reading materials could include:

- Instructions, labels, recipes, ingredient lists on packages
- Billboards, advertisements and commercials
- Newspapers, magazines
- Posters, greeting cards and signs
- Street maps, timetables and schedules
- Brochures and pamphlets
- Instructional manuals and rules for games
- DVD liners (movies) and CD liners (music)
- Song lyrics
- Websites and online content
- Charts, tables, diagrams, figures

## What kinds of books can arouse curiosity to read?

Every child has his or her own personal tastes and interests. Parents can help reluctant readers by tapping into these interests and providing them with opportunities and materials to pursue their interests/ and make their own choices. Books fall into two common categories:

*Fiction* – mystery, science fiction, fantasy, romance, adventure, war, historical, poetry, graphic novels, comic books, joke books, etc.

*Non-fiction* – atlases, information books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, craft books, cookbooks, instruction manuals, games books, and (auto) biographies, etc.

## Continued from Our Reading Coach:

**What are some practical and effective strategies parents can use in their homes to encourage reluctant readers?**

**Reading aloud** helps children, especially those who are discouraged by their poor reading skills, become more confident. The pleasure of listening to you read may help them rediscover the joy of reading.

Remember these points:

- Make reading a fun, enjoyable experience.
- Read in your first language if English is your second language.
- Encourage older children or other relatives to read to younger children.
- Read with enthusiasm.
- Let your child select the reading material and support his or her choice.
- Use visual clues found in the reading material to help them make meaning.
- Show interest and talk to your child about what you are reading together.
- Connect what you are reading to your child's experiences and interests.
- Present reading as an activity that has a real-world purpose and application, like putting together a model or a toy.

**Shared/guided reading and shared discussion** both support children in their journey towards becoming stronger and more independent readers. In shared/guided reading and

Discussion, parents talk about the reading material, model how to read, and encourage children to join in whenever they can. Keep in mind the following points:

- Praise your child whenever possible.
- Enjoy the reading together and show interest in what you are reading and talking about together.
- Point to each word, as you say it, to help your child to learn the words.
- Listen carefully to how they read and to what they say.
- If your child makes a mistake, don't always correct them... Instead, use complete sentences so that your child hears a model of the correct word and good grammar.
- Talk about pictures and/or other interesting details.
- Ask questions about the text.
- Review new and/or difficult words.
- Encourage your child to talk about the material and to make connections to his or her own life.

*This tip sheet was prepared by Wendy Bowker, Elementary Teacher and Ian Pettigrew, Secondary Instructional Resource Teacher*

Visit "Parents Boost Learning" at [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org) for more *Parent Tip*

**FROM MRS. BURTSFIELD OUR LIBRARIAN:**

First of all I would like to thank our P.T.O. for supporting our Accelerated Reader Program again this year! I feel this is a great reading program for our students. It helps motivate our students to read and become great readers.

Second I want to encourage all parents to please keep reading with their children this summer. I will be sending home next week information about the summer reading program offered at the Public Libraries. The books read in this program can also be put down for OUR READERS ARE LEADERS PROGRAM.

Have a safe and relaxing summer and PLEASE read with your children!

**May/June Lunch Menu**

- 04 Chicken Nuggets
- 05 Cheeseburger on Bun
- 06 NO LUNCH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY
- 07 Nachos Grande
- 08 "Tonys" Pepperoni Pizza
- 11 Chicken Nuggets
- 12 Hamburger on a Bun
- 13 Hot Dog on a Bun
- 14 Nachos Grande
- 15 "Tonys" Cheese Pizza
- 18 Chicken Nuggets
- 19 Chicken Patty on Bun
- 20 Cheese Dog on Bun
- 21 Walking Beef Taco w/Fritos
- 22 "Tonys" Pepperoni Pizza
- 25 NO SCHOOL MEMORIAL DAY
- 26 S\Hamburger on a Bun
- 27 Chili Dog on bun
- 28 Nachos Grande
- 29 "Tonys" Pepperoni Pizza

JUNE

- 01 Chicken Nuggets
- 02 Hamburger on a Bun
- 03 Cook's Choice
- 04 Cook's Choice
- 05 Cook's Choice



