

# WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## FAMILY NEWSLETTER

April 5, 2024

Hello, Bobcat Families!

It was so wonderful to see the elementary building full of life again after having the past week off. It's always a joy when the hustle and bustle of students and staff back in the building resumes! I hope you all were able to enjoy some much-needed rest and relaxation (and loads of fun) with your family and friends.

With the beginning of the 4th quarter, we are entering the home stretch! This last quarter always seems to fly by and be filled with so many activities. Please check out the "Important Dates" section at the bottom and keep reading the teacher newsletters.

### **Great American Eclipse!**

Monday, April 8th we will be dismissing at 10:55 in order for students to get home in time to fully and safely enjoy the solar eclipse. The students have been learning about the eclipse and some teachers have been able to send glasses home with their students.

Here is some great information from NASA about the eclipse. This will be such a memorable experience for all of us. Please enjoy safely! Click here to learn more from the NASA website and watch live coverage: <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>

### **What to Expect**

**The April 8, 2024, eclipse will be a total solar eclipse. It will be the last total solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044.**

A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. People viewing the eclipse from locations where the Moon's shadow completely covers the Sun – known as the path of totality – will experience a total solar eclipse. The sky will darken, as if it were dawn or dusk. Weather permitting, people along the path of totality will see the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, which is usually obscured by the bright face of the Sun.

### **Safety**

**Except during the brief total phase of a total solar eclipse, when the Moon completely blocks the Sun's bright face, it is not safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing.**

Viewing any part of the bright Sun through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury. When watching the partial phases of the solar eclipse directly with your eyes, which happens before and after totality, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses ("eclipse glasses") or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times. You can also use an indirect viewing method, such as a pinhole projector.

### **Timing**

The eclipse will begin at approximately 1:55 depending on your location. Totality will take place between 3:10-3:15. During totality is the only safe time to take off the glasses, which is only a very brief time. The eclipse will end at approximately 4:25.



Wishing you well,

*Mrs. Anderson*

Marcy Anderson  
Elementary Principal

### **FLOWER SALES:**

The fourth grade flower sale letters and order forms (also attached below) were sent home with all fourth graders, plus it is posted on Facebook and the Whiteford webpage. If you are interested in ordering, please do so by Friday, April 19. The pickup day is Thursday, May 9 from 8am to 6pm in the elementary parking lot. The flower sale helps fourth graders offset the cost of fifth grade camp next fall. The beautiful flowers are sold through Ottawa Lake's Lievens Farms and many look forward to this event every year.

### **MSTEP TESTING**

We will begin our state testing the week of April 15. Grades 3, 4, and 5 will each take the math and language arts portion of the test. 5th grade will also take a science and social studies portion. We discuss with the students how these tests are a celebration of their learning. We encourage them to try their best, but do not want to cause them any stress or anxiety over these tests. There are breaks throughout the test and the good thing is, very little homework during the testing window. :) This is a valuable check in to see how students are doing and what we as educators can do to best meet their needs. You can help during these weeks by making sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a nutritious breakfast.

### **WPA READ-A-THON**

We are so proud of all of our amazing readers at Whiteford Elementary School! If your student has not turned in their read-a-thon pledge money yet, please do so by Thursday, April 11th. Thanks to everyone who participated and/or donated to such a great cause! We love and appreciate our WPA!!!

## **ELEMENTARY DRESS CODE**

Here is the elementary dress code as written in our student handbook which can be found on our website:

While fashion changes, the reason for being in school does not. Students are in school to learn. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted.

If a student has selected a manner of appearance that is beyond mere freedom of expression and disrupts the educational process or presents risk to themselves or others, they may be removed from the educational setting.

The following guidelines for styles or manners of dress must be followed:

- A. All tops must have at least two inches of material on the top of their shoulders.
- B. All shorts, skirts, and dresses must be appropriate in length.
- C. Hats are to be removed as you step foot into the building or before. Hoods may not be put up to cover a student's head.
- D. Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip flops are prohibited footwear at the elementary school. Students who are representing [the school] at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other such groups.

## **KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP**

Entering kindergarten is such an exciting adventure - it's time to enroll your five or soon to be five year olds!

We are having another Round-Up Day on April 10 by appointment only. If you missed our first screening day and would like to set up an appointment, please contact Marcy Anderson at [anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us).

For your child to enter kindergarten in the fall, the following items **must** be completed at registration time, and can be accessed online here:

- Certified Copy of the Child's Birth Certificate (MUST be presented to register)
- Registration Forms Completed (available on-site and online)
- Bi-lingual Information Completed
- Medical Information Form (MUST be turned in before the start of school)
- Proof of Residency (3 types)
  - Driver's License with correct Whiteford School District address
  - Paperwork from home purchase or rental agreement/lease
  - A current utility bill, (Gas, electric or landline phone bill --- a cell phone bill will not be accepted)
- Bus Transportation Form (If Applicable)

### **Note:**

**As of March 28th, we were notified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that we do not need to require the dental screening for the 2024-25 school year. This is different information that we had at our initial kindergarten round up day on March 14. We have since found out that because it is not being offered through the Monroe County Health Department at no cost to families, we do not need to require it this school year. If you happen to get it completed by your local dentist, please drop it off in the office and we will add it to your child's records though.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

April 8	½ Day of School “Great American Eclipse” dismiss at 10:55
April 8	School Board Meeting 6pm Boardroom
April 10	State Testing, No School K-7, 12
May 2	5th Grade Field Trip: Toledo Zoo
May 6	Ag Awareness Day
May 9	Kindergarten Field Trip: Wildwood Preserve Metropark
May 10	2nd Grade Field Trip: Toledo Zoo
May 13	School Board Meeting 6pm Boardroom
May 14	5th Grade Field Trip: Sauder Village
May 17	Field Day/Carnival Day
May 21	4th Grade Field Trip: Ann Arbor Hands on Museum
May 21	WPA Meeting 6:00 pm elementary cafeteria
May 27	No School - Memorial Day
May 30	1st Grade Field Trip: Ritter Planetarium
May 31	Field Day/Carnival Day Rain Date
June 5	Half day - Dismiss at 10:55am
June 6	Last Day of School, Half day - Dismiss at 10:55am
June 10	School Board Meeting 6pm Boardroom



**FOURTH GRADE FLOWER SALE ORDER FORM**

**WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - SPRING FLOWER SALE - 2024**

Proceeds from this sale will help send our fourth grade students to Camp Michindoh next year. To order flowers, please complete the form and return to the elementary school **ALONG WITH PAYMENT by Friday, April 19, 2024**. Plants are available in full flats only. Please make checks payable to WHITEFORD Agricultural SCHOOLS. Make a copy of your order for your records. Orders **MUST** be picked up at the Whiteford Agricultural Elementary School parking lot at 6655 Consear Rd., Ottawa Lake, MI 49267 (Sylvania-Pete Rd. lot) on Thursday, May 9th from 8 AM to 6 PM. **ALL CHECKS MUST INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER.** Thank you for your support!!

PLEASE NOTE YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOUBLE CHECKING YOUR ORDER BEFORE EXITING THE PARKING LOT.

<b>Sponsored Student:</b>	<b>Customer Name:</b>	<b>Phone #:</b>
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ANNUALS - \$14.12 (tax included)			
	Number of flats		Number of flats
<b>ALYSSUM (48/flat)</b>		<b>IMPATIENS (48/flat)</b>	
White		White	
Mix		Red	
<b>BEGONIAS (48/flat)</b>		Salmon	
White (green leaves)		Violet	
Red (green leaves)		Rose	
White (dark leaves)		Mix	
Red (dark leaves)		<b>PANSY (48/flat)</b>	
<b>DUSTY MILLER (48/flat)</b>		Mix	
<b>DWARF MARIGOLD (48/flat)</b>		<b>PETUNIA (48/flat)</b>	
Mix		Mix	

GERANIUMS - \$17.72 (tax included)			
	Number of flats		Number of flats
<b>GERANIUMS (4" Cup-10/flat)</b>		<b>GERANIUMS (4" cup-10/flat)</b>	
Pink		Salmon	
Red		White	

10" HANGING BASKETS - \$15.60 (tax included)			
	Number of baskets		Number of baskets
<b>IVY GERANIUMS</b>		<b>NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS</b>	
Pink		Pink	
Red		Red	
Purple		Purple	
White		Orange	
<b>PETUNIA-MILLION BELLS</b>			
Mixed			

12" PATIO PLANTERS - \$23.02 (tax included)			
	Number of planters		Number of planters
<b>GERANIUMS</b>		<b>NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS</b>	
Pink		Pink	
Red		Red	
Fuchsia/Purple		Purple	
White		Orange	

Customer Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____

Annuals	x \$14.12=	
Geraniums	x \$17.72=	
Baskets	x \$15.60=	
Planters	x \$23.02=	

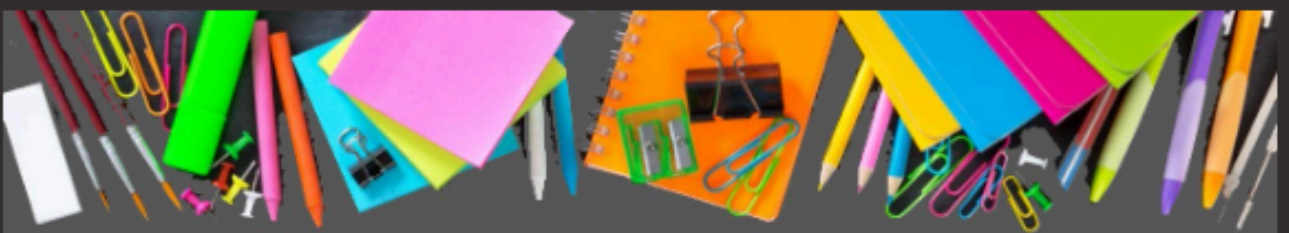
**TOTAL PREPAID ORDER**

\*\*Sales tax is included in the prices listed.

*Whiteford Schools has contracted with eCashFlow Services for the electronic collection of checks returned for insufficient funds. Should your check be returned, you expressly authorize your account to be electronically debited or bank drafted for the amount of the check plus any applicable fees. The use of a check is your acknowledgement and acceptance of this policy and you will be responsible for any and all penalties, costs and incidental damages, collection costs allowed under law, including attorney's fees, court costs, and taxes on any check that is returned. Please include the following on your check: Full Name, Street Address, Phone Number.*

**APRIL'S WPA DINE AND DONATE:**

April's Dine and Donate will be extra fun as you get the chance to play as well as eat! Funagin's will be hosting our Bobcats and their guests, so grab your friends and family and join in the fun for a very worthy cause!



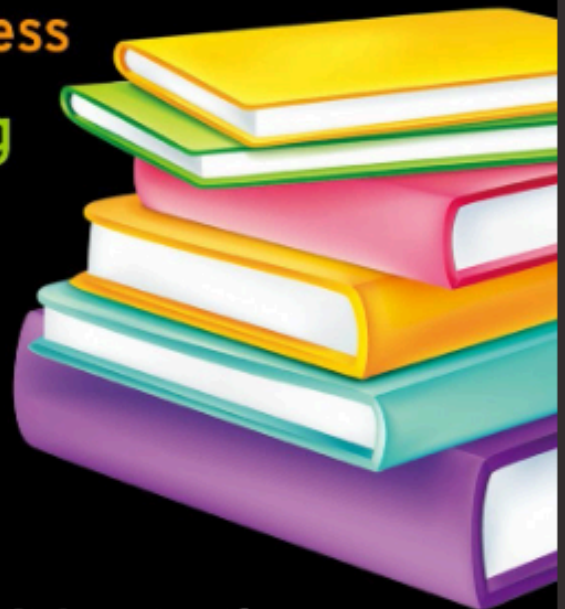
# Whiteford Bobcats

**Tuesday April 9th 6-8pm**

**\$12.99** Whiteford Bobcats Family & Friends

Concession Meals/Shacks Available for Purchase

- **Unlimited SkyMaze access**
- **Unlimited Roller Skating**
- **Unlimited Laser Tag**



5340 Centennial Rd. Sylvania, OH  
419-517-1750 | [WWW.FUNAGINS.COM](http://WWW.FUNAGINS.COM)

# Counseling Corner

Whiteford Elementary School



## Becoming a Confident Test-Taker

It's about that time of year! Testing season is quickly approaching, and educators everywhere are witnessing their students' growing nervousness, addressing hypothetical testing questions and worries, and equipping them with valuable test-taking strategies. Throughout the month, I will also be visiting each 2nd-5th grade (and even one 1st grade!) classroom for engaging activities to offer extra tips to prepare them for their tests. After all, test prep **can** be enjoyable! For those interested in extending this learning at home, here are some useful tips.

### Get Plenty of Sleep the Night Before

Numerous studies suggest that children between the ages of 6 and 12 should aim to get 9-12 hours of sleep per night. This is especially true and important the night before a big test. We want to ensure that our children are as rested and energized as possible before taking the test, so having a consistent bedtime leading up to test day can help with this structure and routine!

### Eat a Healthy Breakfast

Encourage children to choose foods that will fuel their bodies and minds to do their best work! Instead of sugary cereals or greasy bacon, consider offering eggs or a bowl of fruit. In addition to having a nutritious breakfast, ensuring proper hydration is important. Drinking cold water can also aid in concentration and promote relaxation!

### Arrive to School on Time

In addition to getting enough rest, make sure your child wakes up with plenty of time in the morning to prepare for school, ensuring they can eat a proper breakfast and arrive on time and without feeling rushed. Limiting stress on test days is crucial, so having enough time to get ready in the morning and arriving at school on time guarantees they won't miss anything if their test is scheduled early in the school day.

**For additional tips, tricks, information, and book recommendations leading up to testing day, visit my Counseling Corner Newsletters and Resources section in my Schoology group!**

### Practice Positive Self-Talk and Challenge Negative Thoughts

Believing in ourselves and our capabilities can significantly impact our performance before a big test. It's important to do our best to avoid negative thought patterns, known as thinking traps, that tend to be overly negative or unrealistic. By flipping our worry thoughts into helpful and optimistic ones, we can change our mindset in a positive way. For instance, rather than thinking, "These questions are too hard. I can't do this," you could shift your thinking to, "This test is challenging, but I've learned so much this year, and I know I can do hard things." Revisit our Counseling Corner Newsletter on Positive Self-Talk from 2/9/24 for more!

### Calm Your Nerves

Feeling nervous before a big test is normal! Despite this, it's important to be able to control those nerves so we can focus and do our best. We can learn to control these emotions by identifying these feelings in our bodies. For example, feeling worried may cause our hands to shake, our bellies to hurt, our heart to race, or our palms to get sweaty. When we notice these signs, we can help ourselves refocus by taking a quick brain break to calm our nerves. Teach your child to take calming breaths in through their nose and out through their mouth while counting to 10. Repeat this as many times as they need. To learn about additional coping skills you can help your child practice before the big day, revisit our Counseling Corner Newsletters on Coping Skills from 3/10/23 and Grounding from 3/24/23.

## SCRAP METAL FUNDRAISER



The Whiteford Track & Field scrap metal fundraiser will run from March 1st until May 1st unless donations start to run slow. The location of the scrap hopper will be posted later. Please help spread the word to help make this a successful fundraiser for our program.

- There are some rules to follow:
- No lithium batteries
- No other batteries
- No lighter switch on a gas grill
- No propane tanks
- Any container that held gas or oil needs to be cut in half so we can see that there is no fluid or gas left
- Any lawnmower needs to have ALL fluids drained.
- No electronics, televisions, or computers.
- Please do not overfill the hopper or block the door from being able to be closed