

# Whitney Word

**Whitney Word Editor**  
Martha McClew  
whitneyword@gmail.com

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

**Whitney Public School Principal**  
Debbie Stern  
deborah.stern@tdsb.on.ca

## school dates for november

- 3** Monday, 8am (*Repeat weekly*)  
**Choir Rehearsal**
- 7** Friday, 11:55am (*Repeat Weekly*)  
**Choir Rehearsal**
- 7** Friday  
**SPA Day Theme: Empathy (Gr 4/5 Rm 303)**
- 10** Monday Through Thursday  
**Grade 5 Island School Trip**
- 11** Tuesday, 10:30am  
**Remembrance Day Assembly**
- 11** Tuesday  
**Progress Reports Home**
- 13** Thursday, 3:30-7:30pm  
**Parent/Teacher Interviews**
- 14** Friday  
**P.A. Day**
- 14** Friday, A.M. Only  
**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

## from the principal



Character development at Whitney P.S. is about

helping our students learn and practice positive character attributes, which will help them not only do their best, but be their best. During the month of November, we will be focusing on the character trait “empathy”. Empathy means putting yourself in someone else’s shoes and understanding, sensing, and sharing in the feelings and emotions of others. Empathy means showing love, compassion and encouragement as well as identifying with another’s situation and feelings. During the month of November, teachers will be discussing what empathy looks like and feels like in the classroom with all students.

Please join us on **Friday November 7<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 a.m. for our next SPA Day Assembly. Mr. van Hoeijen’s grade 4/5 class will be leading this assembly and sharing in their understanding of empathy with the whole school. It is also GUM and MOUSTACHE day...so kids can chew their Halloween gum and sport a moustache in support of *November*!

**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](mailto:allison.walker@tdsb.on.ca) in your smartphone and email Allison in the office for any of your Whitney School needs.

# progress reports

On **Tuesday November 11, 2014**, students in grades 1 to 6 will be receiving Ontario's Fall Progress Report Card. At the TDSB, we respect the professionalism of our teachers and believe they understand the value and importance of reporting to parents on their child's progress. We know that providing meaningful comments in a student's progress report will allow important discussions between a teacher and a parent to take place and will help establish a positive tone for the remainder of the school year. The TDSB's Guidelines for Progress Reports provides consistency among schools within our Board and for the benefit of improving student learning. These progress reports should provide you with the clarity you need to understand your child's progress.

The purpose of this progress report is to encourage early and ongoing communication between you and your child's teacher. It will tell you how well your child is developing the learning skills and work habits we know are essential for success. As well, it will report on all academic subjects, but instead of assigning a grade, it will tell you how well your child is progressing: "very well", "well" or "with difficulty."

Students in Kindergarten will receive two written report cards (no marks) over the course of the year. Senior Kindergarten students will receive a progress report on November 11th and in June 2015. Junior Kindergarten students will receive a summary report in the first term (February 2015) and in June 2015. In order to discuss the progress

report card, teachers will be organizing parent teacher interviews for all students in the near future, if this has not already been arranged.

All parents are encouraged to meet with your child's teacher in a parent teacher interview to be scheduled in mid-November. There will be more information regarding parent teacher interviews over the next few weeks. All teachers will work with parents to find a convenient time to meet.

We are confident that by working together our school will continue to be rich learning environment for all our students.

**Debbie Stern**

## JUST KIDDING



## Beautiful Batiks with Visiting Artist Judy Pisano

On Friday, October 24, Judy Pisano from the Inner City Angels came into Room 308 and taught us how to make lovely leaf designs with beautiful dyes and wax. Judy studied at the Ontario Collect of Art. Judy has been doing beautiful batiks and other art projects at Whitney for a long time. She brought in her brilliant and colourful dyes to paint on fabric and they made our work really pop out and look beautiful. It was fun to use new materials such as the hot wax and the wonderful dyes. Judy Pisano is a very nice woman and a good artist. We hope she comes to Whitney again to help everyone create beautiful batiks.

**Lauren H. & Kaitlin G., Rm 308**





# successful parent-teacher interviews

As parent teacher interviews are upon us, we encourage you to take this opportunity to find out about your child's progress. Report cards will be sent home on Tuesday November 11th. Below are some questions and tips that you may find useful for the interview.



- Talk to your child about school before the interview if age appropriate. Ask how they think they are doing and how the teacher can help meet their goals.
- Get an idea of what the curriculum is like, the level your child is working at and areas where they are

struggling.

- Make a list of what you want to know before you go into the interview. You can even prepare questions ahead of time if it will make you feel more at ease. Knowing what you want to know and writing it down ensures that you don't forget anything, and that you get the information you need.

- Be open and honest. Feel free to add your own observations around your child's behaviour, strengths and weaknesses.
- Find out what they're learning. Ask curriculum questions and find out what your child has learned and what is coming up in the term ahead. Know the skills your child will need to be successful in the term ahead (i.e. knowing how to multiply/divide fractions).
- Ask about strengths and weaknesses and possible problems. Find out about problems before they happen. This information will allow students to get help before they fall behind.
- Find out how often and how much homework is being assigned as it relates to the TDSB's Homework Policy.
- Ask if your child is completing his/her home-work regularly, how long the work assigned should take to complete and does the teacher check the home-work regularly and provide feedback. The answers to these questions will help you better monitor your child's work habits.
- Ask what you can do at home to help your child. Make a commitment to support your child's learning.



## Great Questions to Ask

- What skills does my child need to work on?
- What activities can we do to strengthen skills?
- Does my child complete his/her work and assignments efficiently and conscientiously?
- Is my child facing any struggles in class not related to her/his school-work?



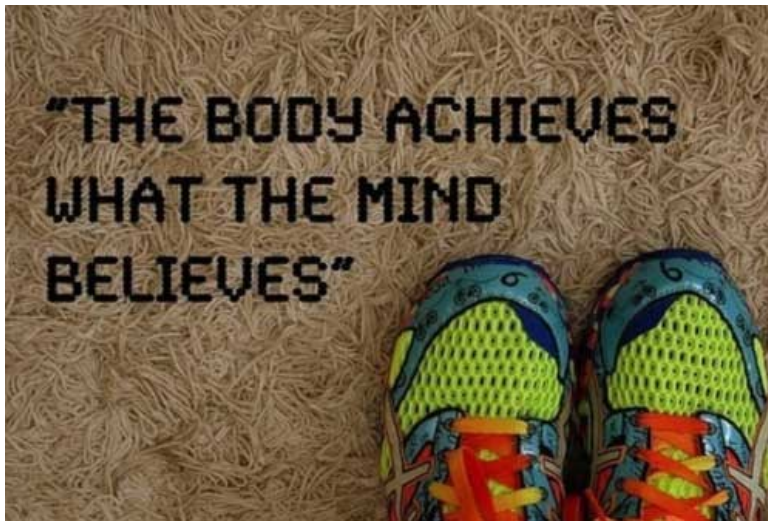
## mabel's labels

As part of our ongoing fundraising efforts, Whitney has launched a campaign with the well known Canadian company, Mabel's Labels. Perhaps best known for their tag line "labels for the stuff kids lose", their personalized labels are laundry, dishwasher and microwave safe and UV resistant. 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 so do your part to shrink the lost and found box (ha!) and order today!

[www.mabelsfundraising.com/f/40438](http://www.mabelsfundraising.com/f/40438)

# wittenberg's wall

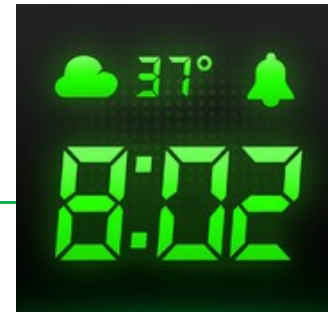
sports | house leagues | wildcats



## Cross Country

Congratulations to Beate, Robbie, Rebecca and Noah who represented Whitney at the Cross Country City Championships. Each student ran incredibly well (and fast!). Here are their results:

**Beate 11th**  
**Noah 13th**  
**Robbie 43rd**  
**Rebecca 78th**



## TUESDAY

**Girls Basketball Practice (Gr 4-6)**  
7:30 a.m. in the gym.

## WEDNESDAY

**Boys Volleyball practice (Gr 4-6)**  
7:45 a.m. in the gym

## THURSDAY

**Girls Basketball practice (Gr 4-6)**  
7:30 a.m. in the gym  
**Girls basketball game**  
3:45 p.m. vs. Davisville

## FRIDAY

**Boys Volleyball practice (Gr 4-6)**  
7:45 a.m. in the gym