

Whitney Word

Whitney Word Editor
Martha McClew
whitneyword@gmail.com

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

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

school dates for march

- 2** Monday through Wednesday
Whitney's Got Talent Auditions
- 4** Wednesday, Afternoon (see Page 4 for times)
iEngage Anti-Bullying Presentation
- 6** Friday
SPA Day
- 16** Monday
First Day of March Break
- 23** Monday
Back to School



leaving early/returning late?

If your children are leaving early for the March Break or not returning to school by Monday March 23rd, we ask that you send a note or email to [Allison](mailto:allison.walker@tdsb.on.ca) to let us know. Thank you for your cooperation as this helps us out with our automated safe arrival program!

from the principal



We are proud that our staff are among the most dedicated and qualified in the world. Every day, nearly 39,000 dedicated professionals support our students to achieve their very best. Their focus, dedication and commitment help build strong healthy relationships and allow our school communities to thrive.

As part of our Years of Action: 2013-2017 plan, we are committed to inspiring and supporting our staff and recognizing, celebrating and demonstrating best practice is critical to that.

We invite you staff, students, parents, community members to nominate a TDSB staff member or team whose work has made a difference in your life or those around you.

Nominate someone for an Excellence Award today. Nomination deadline is Friday March 20th at 4 pm.

Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/excellence

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.

Whitney' Got Talent!

Auditions for Whitney's Got Talent will be held next week, running from March 2nd – March 4th in the library. Students will have one minute to showcase their incredible talents. All students are asked to come prepared to the audition with any music and/or any personal equipment that may need for the performance. Costumes are not necessary for the auditions.

Your child has received a copy of the audition schedule.

During audition week, we are asking all students to eat their lunch in the hallway, outside the library, on their day of the audition. If you child normally goes home for lunch, we are requesting that they eat lunch at school on the day of their audition, to ensure that all students are present and on time for their scheduled time.

We look forward to seeing all the amazing talents!

The Whitney Talent Show Committee
~ (Ms. Hall, Ms. Mandel, Ms. Carmona, Ms. Hargrave and Ms. Diniz)

**Whitney's Got Talent Performance:
Tuesday, April 30th, 2015 at 7:00 pm.**



Healthy students are better able to focus in class and behave in the hallway! On Wednesday March 4th, we will be welcoming Anthony McLean to Whitney P.S. to present a fun and upbeat reminder of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle as well as a call to break the stigma surrounding mental health concerns. His presentation is said to be very entertaining while driving home a powerful message. He uses audience interaction, comedy, pop culture and “freestyle” raps to keep students engaged and he distinguishes between **bullying and conflict** because we want students to know that not every conflict is an episode of bullying. In his presentations, he provides bystanders with practical strategies to tackle bullying effectively.

He teaches students to:

- STAND UP** to the bully when it is safe
- REACH OUT** to targets of bullying and isolated peers
- TELL SOMEONE** when another student is being hurt

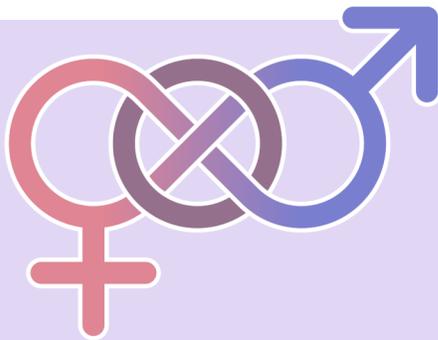


What Will You Learn This Spring?

Take up a new hobby. Hone a skill. Meet new people in your community. Through Learn4Life, the TDSB offers more than 2,600 classes for adults every year.

Pick up a language. Stay fit with Tai Chi, yoga, dance and fitness classes. Learn digital photography, sculpture, auto body repair or bridge. Sing! Play the keys, guitar or harmonica. Stitch, weave or knit. Solder jewelry or refinish a table. Repair your bike. Build a website. Learn about cinema, psychology, poetry or birds.

Register today www.learn4life.ca.
Classes begin the week of April 7, 2015.



New P.E. Curriculum

As you may know, on February 23rd the Ministry of Education released its revised Health and Physical Education curriculum to be implemented for September 2015. I have attached a document from the Ministry of Education for your information: Myths and Facts.



Myths Vs Facts

As well, if you are interested, I encourage you to go to the Ministry of Education [website](#) which includes the full [curriculum](#) as well as a number of resources developed specifically for parents:

- [A Parent's Guide to the Revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum, Grades 1 to 12](#)
- [A Parent's Guide: Human Development and Sexual health in the Health and Physical Education Curriculum, Grades 1-6](#)
- [A Parent's Guide: Human Development and Sexual health in the Health and Physical Education Curriculum, Grades 7-12](#)
- [Quick Facts for Parents: Learning about Online Safety, Including Risks of Sexting](#)
- [Quick Facts for Parents: Learning about Healthy Relationships and Consent](#)

More information will follow in the coming months. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Debbie Stern

Autumn Winds

Cool leaves float around
 Birds chirp in the autumn breeze
 Crips winds make spirals.

By Audrey, Room 205



Urban Voices/ annual

L'echo de la ville, an anthology of poetry published by the Toronto District School Board, celebrates the diverse lives and interests of students throughout our city. The collection represents the hopes and dreams of the students, the places they call home, the places they hope to visit and much more. Every year many students from Whitney have their poems submitted by their teachers and most years some of our students have their poems selected for publication in Urban Voices. Over the next few weeks we will showcase these wonderful pieces of poetry. Enjoy! **Ms. Mandel**

Oceans

Ocean, ocean
 As beautiful as you can be.
 As I sit and stare at you,
 You always tell me what to do.

As your waves crash along my side
 You make me feel so alive!
 As we grow old, we will always be
 Best of friends for eternity.
 By Matthew, Room 302

Football

The center snapped it through his legs
 Into the QB's hands
 The ball was caught in the forward's glove
 And he scored with a gentle land
 By Robbie, Room 308

War

Waiting to strike the enemy
 All hidden in the trenches
 Respectful soldiers defend our homes.
 By Jaqueline, Room 308

Dream

There I am,
 My red feathers proud,
 In my little nest,
 Above the pond.
 I flap my wings,
 And soar through the sky
 The wind howling past me.
 I fly UP

UP

UP

Into the blackened **abyss**
 I stay there,
 Flying gracefully through the black in.
 "Honey, you're going to be late for school!"
 "OK, coming Mom."
 Dream on.

By Noah, Room 302

Skyy

Glimmering with a million torches
 Secrets.
 Secrets filled with hopes and dreams
 Thousands of colours prancing about the cold black sky
 With trillions of emotions in each and every
 One
 One emotion that is mine
 I look up at you with
 Envy
 Fear
 Jealousy
 But most of all
 Wonder
 What is up there?
 What am I looking at?
 Am I looking at a better me?
 Or maybe its just an illusion of me?
 All illusion of felicity
 But yet, I never stop believing its real.
 The sky is real.

By Sloan, Room 302

Torn

Once in dusty Afghanistan
 Also in gloomy Pakistan
 Miserable children
 Wander the streets.

Being swept away,
 Feeling like they've been betrayed,
 They're taken out of their homes
 To work.

Paid a penny,
 One of many,
 Companies too despicable
 To pay.

Tearing innocent families apart,
 Humanity has no heart,
 This still happens
 Today.

By Keeley, Room 302

My Red Balloon

My balloon,
 My big, red balloon.
 I let it go one day
 I let it go travel to freedom,
 I stayed and watched it fly away.

Then I waited.
 Oh, how I waited.
 It didn't come back
 I went home.
 Hoping life would go on,
 I didn't come back for years.

Now that I am old and crippled
 I went back to where my balloon had its journey.
 Then I saw something,
 What could it be?
 What did I see?

I waited.
 Oh, how I waited.
 When the balloon was near I reached,
 I gasped quietly,
 This balloon was blue.

But, this was not someone else's balloon
 It was mine, my blue balloon.
 My balloon made its journey to freedom,
 It came back,
 Different.

Now I know,
 My balloon was waiting for me,
 He was waiting for me to fly away with him.
 I brought home my new blue balloon.

My balloon changed over the years,
 He learned to express himself more,
 To reveal the hidden person,
 Trapped. Struggling.
 Wanting to show himself.
 This is what we must all do.

By Devin, Room 302

Eraser

When you make a mistake,
 When your hand starts to shake,
 And when you start to fear
 That your mark is no longer here,

Erase.

Just Erase.

Erase off the Earth's face,
 Erase when you're worried you won't ace,
 It's okay to erase.

Mistakes are just mistakes,
 They can be as red as a maple tree,
 They can be as blue as the sea,
 Mistakes come in all shapes and sizes.

Erase.

But remember,
 Mistakes are just mistakes,
 They happen all the time.
 It's okay to erase.

By Connor, Room 302

Seed

I planted a seed when I was four
 And every day it grew some more
 Bright green leaves sprouted out
 From the rich, wet, soil

Every day,
 Of every week,
 Of every month,
 Of every year,
 I watered my tree.
 And every day,
 Of every week,
 Of every month,
 Of every year,
 It grew with me.

It shades me in the summer,
 And let me climb upon its branches,
 But when fall came, my tree would fade
 away
 As its leave slowly
 Fell.

Bare branches filled the sky,
 I watched my as my tree cried,
 Darkness filled the street,
 They slowly chopped down my tree.
 It's too old they say,
 As they too my tree away.
 The land was no longer bright and green,
 Like the day I panted my seed.

By Alexia, Room 302

Notice something missing?

The City of Toronto moved the city garbage can at the corner of McLennan and Rosedale Heights. This has triggered an unfortunate response with dog walkers now placing their doggie bags in our silver garbage can, or worse, tossing it on the school property. Can you please remind any and all dog walkers to take their baggies home with them?



wittenberg's wall

sports | house leagues | wildcats



boys basketball

Congratulations to the members of the grade 6 division 2 boys basketball team on an amazing season. The season came to an end in the south conference semi finals, at the hands of a brilliant squad from Annette Street PS. Our boys played an outstanding 24 minutes, playing unselfishly, and the best team defence their coach has ever seen. All ten players contributed in their own way, in another nail biting game. The final score was 28-26, but as everyone in the gym said, it could have gone to either team. Thank you to all of the families who supported the team throughout this unbelievable season.



MONDAY

Grade 4/5 Co-ed Volleyball
tryouts
7:30am in the gym

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Grade 6 Co-ed Volleyball
tryouts
7:30am in the gym

THURSDAY

Grade 4/5 Badminton tryouts
7:30am in the gym

FRIDAY

Grade 6 Badminton tryouts
7:30am in the gym