

THE **WAT** WORD

WHITNEY
EST. 1926

ISSUE 20 JUNE 25 - 29 2018

important dates for the
last week of school:

MONDAY JUNE 25 -
AWARDS ASSEMBLY 9 AM

TUESDAY JUNE 26 -
PLAY DAY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27 -
GRADE 6 GRADUATION
REPORT CARDS GO HOME

THURSDAY JUNE 28 -
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

FRIDAY JUNE 29 -
PA DAY/ LAST DAY FOR STAFF



from the principal

This coming **Thursday June 28th** is the last day of school for students. Staff will be in school on Friday's PA Day involved in professional activities as well as completing end of year procedures. There is no school for students on Friday.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your contributions, support and understanding throughout the year. We are so fortunate to work with such a wonderful community. To those families that are "graduating," we thank you for all that you have done to ensure that Whitney has been a place staff and students love to work and learn over the years. All you have done is appreciated very much. The thing that makes Whitney so special is the people: the parents, guardians, staff, students, and community. It continues to be an outstanding school and place to learn and grow because of all of you. We are all partners in the school's success!

Please have a wonderful, safe, and happy summer break with family and friends.

Chris Rzepa

FAREWELLS

We need to say thank you and goodbye to a number of individuals who have made our school a better place this year. The words below do not do justice to the impact and difference these people have made. I'm sure many of you will have special messages, thanks, and warm wishes for them as well.

Ms. Brenner has done such a wonderful job in Room 305 with one of our Grade 3 classes. She joined us in a challenging situation, but created a warm and caring environment. We want to thank her for all her efforts and time working with this class.

This year **Ms. Mamann** worked with our FDK class in Room 208. She did an outstanding job of challenging students but also made sure they felt loved. She taught the students mindfulness. We thank her for all her kindness, caring, and support.

Mlle. Mitreska has only been with us for one year, but we would like to thank her for all her work with the Grade 5 and 6 classes in French this year. We wish her the best of luck in her new role at Morse Public School.

Ms. Werbitsky has been our Music teacher mornings the past 3 years. Ms. Werbitsky has the opportunity to be full time at Nelson Mandela next year, where she has been every afternoon for the past three years. Ms. Werbitsky has shared her passion, talents and expertise and we thank her for all she has done. She always gives her best, supports our students, and assists with so many activities in the school which include the concerts, Whitney's Got Talent, and Choir. Thank you.

Ms. Frew has been at Whitney for the past two years and has made incredible contributions to the school. She has taught a Grade 3/4 and this year a straight Grade 4 class. Her innovative style and knowledge of technology have made learning fun, challenged students to be their best, and have their needs met. She has also helped to coach cross country and track and field teams, and always volunteers to help out in the school (even attending overnight trips). We wish her all the best as she begins a new adventure at Allenby P.S.

Mr. Wittenberg will be missed tremendously. He has made a difference to every student with whom he has come into contact. As the gym teacher, he has taught and developed skills, made connections with kids, and made school a place where students wanted to come. As a coach, he has nurtured athletes to become the best they can be whether it was as a novice, beginning a new sport, or a City Championship team or individual. He has introduced sports such as Ultimate Frisbee and Rowing to try to find a sport for others to experience success, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and develop their wellness. He is an incredible educator and person. We wish him all the best at Northlea next year.

Ms. Hall is retiring. We had an incredible assembly this past Thursday morning to honour and celebrate the wonderful and talented Ms. Hall. Her creativity and passion will remain with us for years to come as she concludes a very successful career. She has touched many lives and taught us all so much. We will miss her wonderful smile, positive outlook, and warmth. Remember – it's not about the steak, it's about the sizzle.

We thank all of them for their incredible contributions and we are grateful for having them in our lives!

AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Our final STEP Day and assembly takes place [Monday June 25th](#) at 9:00 am. We invite everyone to wear school colours BLUE and YELLOW (Whitney shirts, if you like) as we recognize the Perseverance Character Education award winners and say goodbye to those staff members that are leaving. There is no pizza lunch on this day. Parents/ Guardians are always welcome to join in on the fun and attend our assembly as well.

Character development at Whitney P.S. is about helping our students learn and practice positive character attributes which will help them not only to do their best, but to be their best. We also set goals to take a STEP to developing and maintaining a growth mindset as well as working to improve ourselves as we celebrate all the wonderful improvements made this year.

GRADUATION

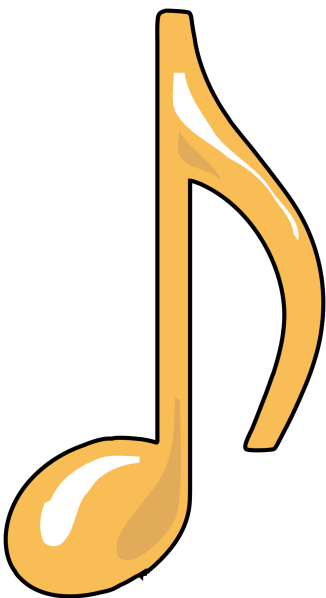


On [Wednesday June 27th](#), our Grade 6 students will take part in our Graduation ceremonies beginning at 5:30 pm in the School Gym.

We congratulate all of our graduates and look forward to celebrating their hard work and accomplishments.

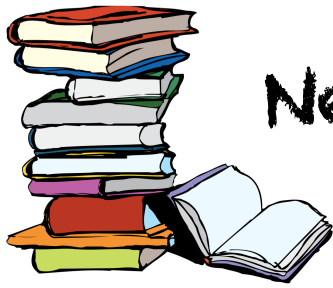


A note from Ms Werbitsky:



I am very sad to leave Whitney. The students, staff, caregivers & parents have given me great joy over the past three years. Sing, play ukulele, recorder & piano, keep the beat, compose & have a musical future!

with gratitude,
[Anne Werbitsky](#)



News from the Library!



Humphrey the Hippo, our Library mascot wants his books back!

So please search under your beds and sofas, check your bedroom and classroom bookshelves and **RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS** as soon as possible!!

Thank you for a wonderful year in the library Whitney. It has fulfilled my life-long need to decorate according to theme! We sure had a great year celebrating everything from cookbooks to Medieval Times, fairy tales to sport books, Super Hero to mythology books. (I'm not sure if Humphrey and the other library stuffed animals were ever not in costume!?) And of course, the Halloween Haunted Reading Cave and the large Reading Rainforest sure made reading even more fun!!

Goodbye from Mrs. Hall

“Old enough to retire, young enough to enjoy it”. That pretty much sums up my decision to leave teaching now. I've had a fabulous career and am so very grateful to all the students, parents and other teachers who have been a part of my journey. There has been a lot of ‘learning and laughter’ in my classroom over the years which has made it so rewarding. This is not a final goodbye as I do plan on Supply Teaching occasionally at Whitney next year. The rest of the time I will be involved in a few other projects, getting better at golf, and trying to get into shape after eating.....wait for itan estimated 2160 birthday cupcakes over my 30 year teaching career!! (Gasp!)

To all the students whom I've taught, always remember that you need to do the expected work. However, it is the little “extra” you put into anything that gets you noticed. So for the very last time Mrs. Hall wants to remind you.....

“It's not just the steak, it's also the SIZZLE!!”



ANNOUNCING THE 2018 WHITNEY P.S. TERRY FOX RUN

Volunteers Needed!

Dear Whitney Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers,

The date of the much-anticipated **28th Annual Terry Fox Run** has been finalized for September. We are hoping to begin recruiting volunteers now.

Volunteering for the run is great fun—adults are asked to take designated spots along the route to assist students in walking/running safely on the sidewalks and when crossing streets, and of course, to cheer them on!

Volunteers are required to take their designated spots immediately after morning drop-off and remain in their spots until the last runner is accounted for (usually by 11 am).

Volunteers: Please email cameronross.go@gmail.com if you can help out. Without all our keen volunteers, the run would not be possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Patti Ann Allen

Save the date and mark your calendar!

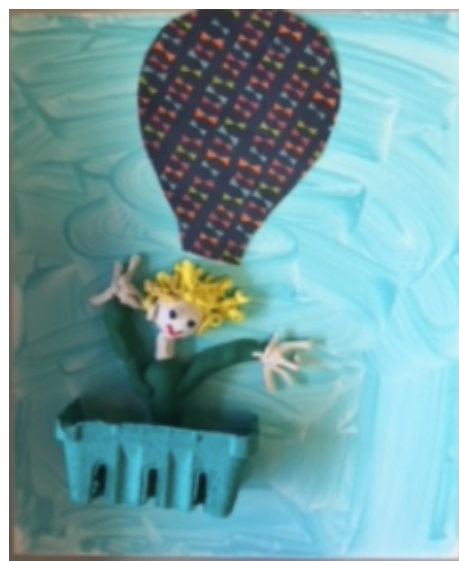
**Tuesday, September 25 (morning)
Storm Date: September 26 (morning)**

KINDER CORNER

Nancy Macdonald, Owner and Founder Art Studio for Children, www.artstudioforchildren.com, returned to Whitney, again this year to help the children create original artwork to commemorate the end of a wonderful school year. When your children share the Up Up and Away project with you, be sure you ask how they did it as the work was all theirs!

Didn't they do a fantastic job?? Thank you to Whitney's parent council for funding this activity. This was one of our visiting artist experiences for this year and we all loved it.

From,
[The Kindy team](#)



From the Parent Council



Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Whitney Parent Council, thank you for an amazing fundraising effort this year. With your help, we have secured the funds and approved the budget for the 2018/19 school year. Similar to this year, each Whitney Student will have the opportunity to enjoy enhancements in the area of Arts, Mathematics, Technology, Literacy, Science and more.

As always, we're looking to improve on the activities and events held throughout the school year and welcome your input and volunteer time. Please fill out a short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L3LCKKF>. These results will be shared at our first General Council Meeting in September (please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, September 18th** at 6:30pm).

We would also like to take a moment to thank **Kathy Clarke** for her years of dedicated work running the Battle of the Books program at Whitney.

As Dr. Seuss said "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Kathy Clarke helped our children travel well beyond the walls of Whitney, learn about history and culture through inspiring fictional and non-fictional works.

**THANK
YOU!**

We hope to continue this tradition for years to come! Thank you Kathy!

Thanks again to everyone for a great year and enjoy the summer!

Warmly,

The Whitney Parent Council



WITTENBERG'S WALL



Grade 6 Division 3 Ultimate

Congratulations to the members of the grade 6 division 3 ultimate team on their outstanding performance at their tournament last week. The students started the day working through four different stations, and then spent the afternoon battling the three other schools. Whitney showed early on why they are considered the cream of the crop when it comes to ultimate and superior team play. The members of the team moved the frisbee from player to player more impressively than the Toronto Rush or Sixers combined! They then backed it up with some defense that would have stopped Team Canada in its tracks! By the end of the tournament, Whitney walked away with a perfect 3-0 record! Way to go team!!!

Track and Field

Congratulations to the members of the track and field team on their amazing performance at the south conference finals two weeks ago. Here are some of the truly impressive results:

- Taimur - 3rd in 400m and 6th in 1500m
- Ella - 8th in 1500m
- Nick - 8th in Running Long Jump
- William - 12th in 800m
- Sophia - 13th in Running Long Jump
- Margot - 17th in 1500m
- Coed Relay 12th

An ENORMOUS congratulations to Taimur who represented Whitney at the City Championships in the 400m and finished an incredible 7th place!!!

ONE WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY
June 25

TUESDAY
June 26

WEDNESDAY
June 27

THURSDAY
June 28

FRIDAY
June 29

**Drop in touch
football (8:00 am)**

Play Day!

Graduation!

**Last day of
school!**

Sleep in!

**Grade 6 Div 1
Ultimate vs
Families (and any
old alumni!)
(3:45 pm)**

FINAL WITTENBERG'S WALL

Thank you...

I am in complete shock that my seventh year at Whitney has come to an end. This was yet another wonderful year, and I continue to be amazed at the passion and dedication demonstrated by the students here at Whitney.

To begin with, I would like to thank all of the Whitney students. Your enthusiasm in Phys Ed, and your unbelievable desire to play extra curricular sports makes being a coach and teacher so exciting. Without your hard work, your willingness to get out of bed in the early hours of the morning, our extra curricular sports program simply wouldn't be so outstanding.

Second, I would like to thank all of the families who have supported the Phys Ed program, as well as the extra curricular teams. Whether you are driving to games, waking up your children early in the morning (sorry about that!), supporting your children through adversity, and listening to them when they are crazy excited, without you, Whitney wouldn't be the amazing school that it is.

Third, I would like to thank all of the entire staff at Whitney for their ongoing support for everything that takes place inside and outside of the gym. I would like to make a special mention of Tom, Allison and Chris. Without the three of them, their positive attitudes and willingness to help me in any way possible (and I have asked for an insane amount of help throughout the year!), the Whitney PE program and extra curricular activities would not be anything that you have seen.

Fourth, I would like to thank Kate Viner for the amazing work that she has done this year taking over the Whitney Word. This newsletter is one of the best I have seen across the board, and it simply would not have been possible without all of the hours she has put into it.

And now it's time to say, farewell (I'm not ready to say goodbye). The entire Whitney community welcomed me and my family with open arms seven years ago, even as I was trying to fill the shoes of a Whitney PE legend in Mr. Packham. It has been an incredible privilege to work with everyone who has walked through the doors at Whitney, and I am a significantly better teacher and person for it. As excited as I am for my next adventure, I am sad to be leaving one of (if not) the best school in the TDSB.

Have a wonderful summer, and I hope that our paths cross again soon.

Cheers...

Asher