



Whitney Family Newsletter

October 2, 2026

Important Dates

Oct. 3rd - DARE Dance

Oct. 5th - Oct. 19th - Stoller, Pointsetta, Wreath Fundraiser

Oct. 6th-Oct. 8th - Book Fair at Whitney

Oct 7th - Homecoming Parade at 6:30

Oct. 8th - No School - Conferences 11:30-7 (Break 3-4:30)/Clothing Swap during Conferences

Oct. 9th - No School

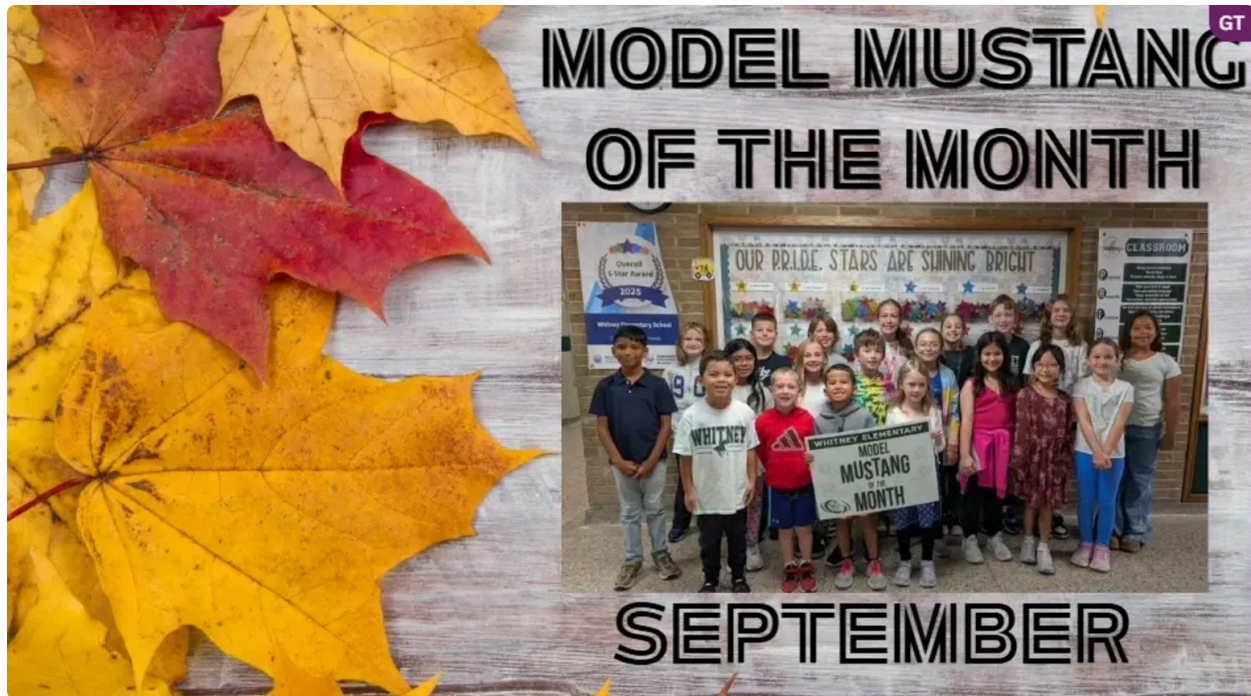
Oct. 14th - Conferences 4:45-7:45

Oct. 29th - Great & Treat at SHS

Oct. 30th - 2:15 Halloween Parade & Parties to follow

Congratulations to our September Model Mustangs of the Month!

Congratulations to our **September Model Mustang of the Month recipients!** Throughout September, we focused on **Collaboration and Respect**. These students demonstrated teamwork, listened to others, valued their classmates' ideas, and treated others with kindness. Thank you for showing PRIDE and helping make Whitney a welcoming place to learn and grow. We are proud of our Model Mustangs!



Congratulations to our September PRIDE Ticket Winners!

Congratulations to our **September PRIDE ticket winners!** These students earned PRIDE tickets by being **Prepared, Respectful, Inclusive, Determined, and Engaged**. Thank you for making positive choices and helping Whitney shine. Keep showing your Mustang PRIDE!



Candy Wars Update!



Scholastic Book Fair

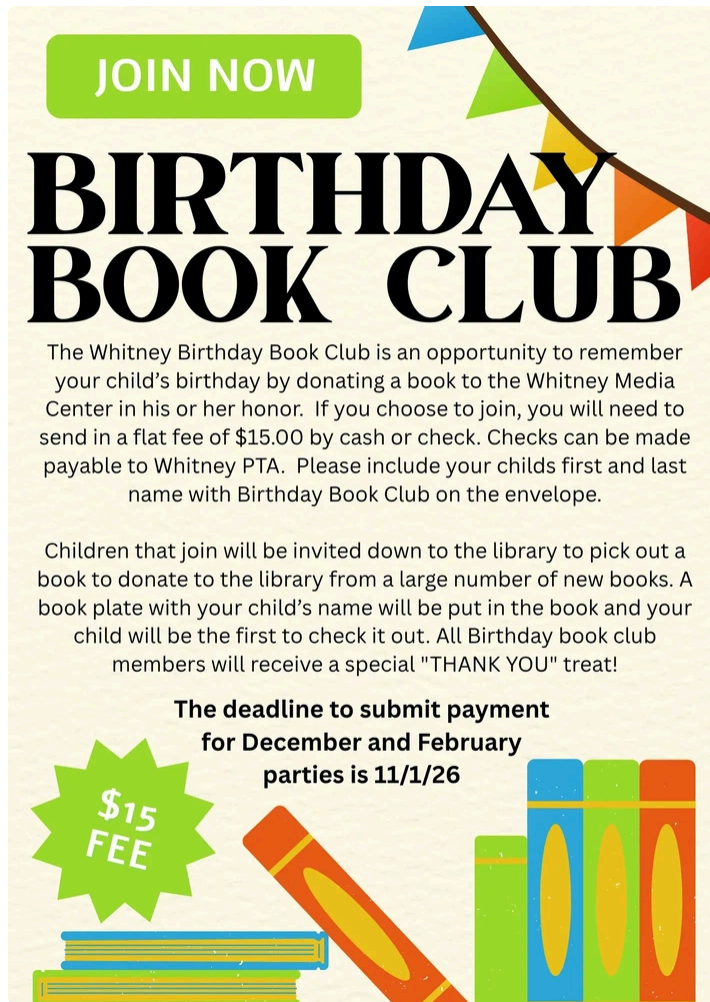
Bookfair is coming to Whitney next week! The store will also be open during all day conferences. Please sign up to help here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044CADA62DA2F85-65840985-fall>

Online store: **<https://shop.scholastic.com/parent-ecommerce/parent-store-2.html?fairId=6201394>**

Birthday Book Club

Sign Up Here



JOIN NOW

BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB

The Whitney Birthday Book Club is an opportunity to remember your child's birthday by donating a book to the Whitney Media Center in his or her honor. If you choose to join, you will need to send in a flat fee of \$15.00 by cash or check. Checks can be made payable to Whitney PTA. Please include your child's first and last name with Birthday Book Club on the envelope.

Children that join will be invited down to the library to pick out a book to donate to the library from a large number of new books. A book plate with your child's name will be put in the book and your child will be the first to check it out. All Birthday book club members will receive a special "THANK YOU" treat!

The deadline to submit payment for December and February parties is 11/1/26

\$15 FEE

The graphic features a green button with 'JOIN NOW', a string of colorful triangular flags, a green starburst with '\$15 FEE', and illustrations of books and a pencil.

Attendance Law Changes

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Effective September 30, 2025, the State of Ohio updated its school attendance laws. As required by state law, all Ohio school districts, including Strongsville City Schools, have adopted policies and procedures to implement these changes beginning with the 2026–2027 school year.

One of the most significant changes is that school districts are now required to notify parents before a student reaches **5% absenteeism (7-8 days)**, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. This early notification requirement is intended to encourage proactive communication and collaboration between schools and families before attendance becomes a more significant concern.

At Strongsville City Schools, we place a high value on consistent student attendance and appreciate the efforts families make to ensure their children come to school ready to learn each day. Your partnership is essential to your child's academic growth, social development, and overall success.

When students are absent, they miss more than assignments. They also miss classroom discussions, collaborative learning experiences, teacher feedback, hands-on activities, and meaningful interactions with their peers. Many of these learning opportunities can only occur through active participation in the classroom and cannot be fully recreated outside of school.

It is also important to understand that Ohio law distinguishes between **Chronic Absenteeism** and **Habitual Truancy**. **Chronic Absenteeism (Includes All Absences)**

- Defined as missing 10% or more of the required school hours during a school year.
- Includes all absences, whether excused or unexcused.
- Missing approximately two school days per month may result in a student being identified as chronically absent by the end of the school year.

Habitual Truancy (Unexcused Absences Only)

- 30 or more consecutive hours of unexcused absences.
- 42 or more hours of unexcused absences in one school month.
- 72 or more hours of unexcused absences during a school year.

It is important to note that receiving a notification regarding 5% absenteeism does **not** mean your child has violated attendance laws or is considered truant. Rather,

it is an early communication required by Ohio law to help keep families informed and to encourage collaboration before attendance concerns become more significant.

If your family is experiencing circumstances that make regular school attendance difficult, we encourage you to contact your child's principal, school counselor, or attendance office as early as possible. Our goal is to work together with families to identify supports, remove barriers to attendance whenever possible, and help every student experience success in school.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education. By working together to promote regular attendance, we can maximize every student's opportunity for academic achievement, meaningful relationships, and a positive school experience.

DARE Dance Tomorrow, October 3rd



STRONGSVILLE DARE
in partnership with Council PTA

Halloween Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
STRONGSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 5	GRADES 6-8
4-6 PM	7:30-9:30 PM

TICKETS SOLD ONLINE ONLY!
\$15 (EARLY BIRD) / \$20 (AFTER 9/27)

- FREE pizza, snacks & drinks included!
- Students encouraged to dress up with prizes for BEST COSTUME, GROUP & MAKEUP!
- Bring a box of mac-n-cheese for Strongsville Food Bank for a raffle ticket to win awesome prizes!
- Enjoy fun games, music & dancing!

  **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  

Arrival Time for Walkers and Car Drop-Offs

Dear Whitney Families,

For the safety of our students, **children may not arrive at school before 8:45 a.m.** This includes students who walk to school and those who are dropped off by car.

We have had students arrive as early as 8:30 a.m. and play on the sidewalk near the entrance. **There are no adults outside supervising until we open the doors at 8:50 a.m.** Please ensure your child does not arrive early or play near the entrance while waiting.

Please plan your morning drop-off or your child's walk to school so they arrive no earlier than 8:45 a.m.

Thank you for helping us keep all Whitney students safe!

Birthday Treats

If you send in birthday treats, the packaging must clearly state **"Made in a Peanut Free Facility."** Please refer to the Walmart example for acceptable packaging.

We encourage families to celebrate with **non-food items**, such as stickers, pencils, or bookmarks—fun options that students love!

Thank you for helping us keep celebrations safe and inclusive for all students.



Strongsville Homecoming Parade - October 7th

Join us for the **Strongsville Homecoming Parade on October 7th at 6:30 p.m.!** Students in **grades 3–5** are invited to walk with Whitney's float and show their school spirit.

All participating students must be accompanied by an adult. Students may not be dropped off at this event.

If you plan to walk in the parade, please **plan to park around 5:15 p.m.**, as roads will begin closing. We look forward to celebrating with our Whitney families!



Picture Retake Day

Here's a quick guide to how retakes work:

1. Student was absent on the original picture day

No worries! Any student can have their picture taken on retake day. An online ordering site will be available at cavanaughphoto.com/order for parents who need to place an order. If parents already placed an order before picture day, that order will still be honored and it is in our system. They will not need to place another order.

2. Student had pictures taken but would like a retake AND they purchased pictures

Students need to return the original picture packet that was ordered. If only a hi-res digital file was purchased, parents need to send a note letting us know. A new package cannot be printed or a digital image reordered until the original packet and note is returned. The retake pictures will be delivered three weeks after retake day.

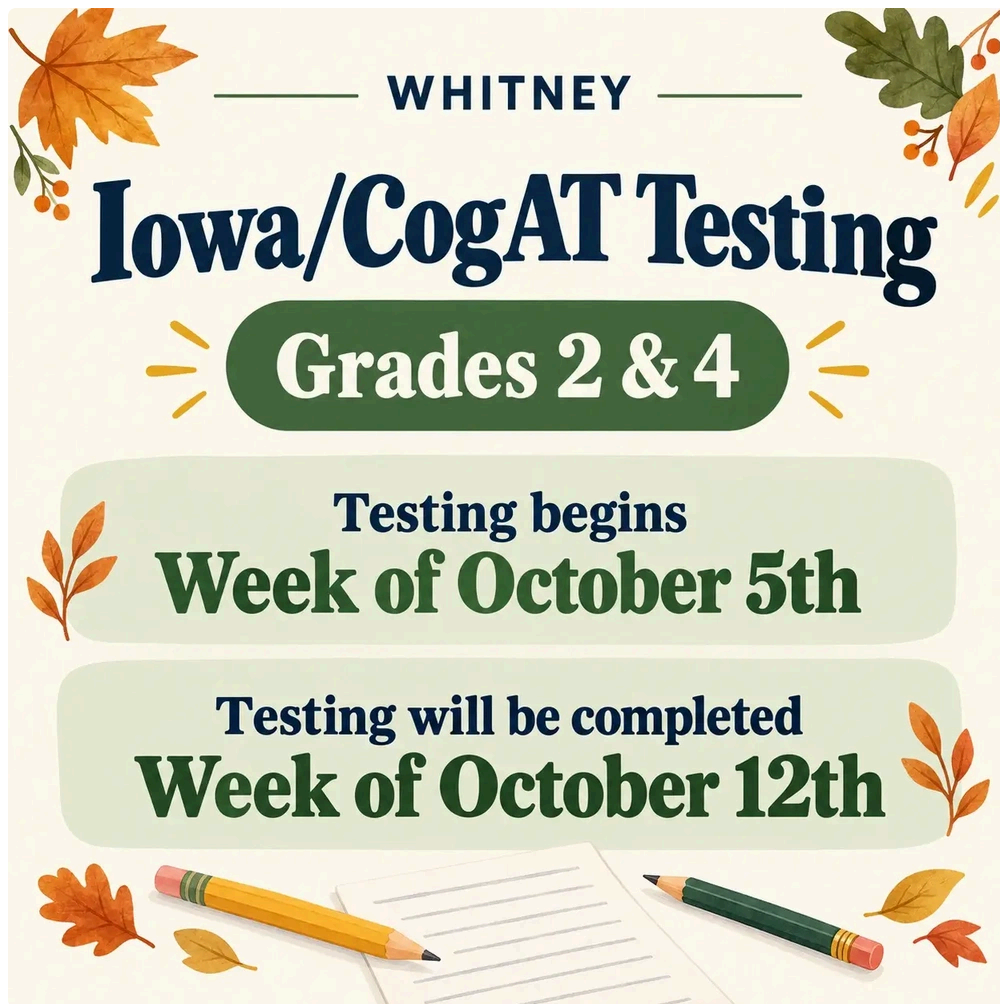
3. Student did not place an order but would like a retake

No problem! Teachers can send/bring their students down for a retake. We advise parents to let the teacher know that the student would like a retake since nothing is returned with the student. If no order was placed for the retake photos, a proof will be delivered with the retake photos.

Pictures stay online until June 30, 2027 and if a student has a retake, both photos are put in their online gallery. Parents can go online with their student's school ID at any time and purchase photos.



Iowa & Cogat Testing Beginning the Week of Oct. 5th



Parent Teacher Conferences: Oct. 8th & 14th



Whitney Clothing Swap - Oct. 8th



Stoller Fundraiser is Back!

Famous Butter Braids, Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough, Cake Rolls & MORE!

It's hard to believe the holidays are just around the corner! And what better way to get ready than with some delicious treats while supporting a great cause?

Our **Stoller Fundraiser** will kick off **Monday, October 5th**, with delivery just in time for the holidays!

Orders will be accepted through October 19th. Delivery/Pick-Up: November 12th from 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Seller registration and online ordering:

<https://portal.myfundraisingplace.com/register-seller/6b8103d7-3759-4282-8185-90e84cfc8cf2>

Questions or having trouble with your order? Please reach out to me at **adonnellan5@yahoo.com** and I'll be happy to help! Thank you for supporting our fundraiser and helping make it a success!

Happy fundraising & happy baking!



WHITNEY

STOLLER FUNDRAISER IS BACK!

Butter Braids • Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough
Cake Rolls & **MORE!**

Just in time for the holidays!

Starts
October 5th

Order through
October 19th

Delivery / Pick-Up
November 12th
4:00–5:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact
adonnellan5@yahoo.com

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

Save the Date: SCS Greet & Treat - Oct. 29th!



Flyers

Kemper House Greet and Treat - Oct. 28th



Strongsville Competition Cheer Spirit Wear Sale

Show your Strongsville pride and support the **Strongsville Competition Cheer Squad** with our Spirit Wear Sale!

Not all items are cheer-specific, so there are plenty of options you can wear to **school, sporting events, or other activities** throughout the year!

Important: The order form asks for a cheerleader's name. If you are not ordering through a specific cheerleader, simply enter the **school building your student attends or you work at**, so we can make sure your order is delivered to you.

A portion of the proceeds will go directly back to the **Strongsville Competition Cheer Team** as they work toward their goal of competing at **Nationals this season!**

Shop, show your Mustang spirit, and help support our team!



★

STRONGSVILLE MUSTANGS

SPIRIT WEAR

T-Shirts • Hoodies • Sweatshirts

★

A PORTION OF THE EACH ITEM SOLD WILL GO TOWARDS HELPING THE COMPETITION TEAM RAISE MONEY TO ATTEND UCA NATIONALS








Scan the QR code to browse available items and place your order.



www.mandyjevansdesigns.com

ORDER WINDOW:
ORDER BY OCTOBER 15TH
 Times will be communicated for pick up at SHS

★

Please contact Coach Kelly DuPlaga (kduplaga@scsmustangs.org) or Jen Orlosky (jorlosky@scsmustangs.org) with any questions

All proceeds are managed by the Strongsville Athletic Boosters. This event has no affiliation to Strongsville City School District. This event is solely coordinated and promoted by the Strongsville High School Wrestling team in conjunction with the Strongsville Athletic Boosters.

Your Squishy Hutning Ends Here!

Tired of searching for Needoh's? The Strongsville Education Foundation has put together an amazing Needoh Raffle Basket featuring 13 Needoh's!

HERE'S WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Cloud Pleaser
Sploot Splat
Color Change Cube
Color Change
Jelly Squish
Snowball Crunch
Dohnut
Nice Cube
Gumdrop
Squeezza
Dream Drop
Teenie Funky Pup
Teenie Fuzz Ball

\$10 per entry

Winner drawn November 1! Winner will be announced right here on the **Strongsville Education Foundation Facebook page!** Even better, **all proceeds benefit the students and staff of the Strongsville City School District!**

13 Needohs. 1 lucky winner. \$10 to enter.

Stop the squishy search and enter for your chance to take home the whole collection!



Reflections Art Club

New this year, we are excited to open our Reflections Art Club meetings to SMS students as well! The club will now be open to students in grades 3-8.

Our first meeting is right around the corner - Thursday, September 24 - from 6:15–7:30 PM at the Strongsville Public Library.

Please RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/TyTTmEKxm7J7QiDA7>

Students are welcome to attend one meeting or all of them whatever works best for their schedule!

STRONGSVILLE PTA COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO OUR K-8

REFLECTIONS ART CLUB

2026-2027

 **Explore the PTA Reflections Art Program!**
Each meeting highlights one of the six art categories—come to any or all!

You don't have to attend the sessions to submit a piece for the art show. Create your masterpiece at home around this year's theme:
"What My Culture Means To Me."

Then showcase your creation at the
 **Reflections Art Show December 12th at the Strongsville Library!**

MEETING TIMES

Sept. 24, 2026	6:15 - 7:30
Oct. 28, 2026	6:15 - 7:30
Nov. 12, 2026	6:15 - 7:30
Nov. 23, 2026	6:15 - 7:30
Dec. 2, 2026	6:15 - 7:30
Dec. 12 Art Show!	10:30am- 1:30pm

**All meetings are held at the Strongsville Library*

PLEASE RSVP HERE





Strongsville is Ready for Liftoff!

Mad Science® Presents:
NASA: Academy for Future Space Explorers
 @ Ernfelt Recreation Center

Children will be taken on a voyage of space discovery through hands-on activities, amazing demonstrations and take-home experiments with each class. Explore the moon and planets; including Earth's own atmosphere and other space phenomena. Learn what it's like to travel and live in space and investigate the forces of flight by building your own ROCKET!

Class Topics Include:
 Rocket Science
 Space Travel
 Space Technology
 Living in Space
 Sun and Stars
 Planets and Moons

Dates: 6 Wednesdays
 September 30, October 7, 21, 28
 November 4, 11
 No Class: October 14
 Time: 5:45 – 6:45 PM
 Grades: K - 5
 Resident Member: \$140
 Resident Non-member: \$146
 Non-Resident: \$152

Follow Mad Science of Northeast Ohio on Facebook and Instagram!

[Click Here For More Information or to Register](#)

Mad Science BRIXOLOGY®:
Carnivals, Crawlers and Other Creations
 @ Ernfelt Recreation Center

Join us for the journey through this exciting STEM series that utilizes LEGO® bricks to introduce children to engineering in a fun and engaging way! Each week combines an in-class build created by a LEGO® Certified Designer with a related take-home item that allows the creativity to continue at home!

Our instructors undergo BCI/FBI background checks.

Class topics include:
 Towers
 Carnivals
 Machines
 Creatures

Dates: 4 Wednesdays
 November 18, December 2, 9, 16
 No Class: November 25
 Times: 5:45 – 6:45 PM
 Grades: K - 5
 Resident Member: \$99
 Resident Non-member: \$106
 Non-Resident: \$112

MADSCIENCE © 2022 Mad Science Licensing Inc. All rights reserved. MAD SCIENCE is a trademark owned by Mad Science Licensing Inc. and is used under license.



YOUTH SOCCER CLINIC

FOR BOYS & GIRLS **ALL AGES**

Anyone is welcome to come out for an exciting day of soccer as the Oberlin Women's Soccer Team takes on Mt. Union! Stay after the match for a **FREE** youth clinic where players will have the opportunity to train with our USSF-registered scholar-athletes, build their skills, learn new techniques, and most importantly - have fun!

It's a great chance for young players to experience the college game up close, connect with collegiate athletes, and enjoy a memorable day on the field. We can't wait to see you there!

SEPTEMBER 26th
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
GAME CONCLUDES

200 Woodland St., Oberlin, OH 44071



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!

PINEWOOD DERBY - CAMPING - CANOEING - ARCHERY

YMCA Adventure Programs:
(Formerly Indian Guides & Indian Princesses)

DAD & KIDS FUN !

Get to know your kid while they're still a kid.

- For Dads (or father figures) + kids age 5 through 4th grade
- Three signature camps each year + year-round events (see back of flyer)
- Low commitment —only come to the events that fit your life
- YMCA membership is not required

Your time is the best thing you can spend on your kids !




Signup Today!




Join us at our Free Recruiting Rally !

September 20th 6-8PM
North Royalton YMCA
11409 State Rd

- *Jungle Bob* Animal Show
- Inflatables
- Cotton Candy & more!

HALLOWEEN & CHRISTAS PARTIES - PARADES - CAMPFIRES - DANCES

SLEDDING - BOWLING - PINBALL - HIKING - SKATING - WATERPARKS

You are not alone. ♥
SUPPORT. HEALING. HOPE.

13477 Prospect Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44149
Suite 214

Please contact Carrie Jancar
216-299-1978
cjancar@scsmustangs.org

Supporting parents and children
through every step of the journey.

Girls Group
Supporting confidence, resilience,
and self-acceptance in
girls ages 9–12.
SATURDAYS
10:00–11:15 AM

Boys Group
Supporting confidence, resilience,
and self-acceptance in
boys ages 9–12.
SATURDAYS
11:30 AM–12:45 PM

Parent Support Group
Supporting parents and
helping children thrive.
THURSDAYS
6:15–7:15 PM

Together, we can heal, together, we can grow.
♥ ALL ARE WELCOME. ♥

Repeat Information

Shared Food Guidelines

Shared Food Letter

Shared Food Guidelines

Join the Whitney PTA!

