

Whittier Newsletter

Whittier Minneapolis Kids October 2016

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Minneapolis Kids

Minneapolis Community Education

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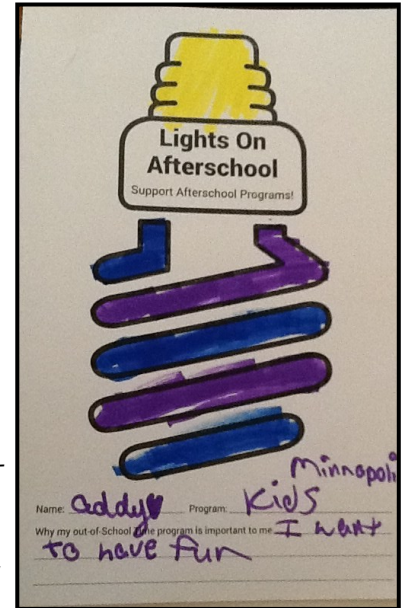
Lights Off Dance Party for Lights On Afterschool!!

In communities today, 15.1 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning. That's why on Tuesday the 18th, we joined 8,000 after school programs in celebrating Lights On Afterschool. This event, coordinated by the Afterschool Alliance, draws attention to afterschool programs and encourages people to continue supporting them as a valuable resource.

At our party, we turned down the lights and turned up the music! We had dancing, karaoke, snacks, party hats, prizes, jewelry, and best of all, glowsticks!

We also colored sheets like the one to the right that celebrate why we love our afterschool program, and played games both indoors and outside.

Thank you to all of our families for your enthusiastic support of Minneapolis Kids, both before and after school!



Meet Our Staff: Ms. Shellee Laudert

Shellee has been with Whittier Minneapolis Kids since April of last year, but she's a veteran at working with kids. She loves to lead long-term crafts like dollhouses and giant paper banners. She is also our resident fish expert and always makes sure our animals are well cared-for and happy. She loves country music and Chinese food.



Students teaching each other to play chess



Kids Welcome:

Before School 6:30—9:30 am

After School 4:00—6:00 pm

Non School Day
6:30 am—6:00 pm

What did we do in October?

October was Nature month here at Whittier, and we spent as much time outside as possible before it gets cold! We went on walks, played Bingo, held scavenger hunts, and made lots of art with the things we found outside.

In October, we also had our first non-school days at Lyndale. We continued our celebration of nature with rice krispy leaves and opening up a pumpkin to see what the insides looked like, and we also got to visit Gale Woods Farm and feed all the animals! On

Friday of our break, we had a fall festival with minute to win it-style games and apple tasting for snack. We had a great time reuniting with our friends at Lyndale!

Our wonderful students also earned a dance party in October, which was combined with our Lights On Afterschool party. They earned this by filling up the jar of pom-poms that sits near Hannah's desk. The group can earn a pom-pom by cleaning up and following directions, and individuals can earn them for good deeds too!



Left: Daily DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read)



Right: Members of the Star Wars club make puppets of their favorite characters

Important Upcoming Dates

Non School Day Sign-Up is OPEN NOW! Register online or call the office to sign up.

November 3: Pokémon Day- Come catch 'em all with us as we make crafts, play games, and maybe even find some Pokémon around the school!

November 4: Field Trip to Crayola Experience– we'll make our own crayons and explore history and art at the Mall of America!

November 8: **Voting Day!** For information on your polling place, visit vote.minneapolismn.gov. Minneapolis voters will be asked to renew the school district's current operating referendum authorization, which expires after the 2016-17 school year. If passed, funding would help Minneapolis Public Schools manage class sizes and provide supportive services and activities for students. Property taxes are not projected to increase if the referendum renewal passes. Learn more at www.mpls.k12.mn.us/referendum2016.

November 23 : Pajama Day– You bring the pajamas, we'll bring the popcorn and a movie!

Our Mission: To provide high quality school age child care for families. We offer a safe, nurturing, educational and recreational experience where children are encouraged to pursue interests and develop friendships, independence, and confidence.