



WHITMAN ELEMENTARY

School Year 2019-20

Monthly Newsletter

January 2020

1/31/20	PJ Day Recognition Assembly 2:15
2/5/20	Parent Circle 8:45 am
2/6/20	Math Night 6:00 pm
2/11/20	PTA Open Board Mtg 6:30 pm
2/17/20	Presidents' Day No School
2/20/20	Kinder Connect 5-6pm Parent Workshop: Your family & the internet 6:30pm
2/22/20	Garden Work Party 9am-12pm
2/26/20	Class/Group Picture Day
2/28/20	Mismatched Day Recognition Assembly 2:15

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Hello Whitman Families and Community-

We hope that you are having a nice winter and had a wonderful Winter Break. Our Successful Schools Survey opens on January 27th this year and we encourage you to please participate. We also have more information on our website and Facebook page.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the phrase "successful schools?" We believe that successful schools are safe, healthy and welcoming learning spaces that are inclusive for all students. But we want to hear your thoughts.

In 2019-20, Portland Public Schools is again partnering with Panorama Education to gather information students and families that will help us improve student experiences across the district. We will survey students in grades 4, 5, 7-10 on their experiences in their classrooms and schools, and families about their perception of the school their child attends.

The survey will cover topics on sense of belonging, school safety, school climate, barriers to family engagement, as well as how students are thinking and feeling about diversity, equity, and inclusion in school.

The current launch date is set for January 27th, the student window is scheduled to be open until February 14th and the family survey until February 28th. Stay tuned for further information!

Please be honest and thoughtful, we value your feedback!

Coming up in February we have Math Night on February 6th and a Parent Workshop on Your Family and the Internet on the night of February 20th. Look for more information to come.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Murdock and Celina Garrido

Attendance: “DoNut” Miss School

At Whitman Elementary, student attendance is our priority. We are focusing encouraging student attendance by challenging students to be at school on time every day. Grade level attendance will be evaluated each week and posted in the halls. The grade level with the highest attendance rate at the end of each month will earn Donuts on the First Friday of the following month. You can participate in your students attendance success by helping them get to school each day that school is in session

Green School:

Did you know Whitman was one of five schools in the entire district that participated in a pilot composting program saving 234 pounds of cafeteria waste weekly? Our students learned so much about composting and the importance of separating garbage; we will make an effort to continue composting cafeteria waste for the rest of the school year.

As part of our silverware project to eliminate plastic utensils in the cafeteria during lunch, we require a constant supply of silverware. Donations for spoons and forks are always welcome, bring your donations to the main office and/or send your student a set of silverware to use during lunch. Thank you for helping Whitman be greener everyday.

Site Council:

We are looking for someone who is interested in joining. Know someone you’d like to nominate? Site Council is a decision making and guidance providing council, and is comprised of both parents/community and staff members. These are the general responsibilities and functions of SC members:

- Understand and stay up to date with the school’s improvement efforts and the CAP (Comprehensive Achievement Plan)
- Address issues that affect our school
- Collaborate with the PTA and other school organizations to benefit our students and school community

If you are interested in being elected to Whitman’s Site Council, please email Tiffany Bonjerno at tbonjern@pps.net

Whitman SUN News:

SUN Team: Laurelee Wells will be on maternity leave January 28th - May 26th. We will announce her temporary replacement soon! **Dulce Lopez** is continuing as our extended-day coordinator extraordinaire!

Come meet us! SUN Stands for Schools Uniting Neighborhoods & we provide many services at Whitman. We are located in room 1 at Whitman Monday – Thursday. If your family has a need please let us know, we may be able to help. Call 503-916-6531, stop by (check into school office first ☺) or email us at dlopez@impactnw.org or mhurley@impactnw.org

Parent Tea/Reunión de Padres

Join us for the SUN Parent Tea Wednesday, February 4th at 9am in the library. Coffee and Snacks will be provided!

Zumba

Adult Zumba! Mondays & Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm at Whitman. Only \$4 per class. Free to Whitman Parents