

THE WORD

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ISSUE10 JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 9 2018

important dates for the next few weeks:

WEDNESDAY JAN 31 -
TDSB CHORAL FESTIVAL

FRIDAY FEB 2 -
STEP DAY! SPORTS THEME



FRIDAY FEB 2 -
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS BEGINS

WEDNESDAY FEB 7 -
WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

TUESDAY FEB 13 -
REPORT CARDS SENT HOME

WEDNESDAY FEB 14 -
SAVE A CHILD'S HEART DANCE-A-THON

FRIDAY FEB 16 - PA DAY

from the principal

STEP Day February 2 (Room 205)

Our next STEP day takes place Friday February 2nd at **10:30 am. Room 205**, one of our Grade Two classes, led by Ms. Allen, will be presenting and focussing on our February theme of **FAIRNESS**. We will recognize those students who demonstrated Teamwork during the month of January at this assembly. The Spirit Day will be **Sports Day**. Everyone is welcome to wear their favourite Toronto sports team gear or sporty clothing in general. Parents/Guardians are always welcome to join in on the fun and attend our assembly as well.

During the month of January, our focus was on **TEAMWORK**. Over the past month, staff discussed this theme in the classroom, and students shared quotes over the announcements that were reflective. 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 have been looking out for student actions and language that demonstrated teamwork both inside and outside the classroom.

Chris Rzepa

Are you ready to Dance? On **Wednesday February 14th**, Whitney will be holding a FUN-raiser! Classes will have an opportunity to be in the gym dancing to some tunes "spun" by a professional DJ! We will provide more information about the schedule for the day and what a "suggested" donation might be. Students are welcome to bring a donation to cover the cost of the DJ and any proceeds beyond that will go to a special charity called "Save A Child's Heart" to provide a child with heart surgery due to a heart condition. More information can be found at www.saveachildsheart.ca

Students can bring these donations with them on the day to the gym where a large jar will be used to collect all funds. We will be strengthening our hearts, saving a child's heart and celebrating "Heart Day" (Valentine's Day).



Report Card and Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews

Elementary Report cards will sent home with students in FDK to Grade 6 on **Tuesday February 13th**.

In Grades 1-6, this report card will record students' grades in all subject areas and show how they are working towards the achievement of curriculum expectations and their development of learning skills and work habits from September to this point in the school year. The new TDSB Kindergarten Report will be sent home with Kindergarten students and will present progress in four areas: Belonging and Contributing, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours, Problem Solving and Innovating, and Self-Regulation and Well-Being. Parent/teacher interviews will take place on Thursday, February 15th in the evening, on Friday, February 16th in the morning, or at other mutually convenient times. Interviews are not mandatory for all students during this round.

Teachers or Parents/Guardians may request interviews at this time, if either feel it is necessary.

February is African Heritage Month at the TDSB

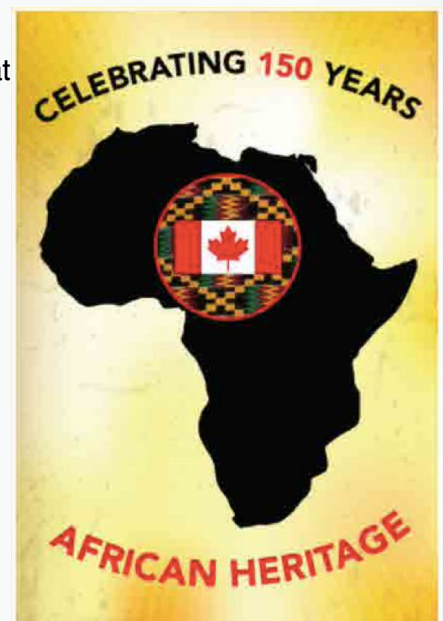
This is an opportunity to recognize the experiences, contributions and achievements of African Canadians. This year's theme is "From Africa to the World."

Throughout the month of February, many contributions will be highlighted that the African community has made by offering educational opportunities to our students and TDSB community. The official launch of the African Heritage Month will take place on Thursday, February 1, 2018.

Join us – African Heritage Month Launch
Thursday, February 1, 2018
5050 Yonge Street
Cafeteria
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Special Guest: Jean Augustine, former Member of Parliament.

Jean Augustine became the first African Canadian women elected to Canada's House of Commons serving four consecutive elections between 1993 – 2006.





Kindergarten Open House

Calling all new Kindergarten students to Whitney!

If you have a child who will be entering Junior Kindergarten in September 2018, we invite you join us on Tuesday February 27th beginning at 6:00 pm. If you know of a neighbour with children ready for JK this coming September, please pass this information on to them. Children who will be four years old prior to December 31, 2018 (born in 2014) may enter Junior Kindergarten next school year. If a child is born in October, November, or December of 2014, parents/guardians have the option to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2019 in all TDSB schools.

Kindergarten Registration at Whitney is expected to begin the beginning of February for the majority of the new students. Registrations can be taken at any point until the first day of school in September (and beyond for anyone living in our school district). Please e-mail Allison Walker, Allison.Walker@tdsb.on.ca to get on a distribution list to receive updates and registration information as well.



Family Literacy Day (January 27)

Just because the holidays are over, doesn't mean the fun must end! Family Literacy Day takes place on January 27th. It was created by ABS Life Literacy Canada and has been running nationally for 19 years. Family Literacy Day raises awareness about the importance of reading and participating in literacy activities together as a family. Taking time every day to practice literacy skills can significantly increase children's future success in school.



We have included a presentation put together by TDSB teacher Jennifer Tong and some links which include, "How to Read with your Child", Strategies for Reading Aloud with Your Child", and an example of what a DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) looks like. These would be particularly helpful for families with students in Full Day Kindergarten and Grade 1.

<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/literacyjrr/home>

WALKING WEDNESDAY

The next Walk to School Day is coming up on **Wednesday February 7th 2018**! We encourage everyone to walk, cycle, scooter, skateboard to school on this day. The class(es) with the highest percentage of walker receives the Golden Shoe award!



Who will win the Golden Shoe this month??

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS!

Whitney's seventh annual Battle of the Books to launch Feb 2!



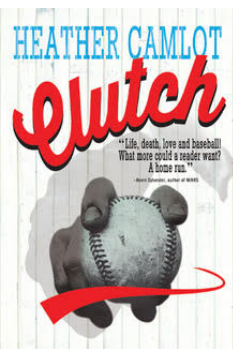
Battle of the Books is an enrichment book competition for students in grades 4 to 6. Each group of four students is tasked with reading the 10 nominated Silver Birch Fiction titles. One complete set of these books is available for borrowing in each junior classroom, in addition to the school library. On **Monday, March 26th**, the competition begins!

Many team groups have already been formed, showing that we have some very keen readers at Whitney! In the Battle of the Books, teams compete against each other in a 'game show' format answering factual questions about the books. Each team has a bell and the first team to ring in and say a correct answer gets a point. The team with the most points in every round wins!



Our wonderful parent volunteers read all ten the books and compile lists of questions for each book. i.e. Q: What is the name of the ship that Jonah wakes up on in "The Incredible Space Raiders from Space!"? (A: The Fantastic Flying Squirrel).

The 'battles' generally take place in the mornings before school at 8:00 a.m. in the library, computer room and French room, and will run for approximately two weeks ending with a final 'BATTLE' assembly between the top two teams.



Parents, please encourage your Grade 4/5/6 kids to participate in this year's Battle of the Books! The battles are lots of fun and the benefits are many • the momentum created by reading (up to) ten books encourages further reading • it encourages 'book talk' amongst friends - imagine! • it encourages deeper reading and understanding of books • it gives students the opportunity to have fun with friends around books!

Interested students should tell their teachers their group members' names by February 12th. If any student is interested in participating but having difficulty finding a team please inform your teachers - we will make every effort to get them on a team! Parents can also contact Kathy Clarke if they have any questions.

You can find a list of the books and summaries [here](#)

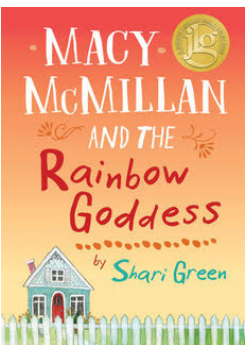
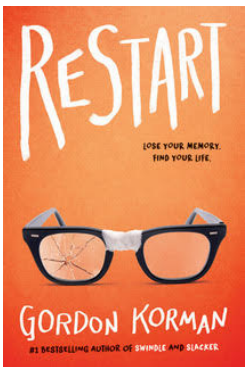
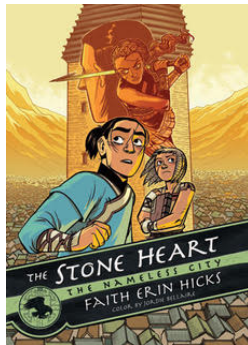
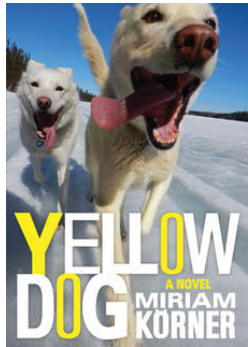
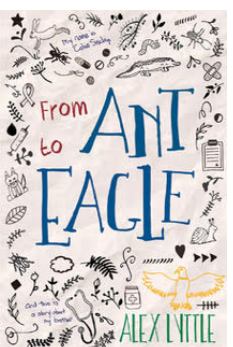
Thank you,

Kathy Clarke, Amber Shron & Heather Hall

*****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*****

We would love your help in reading one of the books, compiling questions for the battles and / or volunteering to oversee the matches.

Reading the books is a fantastic way to share in the love of reading with your child and the battles are super fun to be part of. Please contact any one of us. Thank you.



Whitney's Got Talent!

Whitney is FULL of talented students...

Now it's time to see them in action!

If you are in grade 4, 5, or 6 and you have a talent that you'd like to share, come on out!

art *dancing* **POETRY**

acting *lip synching* **sports**

JOKES **singing** *air guitar*

movie making **storytelling**

MAGIC TRICKS **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Let's show off our talents! Whatever your talent may be, we want you to share it with us! If you are interested in being a part of Whitney's Got Talent and are in grade 4, 5 or 6, we would love for you to be a part of the show!

Whether you are interested in being on stage, helping backstage or helping out with poster designs, please come see Ms. Diniz and Ms. Hall Tuesday, Jan. 30th at afternoon recess, in the library!

We look forward to chatting with you about your amazing talents!

Talent Show is Thursday April 19th, 2018

- The Whitney Talent Show Committee



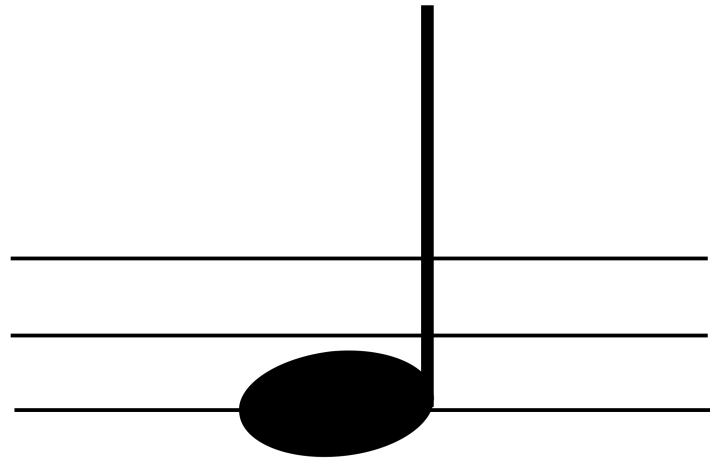
WHITNEY JR. CHOIR TDSB CHORAL FESTIVAL

Wed. Jan. 31st - 10 - 11:45am
Bickford Centre

The Whitney Junior Choir will benefit from the sharing of musical performances at the TDSB Choral Music Festival on Wed. Jan. 31st. This year, the festival piece is 'J'entends le moulin'. In a non-competitive setting, the Whitney Choir will watch and sing this piece with choirs from all around Toronto.

The music festival is more than a performance event; it is an opportunity for students and teachers to celebrate their accomplishments, as well as those of their peers.

Students at varied levels have the opportunity to work with a professional clinician and receive valuable feedback and suggestions for future performances. Ms Werbitsky & Ms Dava will accompany the choir to the festival by TTC on January 31st. Whitney caregivers are welcome to volunteer for this excursion! If there is a Whitney caregiver who is interested in accompanying the choir on the piano, please feel welcome to contact Ms. Werbitsky.



CHOIR REHEARSALS

Monday January 29th - 8am

Monday February 12th - 8am

Monday March 5th - 8 am

Monday March 26th - 8 am

Monday April 9th - 8 am

(Thursday April 19th - 9am and 7pm - TALENT SHOW)

Monday April 23rd - 8 am

Monday May 7th - 8 am

Monday May 14th - 8 am

Monday May 28th - 8 am





WITTENBERG'S WALL



Whitney Wildcats Hockey

Congratulations to the members of the Whitney Wildcats hockey team on a fantastic start to the season. The opening game of the season came with great excitement, as the Wildcats were battling the Brown School Panthers, Mr. W's alma mater, and the team that ended Whitney's dream season last year. This year though, things were just a little bit different! The Wildcats stormed onto the ice, and skated circles around the Panthers, and had their opponents completely confused as to where to move. The passing, shooting and puck control demonstrated by our might team, had the Maple Leafs GM come asking to sign the future stars of the NHL. When the dust settled, Whitney walked away with a dominant 4-1 victory!! Not long after, the student athletes were back on the ice, this time battling Regal Road. This was an extremely high scoring affair (Tyler G was so hot this game we thought his stick was on fire!), with both teams making outstanding plays. At the end of regulation, the score was all tied up at 7! Unfortunately in OT, the puck didn't bounce our way, and Regal squeaked out an 8-7 victory. Fortunately for our Wildcats, a rematch is set for later in the season, and Whitney is guaranteed to exact their revenge!

The excitement for our team didn't end there though, as Whitney travelled to Hodgson for the first ever Winter Classic Tournament (hopefully the start of a new tradition!). Whitney opened the tournament with a dominant shutout victory over Rosedale, and then went to battle against Hodgson, a team that has been a thorn in the side of the other Wildcats teams this year. Despite the frigid temperatures (I believe players and coaches are still thawing out!), the incredible athletes from the two schools put on a show to remember. This was a back and forth affair, with excellent chances for both squads. After trading goals throughout the game, and only a couple of minutes left on the clock, goalie turned defenseman, Henry, skated up the ice, and sent a perfect pass to Tyler G, who deflected the puck into the back of the net, sending the crowd into a frenzy!



Thank you to all of the parents who continue to support the team, as well as Mr. Rzepa who made his way to a game to cheer on our student athletes!

Div 1 Boys Basketball

The members of the division 1 boys basketball team will be competing in a one day tournament on Thursday February 8th at Gledhill PS. Please check the Weeks at a Glance to see practice times.

TWO WEEKS SPORTS SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MONDAY January 29	TUESDAY January 30	WEDNESDAY January 31	THURSDAY February 1	FRIDAY February 2
Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Practice (7:30 am) Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Game (Westwood @ Whitney)	Div 3 Boys Basketball Practice (7:30 am) Whitney vs Brown Hockey Game @ Forest Hill Arena (12:00 pm) Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Practice (3:30 pm)	Div 1 Boys Basketball Practice (7:30 am)	Div 1 Boys Basketball Practice (7:30 am) Rowing Club (3:30 pm)	Grades 4/5 Girls Volleyball Practice (7:30 am)
MONDAY February 5	TUESDAY February 6	WEDNESDAY February 7	THURSDAY February 8	FRIDAY February 9
Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Practice (7:30 am) Whitney vs Regal Road Hockey Game @ Forest Hill Arena (12:00 pm) Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Game Whitney @ Withrow (3:45 pm)	Div 1 Boys Basketball Practice (7:30 am) Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Practice (3:30 pm)	Div 1 Boys Basketball Practice (7:30 am)	Div 1 Boys Basketball Tournament @ Gledhill Rowing Club (3:30 pm)	Grade 4/5 Girls Volleyball Clinic (7:30 am)

