

Whitney Word

◦ Issue 7 | December 16 | ◦ 2016

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school dates for december

23 Friday
Last Day of School



Vacation Alert

Please don't forget to let the office know if your child(ren) will be missing any school during the holiday season. You can call the safe arrival hot-line at [416-393-9384](tel:416-393-9384) or you can email the dates you will be away to whitney@tdsb.on.ca.

school dates for january

9 Monday
First Day Back to School

13 Friday, 10:30 Assembly
SPA Day

17 Tuesday
Lice Check

20 Friday
PA Day

from the principal



As I write this entry in the Whitney Word for the last time in 2016, I find it hard to believe that this year has come to an end so quickly. I could not think of a better way to end this year than with our fantastic Holiday Concert last night. What a special evening!

I would like to thank **Ms. Werbitsky** for all her efforts as well **Leslie Cauchi** and the rest of the primary staff! As well, to the parents... a huge thank you for your ongoing support. With strong leadership, organization and a whole lot of great fun, the students did an amazing job!

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the entire Whitney community a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! See you in 2017!

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.

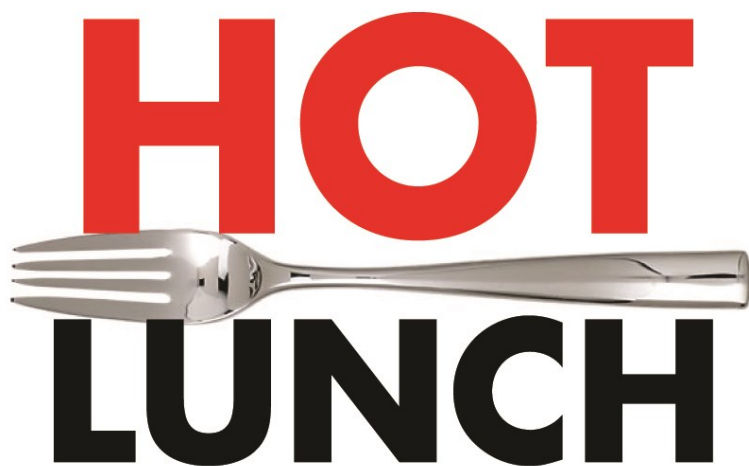
Example Only!



New for Whitney: "Houses"

As a part of our assembly on **Tuesday December 20th**, we will introduce our new "house system". We are very excited to introduce this initiative with the students where each month, during our "mind up" time, all students (grade 1-6) will meet in small groups, defined by a group colour (red, green, purple etc.) and participate in fun and cooperative activities in mixed grade groupings.

This initiative stems from our well-being surveys where almost 25% of our students indicated that they **always** worry about others making fun of them. As well, 35% of our students indicated that it is **not easy** to join a group of children when they are playing at recess or lunch. There is a growing body of research that confirms the benefits of building a sense of community in a school. It is said that students in schools with a strong sense of community are more likely to be academically motivated, act ethically and altruistically and develop social and emotional competencies. Essentially, we want all our students to learn to work cooperatively with all students, across all grades. We want to give them opportunities to meet new people and establish new relationships, break down any barriers of rumors and increase peer support.



Hot lunch forms for the winter term were due on Friday, December 16. If you missed this deadline, please turn in your completed form and cheque (can be post-dated to Jan 9, 2017) to the office as soon as possible and email [Tricia Tait](mailto:Tricia.Tait@whitney.ca) at to let her know. The form and menu can be found at lunchmom.com

Last day for hot lunch this term is Thursday, December 22nd. Hot lunch for the winter session starts Monday, January 9th. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Carmen Tang



**Reminder: Check It
Before Dec 23rd!**

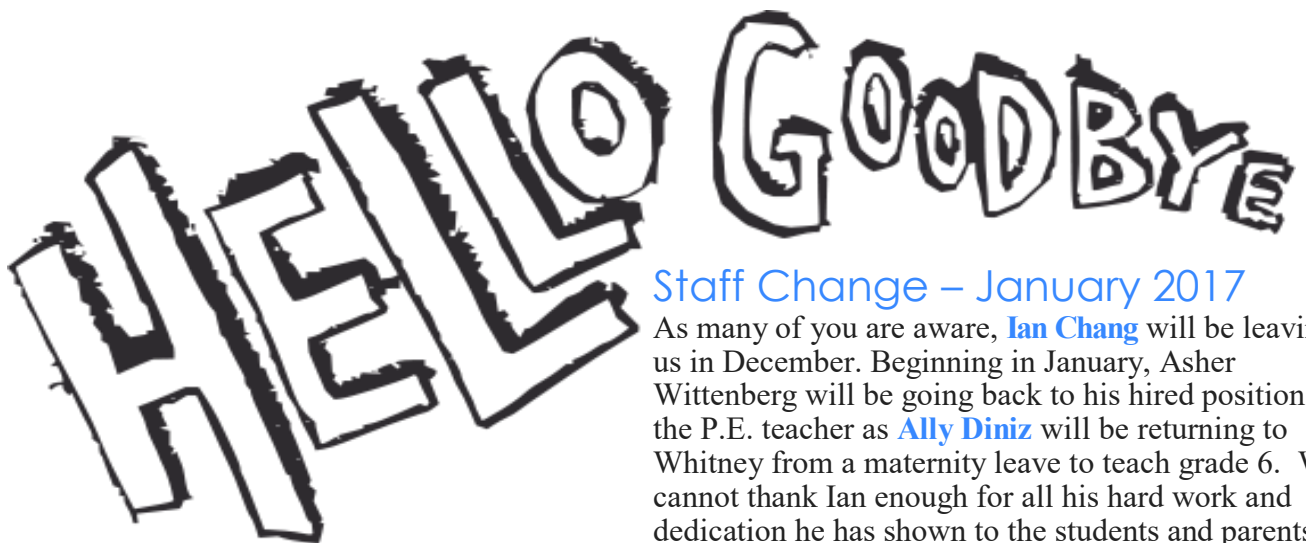


CALLING ALL NEW KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS TO WHITNEY!

If you have a child who will be entering Junior Kindergarten in September 2017 OR you are new to Whitney P.S. and just want to hear about our outstanding program for Senior Kindergarten, then this is your night! Please join us on Tuesday **January 31st, 2017** to hear about our Junior/Senior kindergarten program for next September 2017.

If you know of a neighbor with children ready for JK in September 2017 please pass on this information to them. Children who will be four years old before December 31, 2017 (born in 2013) may enter Junior Kindergarten next September 2017.

Registration will occur between February 1st and February 16th, 2017.



Staff Change – January 2017

As many of you are aware, **Ian Chang** will be leaving us in December. Beginning in January, Asher Wittenberg will be going back to his hired position as the P.E. teacher as **Ally Diniz** will be returning to Whitney from a maternity leave to teach grade 6. We cannot thank Ian enough for all his hard work and dedication he has shown to the students and parents at Whitney P.S. We wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavours!

SPA DAY

– **Friday January 13th, 2017** In January, as a part of our character education program, teachers will be recognizing students who demonstrated Kindness and Caring in the month of December. In the month of January, teachers will be talking about the elements of TEAMWORK including using the skills and strengths of all members, working toward a common goal, taking a small part in a large job and working together. Ms. Hall's grade 3 class will be leading the assembly and the spirit theme for the day is "be different" day! Show the world how "different you can be"!



Red Door

FAMILY SHELTER

*Ending family homelessness...
one family at a time*

We want to thank the entire Whitney community for your generous donations to the Red Door Shelter this year. Your donations will go a long way in supporting many families in need, so we thank you!



Many of you may know that this is not the first time we have provided support to The Red Door Shelter. Please find attached a letter from a mother who received Ms. Hall's class donations several years ago. The letter was a thank you to everyone who has ever supported this charity in the past. This mother was able to express her gratitude and so beautifully explain the impact of kindness. It is a wonderful reminder that we DO make a difference!

To the students of class 306, their parents, and their teacher

We were so shocked when we saw so many gifts brought to our home. That night I sat and stared at all the bags and gifts, boxes, I couldn't say anything or do anything, I thought a lot, and couldn't sleep that night. I want to say thank you to all the kids, their parents and teacher of Room 306 in Whitney Public School. What you did was so very thoughtful and nice. You gave my daughters and me a very special Christmas. We never received so many gifts for Christmas. It looks like our wishing list all comes true — more than I expected. It's like you moved a whole store to our home. There are no words that can express our feelings. It is so nice that so many families gave the warmth and support to people they don't even know.

I sincerely appreciate all the kids, their parents and teacher. Do you know that when you wrapped the gifts, you also wrapped hope and care inside. I felt so much support coming from everywhere. Even the next morning while walking outside, I didn't feel the cold at all, because I felt so warm inside.

We can't wait for Christmas morning to come so that my two girls and me can open all the gifts. My kids are very excited. Grace asked me, "Can I open one every day?" I said, "No, you will open your gifts on Christmas." "Then Can I open your gift now?" laughing —

For Christmas, I wanted to give my daughters so many things to make them happy, just like every other mom, but it is impossible for me to do this. Now you made that dream possible.

Merry Christmas! Ying, Lillian and Grace
Dec 21, 2007.



December 14th

This will be my last Chang's Channel message! I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of the Whitney parents for welcoming me into this very special community and for all of your support and kind words. Thank you for getting up early for practices, making arrangements for after school ones and taking time out of your busy schedules to support and cheer your kids on. It shows your kids how important they are to you and it's these small things that they will always remember.

I'm very sad to have to leave Whitney, but that only means that I really loved my time here. I am happy to have gotten to know so many wonderful children and meet so many great parents. Continue to encourage your kids to try new sports, to struggle and grow each and every day!

Mr. Chang



Girls Volleyball

There will be another Girls Volleyball tryout Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM. Please make sure that you can make it out as this will be the last tryout!

Boys Basketball

Congratulations to the boys on a successful start to the basketball season. This weeks practices will be for the Division 2 team in preparation for their league games starting in January. The Division 3 team will start their practices after the break as their tournament date will be later on.





Monday 19 — Friday 23

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9	10	11	12	13
Boys Basketball Division 2 Practice (3:30 -4:30 PM)	Girls Volleyball try-outs (7:30 - 8:30 AM) Hockey Tryout (3:30-4:30 PM)		Girls Volleyball practice (7:30 - 8:30 AM) Boys Basketball Division 2 Practice (3:30 -4:30 PM)	Boys Basketball tryout (7:30 - 8:30 AM)