



For Immediate Release: February 11, 2025

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Rochester Students Get Up Close Experience Inside a Whale

Who:

Students and staff at Ida B. Wells-Barnett Elementary School No. 34
Cynde McInnis, The Whalemobile

What:

Visit from the Whalemobile

When:

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Where:

Ida B. Wells-Barnett Elementary School No. 34
530 Lexington Avenue
Rochester, NY 14613

Details:

On Thursday, February 13, Ida B. Wells-Barnett Elementary School No. 34 will host an unforgettable adventure. The Whalemobile, featuring a life-size, 40-foot inflatable whale, will provide students with an immersive way to grasp the sheer scale of these magnificent marine mammals. The Whalemobile’s Cynde McInnis will discuss her experiences as a whale researcher with students using video and photographs. McInnis has led approximately 2,000 whale watch trips and has taught tens of thousands of people about whales and the threats they face in our oceans today. Students will learn about the biology of whales, the ecology of where they live, and the food chains that feed them.

By Thursday, February 13, the Whalemobile will have visited John Williams School No. 5, Roberto Clemente School No. 8, Dr. David and Ruth Anderson Academy School No. 16, Nathaniel Hawthorne School No. 25, Ida B. Wells-Barnett Elementary School No. 34, and The Flower City School No. 54. After these appearances at six RCSD schools, more than 2,600 students will have benefited from this unique learning opportunity, made possible through the generosity of the Rochester Education Foundation’s (REF) Smile Program, which supports PreK – 6 schools throughout the District. The Smile Program, created by local philanthropist Dave Beck, funds field trips and experiences that deliver a well-rounded education and put smiles on students’ faces.

Founded in 2005, REF’s mission is to provide programs and resources to improve learning and success for all City of Rochester students through partnerships with educators, businesses, and the community. For more information, visit www.rochestereducation.org