Whittier Weekly News
October 19, 2017

WOW! What a great week! We had lots to celebrate this week.

Dates to Know:

Monday October 23rd	• Red Ribbon Week- Wear Red
Tuesday October 24th	• 7:30-8:30 – Math Club • PJ Day- Attendance Award Choice
Wednesday October 25th	• 7:30-8:30 – Math Club • 3:45-4:30 – Whittier Music Makers – Chorus • 3:45- Girls on the Run • 3:45 Chess Club • 4pm- Young Rembrandts • 5-9pm Chipotle Fundraiser -New location on Rt.40
Thursday October 26th	• 7:45-8:30 – Instrumental Music Ensemble • 3:45 Coding Club
Friday October 27th	• 2:30 Fall Harvest Parties • 6:30 Trunk or Treat
Monday October 30th	• 4pm Leadership Meeting (Media Center)
Tuesday October 31st	• 7:30-8:30 – Math Club
Wednesday November 1st	• 7:30-8:30 – Math Club • 3:45-4:30 – Whittier Music Makers – Chorus • 3:45- Girls on the Run • 3:45 Chess Club • 4pm- Young Rembrandts •
Thursday November 2nd	• 7:45-8:30 – Instrumental Music Ensemble • 3:45 Coding Club
Friday November 3rd	• National Jersey Day- Show your team spirit day! Wear a jersey from your favorite sports team!

TECH TREK was a **HUGE** success! We thank everyone for their support. As of today, we have raised $13,000. We are so excited to be able to realize our school goal of each student having access to devices for their writing and responding. Thank you for all your support!

Attendance: We would like to take this time to thank you for getting your child to school on time, and having them stay until dismissal! The number of students arriving late to school has greatly diminished over the last 3 weeks. Our teachers are so grateful to have their entire class at school on time!

Leader In Me- Information for this week…..

- **Leadership Quote of this week**: *"Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right." -Franklin Roosevelt*
- **Of the 7 Habits,** this week we've explored:
  - **Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood**

THANK YOU to all the fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, and uncles who have volunteered as **Watch Dogs**. We are looking forward to continue having you in our building working with our students! If you would like to become a **Watch Dog,** please contact Mr. Byrd at Whittier ES. His email address is: matt.byrd@fcps.org

GLOW PARTY POSTPONED until **November 3rd**

So, can we have an honest moment here? We have over 640 families in Whittier and only 84 have joined the PTA.

The PTA Board of Directors have racked our brains and worked endlessly to determine what is keeping you away. Then as the principal, I decided to see – are there any benefits to joining the PTA?

And you would be surprised….

I found 10 reasons to join the PTA- click here They are:

1.) **It's good for your child-** Research has shown that students whose parents are involved in school tend to perform better and are less likely to get into trouble.

2.) **It's important for the school-** Schools are becoming more and more dependent on parent groups. Parent groups are responsible for almost all of the school's fundraising revenue. They provide support to teachers and administrators, and they create a caring and supportive atmosphere in the school.

3.) **You'll get connected-** There's no better way to know what's going on in the school than to be a parent of the school's parent teacher group. You'll be the first to hear of important decisions and changes that the school is thinking about making and you'll get to know teachers and administrators on a more familiar basis.

4.) **You'll be part of a network-** Every parent group function is an opportunity for you to meet other parents in the same situation as you. You'll be connected with a group of parents who share a common goal of improving the school for children.

5.) **You'll make a difference-** By volunteering with the PTA, you will be able to use your skills for a noble cause. Parent groups work to establish a supportive and encouraging community for the entire school. The goal is to create the most educational environment possible for our children.

6.) **It's fun-** You will connect with a group of people that who are all concerned about with creating a better environment for children. You'll help plan fun events, socials, and get togethers that the whole family can attend.

7.) You'll be a role model- You will not only show your children that they are important to you, but their education is important to. They will see you taking a stand to make education better for them and their peers and chances are they will do the same.

8.) **You'll help raise necessary funds-** The PTA fundraises to provide more educational services for children

9.) **It's flexible-** The PTA has evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of parents. There are a variety of small ways that many parents can support the school.

10.) **It's for every parent-** Your voice and opinion matter. It makes a difference when you speak up! Your voice and opinions can help improve the quality of education for your child and their peers. You'll see all the smiles on their faces knowing that you played a part in making the school more comfortable and fun!

The National PTA website also states that their mission is more than the 10 reasons listed above:

* Advocacy
* Resources
* Events
* Programs

AND Finally… of the $10 that we are requesting in dues, over ½ (50%) go to state and national dues for the PTA.

- Simply by joining- you are saying that you are in support of our school.
- We are looking to **have 300 families join** by next **Friday morning 11.3.2017**
- If we reach that goal, **all** students will be invited to the Glow Party
- If you would like to sponsor a family, you may do so on the webpage or by paper registration. Here is the link to register: https://whittierpta.ourschoolpages.com
- If you would to join but are experiencing a financial hardship, please email: Lisa.Reese@ fcps.org and she will be able to ensure that you receive a membership.

- Consider attending our next PTA meeting- **Monday November 20th @ 6:30 pm**

- We are excited to have you as part of our TEAM!