

Whitney Word

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Whitney School Council Co-Chairs
Marcia Moffat and Jalyn Anderson
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Whitney Public School Principal
Debbie Stern
deborah.stern@tdsb.on.ca

school dates for november

- 24** Monday, 8am (*Repeat weekly*)
Choir Rehearsal
- 27** Thursday, 10:15am, Gym (Parents Welcome)
Bboyizm Dance Company Performance
- 28** Friday, 12pm (*Repeat weekly*)
Choir Rehearsal

school dates for december

- 4** Thursday
SPA Day
- 5** Friday
PA Day
- 8** Monday, 10am
Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsal
- 9** Tuesday, 7pm
Holiday Concert Celebration

from the principal



The first snowfall of the year elicits shouts of delight from the students but also brings with it necessary reminders of schoolyard behaviour during the next few months. Please help us keep our school safe

(and dry!) by speaking with your children about:

- 1) Respecting fellow students** by refraining from throwing snow/snowballs, destroying snow structures built by others, and pushing and shoving on icy and uneven ground
- 2) Wearing boots** during recess and lunch and keeping indoor shoes for inside. Wearing indoor shoes outside increases the risk of slipping on ice while also creating the indoor hazard of puddles in the classrooms and the gym
- 3) Wearing appropriate layers**, including coats, hats, and gloves. This is NOT the season for shorts and runners. Colds and flu spread quickly through the school population.
- 4) Rules for sliding** include: feet first, sitting up, one at a time, checking the way is clear before sliding, and SNOW PANTS are a must.

Thank you for helping us maintain a respectful and safe school environment.

Debbie Stern

Want to report a student absence? Want to know when the deadline is? Need a copy of a field trip form?

Save yourself a call and program allison.walker@tdsb.on.ca in your smartphone and email Allison in the office for any of your Whitney School needs.

your school council

On Tuesday, November 18, we hosted the second Whitney School Council - General Council Meeting of this year. We discussed a wide range of topics, including the safety concerns raised by traffic congestion and illegal parking around Whitney during drop-off and pick-up. In terms of the parking issue, a committee is being (re)formed, which Andy Filipiuk has agreed to chair. Please contact us at the email below to join the Parking Committee. Lots of good ideas are surfacing. The Council also shared updates on holiday charities, choir, lunch & after four programs, Annual Give and the playground.



Debbie provided her Principal's report and updated us on Whitney's School Improvement Plan and other matters. She also let us know that our longstanding and beloved music teacher, Gini Gray, will be retiring at the end of December. Gini will be missed! Fortunately, we will see Gini before she retires as she is returning to Whitney at the beginning of December and will be joining us for the holiday concert.

On the financial side, the iPads, protective cases and charging cart that were approved at the September spending vote have been purchased. We spent \$6,200 as compared to the \$7,350 approved as we were able to source a charging cart and protective cases that met our specifications at better price points. The computers that were approved at the February spending vote also have been purchased. We were able to stretch our dollars here too, and spent \$2,700 (for 11 computers) as compared to the \$3,100 (for 7 computers) that was approved.

Last, but not least, we discussed volunteer needs. We currently need volunteers for the parking committee, the library and the art room. We also need a volunteer corporate lawyer who is familiar with letters patent for charitable entities. Please contact us to lend a helping hand.

Please click on the link above to read the meeting minutes. They are also available in the school office.



[WSC Nov 18 2014 Meeting Minutes](#)

Marcia Moffat and Jalyn Anderson
Co-Chairs, Whitney School Council
whitneypscouncil@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed!

To lend a helping hand, or to learn more, please contact the person below, or email the school council at whitneypscouncil@gmail.com.

	Time Commitment	Description	Contact
Library	2 – 4 hours per month Timing can be flexible	Check books in and out, re-shelve books, help to keep the library tidy	Rachel James rejtoronto@yahoo.ca
Art Room	2 – 4 hours per month Timing can be flexible	Help to organize the art room	Carole Mandel Carole.Mandel@tdsb.on.ca
Parking	TBD	Address safety concerns raised by traffic congestion and illegal parking around Whitney during drop-off and pick-up	Andy Filipiuk andy.filipiuk@nbc.ca
Lawyer	2 hours	Lawyer familiar with letters patent for charitable entities to review a few documents for the Whitney School Council	Jalyn Anderson whitneypscouncil@gmail.com



I have recently made the difficult decision to retire from the TDSB effective this December 31st, 2014 but before I do, I would like to share a few thoughts with you. I have spent my entire teaching career as a music specialist at Whitney Public School. When I started 25 years ago, I recall a colleague saying to me that it's a good idea for a teacher to change schools every 5 years. Well, 5 years passed and I thought why would I ever want to leave this community? The children are amazing, the parents so supportive, and I have a beautiful music room with so many incredible resources due to the generosity of the Whitney parent community! Needless to say, I did not change schools.

I will miss most of all my involvement with the current students and their families as well as my outstanding colleagues and Principal. Some of you will know that I have taken some time off this fall. However, I am glad to be returning to teach for the month of December and I look forward to seeing many of you in the halls next month!

Gini Gray

Bboyizm Dance Company

On Wednesday November 27 at 10:15 in the gym, Whitney students and staff will enjoy a performance by the Bboyizm Dance Company. Bboyizm promotes and preserves the foundation, authenticity and true essence of all street dances. The artistic philosophy of the company is based on the idea that a dancer's self expression is paramount, the motto being 'Dance to Express, not Impress'. Students and teachers will learn about the evolution of street dances from the day of their inception to today. They will be exposed to a variety of dance styles from different eras that will be put into the context by an MC. Teachers have access to background information and classroom activities related to Bboyizm to use in their classrooms.

This program comes to Whitney through the Prologue for the Performing Arts, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing diverse and quality cultural and artistic experiences into Toronto area schools. We thank the School Council for their generosity in supporting performances through Prologue for the Performing Arts at our school and are looking forward to seeing Bboyizm Dance Company this Wednesday.



mabel's labels

Whitney has launched a campaign with the well known Canadian company, **Mabel's Labels**.

The campaign is entirely online - just click on the link to order your labels.

The best part is that Whitney receives 20% commission on every order!

mabelsfundraising.com/f/40438

whitney's 2014 holiday charity vote

Holiday time is a time for giving. From the daily bread food bank to last years' generous donation to The CHUM City Christmas Wish, Whitney has always given generously during the holiday season. As a community school, we continue to believe that it is important that children are involved in the process of giving. So, this year we will carry on with our tradition of involving all students in the selection process for our annual holiday charity. This year, these three charities were selected carefully, non-denominationally, by teachers and the Whitney School Council.

Over the next few weeks, students will be introduced to each of these three charities in their classrooms. Some students may research the details of the charity's history, their donations over the years or how each group has made a difference in the lives of many. All three of these charity groups are not only reputable but have helped millions of children and adults lead and have better lives. Our goal is for all children to understand the concept of giving and not just the dollar amount raised.

On **Thursday December 4th, 2014**, at our final SPA day in 2014, all children will hear the grade 6 students speak about these three charities and after the assembly, all children will return to their classrooms and vote on their charity of choice for this holiday season. All votes will be tabulated in the office and the recipient of this year's holiday charity will be announced.

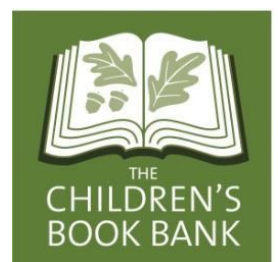
Then, from **Monday December 8th through to Wednesday December 17th**, we will ask for donations to be sent to the school and parent volunteers will help to deliver or arrange to have picked up our donation.



reddoorshelter.ca

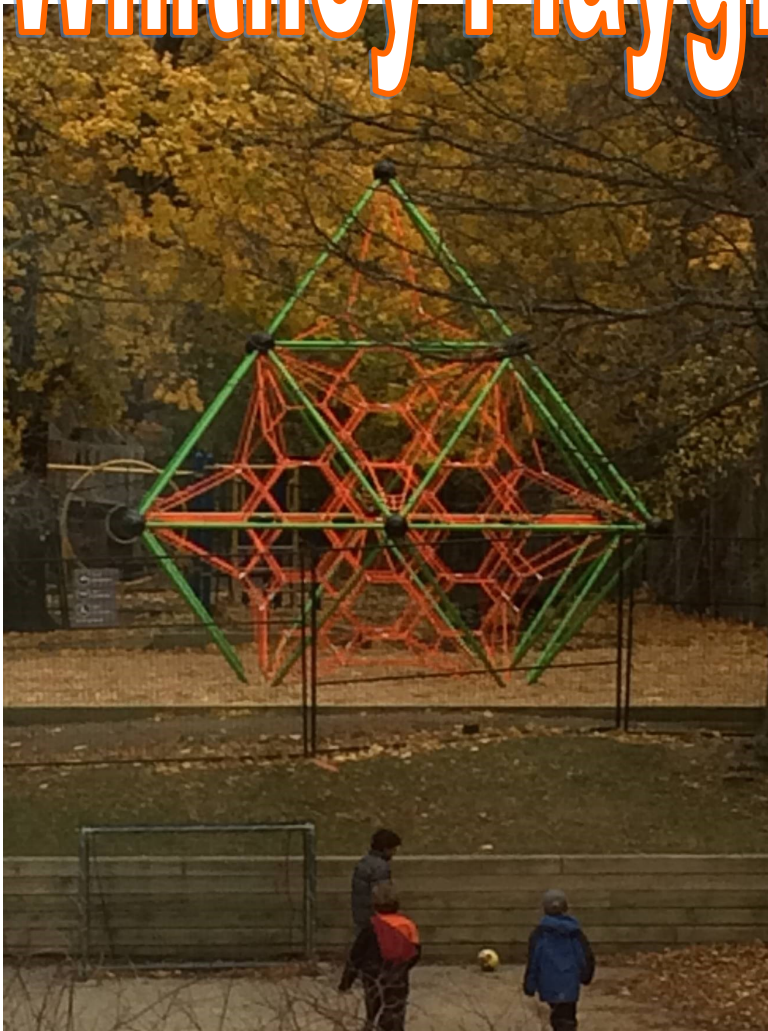


eva's initiatives
evasinitiatives.com



childrensbookbank.com

Whitney Playground Update



You've likely noticed the activity and colour at the top of the hill, but for those of you who haven't, we're pleased to share the news that the new rope climber has been installed. Initially, use will be limited to gym class with Asher, who will emphasize safe play. After that, it will be open to all students on a rotating basis during recess, like all the other playground equipment.

The new basketball standards have also been installed. The rims will be removed nightly and on weekends to minimize vandalism and noise for neighbours.

Next up is the field. Work is slated to begin on the baseball backstop soon. The existing backstop will be replaced with a smaller version, which will allow for greater use of the field for other sports. We will keep you updated on the timing for the remaining work on the field, and on the remaining aspects of the project.

Thank you to everyone who helped support this project. We hope your child(ren) love their new playground!

**Marcia Moffat, Andrew Pollock,
Sean McNamara, Diana Parsons**

Lunch Activities Time

This is the final week of lunch time activities, with the exception of Guitar and Chess which will run next week to make up for the PA Day and Thanksgiving. For parents with a child in Glee, please join us for a performance at the SPA Day assembly the morning of December 4th.

We hope your child(ren) had a wonderful experience and lots of fun. Stay tuned for information about lunch activities this Winter.

Janice Meredith and Diana Parsons

wittenberg's wall

sports | house leagues | wildcats

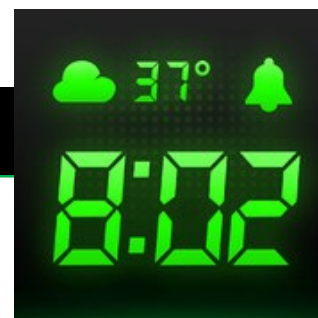


Basketball

It was an amazing week of basketball for the members of our girls team. It all started on Monday, when they traveled down to Withrow to play their second game of the season. The girls poured it on early and often, and played some outstanding defence, finishing the game with a 20-11 victory. On Tuesday, the girls drove up Mt. Pleasant to play the Davisville Dragons for a second time this season. This was a hard fought game, with some amazing hustle plays from Nicole, Keeley and Annie, as well as some last minute clutch scoring from Jaqueline and Caitlin.

At the end of the game, the score was 11-8 for our mighty girls. The week wasn't over just yet, as the Withrow girls came up to the Whitney gym for a third game in as many days. This was a back and forth game, as both teams took leads throughout the game. Unfortunately, our girls came up just short at the end of this game losing 19-15.

The girls finished the regular season with an impressive 3-1 record, earning them first place in their pool, and a spot in the playoffs. Practices will continue next week...good luck girls!



MONDAY

Boys Basketball Tryouts
7:30am in the gym

TUESDAY

Girls Basketball practice
7:30am in the gym
Boys Basketball Tryouts
3:30-4:30pm in the gym

WEDNESDAY

Boys Volleyball Practice
7:45am in the gym

THURSDAY

Girls Basketball practice
7:30am in the gym

FRIDAY

Boys Volleyball Practice
7:45am in the gym



Whitney Hockey Team

Tryouts for the Whitney Wildcats hockey team (for boys and girls in grades 4, 5 and 6) will take place on Wednesday December 3rd (12-1) and Monday December 8th (3:30-4:30) at Leaside Arena.