

# WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## FAMILY NEWSLETTER

February 16, 2024

Hello, Bobcat Families! As we approach President's Day, we wanted to take a moment to extend our warmest greetings to each and every one of you. This day not only commemorates the leaders who have shaped our nation's history, but also serves as a reminder of the values and principles upon which our country was founded. President's Day offers us a valuable opportunity to reflect on the ideals of leadership, unity, and service that have guided our nation throughout its history. It's a time to honor the contributions of past presidents and to celebrate the enduring spirit of democracy that they have worked tirelessly to uphold.



At Whiteford Elementary, we believe in instilling these same values in our students, teaching them the importance of leadership, integrity, and civic engagement. As we observe President's Day, we encourage you to engage in meaningful conversations with your children about the significance of this day and the legacy of our nation's leaders. Whether you're spending the day with loved ones, exploring the rich history of our country, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the freedoms we enjoy, we hope that this President's Day brings you joy, reflection, and inspiration. Thank you for being a part of our Whiteford School community, and we wish you a happy and memorable President's Day!

Wishing you well,



Scott L. Huard, Superintendent (Covering Elementary during Ms. Anderson's Medical Leave)

### **ELEMENTARY START TIMES**

With the winter months, we have seen an increase of students being tardy upon arriving at school. Those students arriving late to school miss out on all of the really important "Beginning of the Day" activities that students participate in. We are asking families to please have your student to school by the 7:40am tardy bell. The building is open beginning at 7:20am, and students can take part in the free breakfast being offered this year from 7:20-7:45am. Students are dismissed to class at 7:30am. Thank you for making adjustments in getting your student to school on time, so they don't miss the important start to their school day.

### **ELEMENTARY WEATHER-RELATED DRESS CODE**

Due to the unseasonably warm February we've had so far, there has been some confusion regarding the dress code. Please be reminded that students are not permitted to wear shorts until May 1st as there will be many more cold winter days ahead and we want to be sure that all students stay prepared and geared up for whatever the crazy Michigan weather throws our way. Thanks to all of our amazing parents/guardians who help us follow our guidelines—we appreciate your continued support!!!

### **ILLNESS & DISEASE**

We have seen an uptick of strep throat and a few issues with lice. When we are made aware of these and other communicable disease cases, the elementary office sends home a half-sheet alerting families of these cases within your child's classroom or grade-level. Teachers distribute these fliers to students that should make it home in your child's backpack. Please check your students backpack for these notices.

### **LIFETOUGH SPRING PICTURES**

Spring picture day is coming to Whiteford Elementary on Friday, February 23. Parents/guardians can pre-order pictures on [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com) with your StudentID or Picture Day ID: **EVTSHFKMQ**. You can scan the QR code to access LifeTouch. We do have hardcopy fliers in the office.



### **TEACHER TAKEDOWN**

The Student Council will be sponsoring a "Teacher Takedown" (formerly known as "Penny Wars") during the week of February 20-27, 2024. Students are invited to bring in pennies to donate for their own classroom penny collection to increase their total amount of money in their container. They may also bring in silver coins, (nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills) to put into their friends', neighbors', and family members' classroom collections. These silver coins will deduct their value amount from that classroom's total amount of pennies. Therefore, many pennies are needed to offset any tricky offender who puts silver coins into the jars! The classroom with the highest 'positive' accumulation of change will get to take over their teacher's classroom for the afternoon & will earn a special snack/afternoon of NO SCHOOL WORK! Please do NOT send in coins or bills until the week of February 20-27. If you have any questions, please contact Brianna Best at: [brianna.best@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:brianna.best@whiteford.k12.mi.us) or Linda Groch at: [groch@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:groch@whiteford.k12.mi.us).

### **NO SCHOOL - FEBRUARY 16 & 19**

As a reminder, students do not have school on Friday (2/16) due to teacher professional development, and Monday (2/19) due to President's Day. Tuesday (2/20) is an early dismissal for parent-teacher conferences.

### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

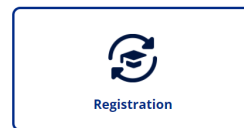
With the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, we have the opportunity for parents/guardians to meet for Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, February 20 from 12-3pm. Please look for information from your child's classroom teacher in the coming weeks about scheduling or receiving an invitation to meet. We believe parent and community support are valuable in promoting and achieving student success.

### **"MAGIC MINTS" AND "ICE PACK" SPONGE DONATIONS:**

Those of you who have students in the elementary building are probably aware of our "magic mints" (Life Savers wint-o-green) and colorful sponge "ice packs"! We are perpetually running low on both! If anyone would like to consider donating, that would be most appreciated! Large bags of the mints can be found on Amazon, small bags of the mints and the sponges are usually purchased from the dollar store, just fyi. Donations can be dropped off in the elementary main office. Thanks for your consideration! We truly appreciate our community involvement!! GO BOBCATS!!! 🍷💛🍷

## **KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP**

Mark your calendars! Registration Day for Whiteford's incoming kindergarten class for the 2024-2025 school year is March 14th, 2024, from 1pm–7pm in the elementary building. Please secure your time by signing up through the "SignUp Genius" link: [Kindergarten Registration](#). This link can also be accessed through our website: [www.whiteford.k12.mi.us](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us) by clicking on the Registration button on the home page.



Michigan State Law requires that children entering kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year must be 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the upcoming school year – September 1, 2024. The older and more mature your child is when he or she enters school, the greater the chances for academic, social, and emotional success.

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: Further clarification on the kindergarten and new first grade student dental assessment has been brought to our attention by the Monroe County Health Department. The initiative is on pause. Once we know more, we will let you know accordingly.**

## **CLOTHING LOST & FOUND**

Our clothing lost and found is growing. **Please be sure to write your child's name on a tag in these items,** so we can make sure that those clothing items can be returned to their rightful owner. Every year the lost and found pile grows out of control, and we donate items at the mid-way point and at the end of the school year to a local charity. We would much rather return these items to your children as we understand that purchasing clothing for your children is not cheap. Please mark those items!

## **5TH GRADE MINI-SOCIETY**

Our 5th graders have been working incredibly hard on their economics unit the last two months. Each student has opened a storefront and created various "goods" to sell. They will sell these goods to our students in grades KG-4th grades at our Mini Society Market Days on February 21st and February 27th. The exchange rate is \$1 U.S. dollar = \$10 mini society dollars. Please send money in a plastic baggie labeled with your child's name and teacher. Please do not send in more than \$10.

### **5TH GRADE SPELLING BEE**

Our 5th graders will be competing in the annual Spelling Bee on Tuesday, February 20 at 8:15am in the Elementary Cafeteria. The competition will narrow the field down to the top 2 spellers to move on to the Monroe County Spelling Bee. Parents and Guardians are welcome to attend.

### **5TH GRADE DARE GRADUATION**

We would like to extend an invitation to our parents and guardians to attend the 5th grade DARE Graduation on March 8th at 9am in the Elementary Cafeteria. We hope you will join us to celebrate the student's hard work and commitment to the DARE Program as we resist drugs and violence.



### **SCRAP METAL FUNDRAISER**

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

February 16	No School - Professional Development
February 19	No School - Presidents' Day
February 20-27	Elementary Student Council Fundraiser "Teacher Takedown"
February 20	5th Grade Spelling Bee 8:15am Elementary Cafeteria
February 20	Half day - Dismiss at 10:55am
February 20	Parent-Teacher Conferences 12:00-3:00pm
February 20	WPA Meeting 6:00pm Elementary Cafeteria
February 21	5th Grade Mini Society
February 23	Spring Pictures
February 27	5th Grade Mini Society
March 1	WPA Read-a-Thon Begins
March 5	Whiteford Recreation Club Meeting 7:00pm MS/HS Media Center
March 8	5th Grade Dare Graduation 9:00am Elementary Cafeteria
March 14	Kindergarten Round-Up 1:00-7:00pm
March 14	Field Trip 1st/3rd/4th: Croswell Opera House 8:45-11:45am
March 15	Field Trip KG/2nd/5th: Croswell Opera House 9-Noon
March 19	WPA meeting 6:00pm
March 22	End of Third Quarter
March 22	Half Day - Dismiss at 10:55am
March 25-29	No School - Spring Break
April 1	No School - Easter Break
April 8	School Board Meeting 6pm Boardroom
April 10	State Testing, No School K-7, 12
April 19	Safety Drill 2pm

# Teacher Takedown

Dear Grown Ups,

The Student Council will be sponsoring a "Teacher Takedown" (formerly known as "Penny Wars") during the week of **FEBRUARY 20-27, 2024**. Students are invited to bring in pennies to donate for their own classroom penny collection to **increase** their total amount of money in their container. They may also bring in silver coins, (nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills) to put into their friends', neighbors', and family members' classroom collections. These silver coins will deduct their value amount from that classroom's total amount of pennies. Therefore, many pennies are needed to offset any tricky offender who puts silver coins into the jars!

The classroom with the highest 'positive' accumulation of change will get to take over their teacher's classroom for the afternoon & will earn a special snack/afternoon of NO SCHOOL WORK!

Thank you for your participation and your support.  
Brianna Best & Linda Groch  
Student council Advisors



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



# Counseling Corner

Whiteford Elementary School

## 6 REASONS TO PRACTICE POSITIVE SELF-TALK

WWW.THEPATHWAY2SUCCESS.COM



Builds self-confidence and self-love



Teaches a meaningful coping skill



Improves perspective-taking skills



Encourages problem-solving skills



Builds perseverance and resilience



Improves attitude and motivation

## Engaging in Positive Self-Talk

Self-talk is the monologue we have with ourselves, and it can be external (the statements we speak about ourselves aloud), or it can be internal (the thoughts we think about ourselves inside our minds). We may not always be aware when we are engaging in self-talk, but we do it all day long! The messages we send ourselves can be intentional or random, and they can also be negative or positive. Negative self-talk can be harmful to our confidence, academic performance, and overall well-being. Positive self-talk is an essential coping skill that everyone can benefit from. It can help us change our perspective and enhance our confidence. The key goal of positive self-talk is to teach our minds to identify our strengths, areas for improvement, and driving forces to move forward. This approach helps people realize that their setbacks do not determine their worth, and they can overcome obstacles to reach their goals and dreams. Keep reading to learn how you can support your child in learning and practicing positive self-talk at home!

### 1 Create Awareness of Negative Self-Talk

Negative self-talk can have a significant impact on our mental health and quality of life. However, many people are unaware of the influence that it has on their thoughts and behavior. As a parent or caregiver, you can help your child recognize and overcome negative self-talk at home. Encourage them to identify and challenge negative thoughts and statements about themselves. Together, you can flip these negative thoughts into positive self-talk. For instance, if your child says, "I can't do this," suggest adding the word "yet" to the end of the sentence. This transforms the statement into "I can't do this yet!" - a positive self-talk example that can motivate them to continue to push forward. With practice, positive self-talk can become a habit and lead to a more positive mindset.

### 3 Normalize Recognizing Strengths

Children often feel like they are showing off when acknowledging their strengths or identifying their talents. However, understanding one's strengths and areas for growth is a crucial life skill that will benefit them in the long run. A simple way to develop this skill is by encouraging your child to reflect on what they appreciate about themselves regularly. Initially, you might need to help them recognize their strengths or discover their talents as they may not see them immediately. By mastering this skill, children can boost their confidence significantly and enhance both their inner and outer monologue.

### 2 Focus on Effort

Encouraging children to focus on their effort, rather than just the end result, can be highly beneficial. Whether it's a board game, sports tournament, or test grade, praising the effort they put in is more valuable than only focusing on the outcome. As adults, we understand that life doesn't always go as planned. However, it can be challenging for children to understand this when they put in a lot of effort but don't achieve the expected results. Helping them to understand that it's okay for things to go awry can have a positive impact on their internal and external conversations. Additionally, praising children's efforts encourages them to continue putting in the work and effort. This helps them activate a growth mindset!



## Whiteford Elementary School Kindergarten Round Up By Appointment Only

Elementary Cafeteria  
Wednesday, March 14 from 1pm-7pm

It is time to register your Kindergartner for the 2024-2025 school year! Your child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2024 to be eligible for kindergarten.

Please register for an appointment to enroll your incoming kindergartener for the upcoming school year! We are offering three appointments per each 15-minute time frame to allow our elementary enrollment coordinators the opportunity to review all of the papers needed.

Please bring all of the necessary paperwork to be reviewed as your child is going through the screening process with our staff. Hearing and vision tests will also be conducted for registration at this time.

Enrollment forms are available on our website, (click the link below) or can be picked up through the elementary office; 734-856-1443 ext. 110.

[Sign-Up for Kindergarten Round-Up](#)

[New Student Enrollment Documents](#)

Please bring the following documents to registration:

\*Original Birth Certificate

\*Immunization Records

\*Proof of Residency (3 types are required; driver's license must match Whiteford residency, home owners or renters proof, and current utility bill.)

Please call or email Mrs. Anderson, elementary principal, if you have any questions; 734-856-1443 ext. 104 [anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us)

Lifetouch

# SPRING PICTURE DAY IS COMING!

## PICTURE DAY IS:

EL DÍA DE LA FOTO ES:

Friday, February 23, 2024  
viernes, 23 de febrero, 2024

Whiteford Elementary School

Pre-order on  
**mylifetouch.com**

with your Student ID or Picture Day ID: **EVTSHFKMQ**  
or choose a package below and fill out your order form.

Encarga de manera anticipada hoy en mylifetouch.com con tu ID de estudiante o la ID del Día de la Foto. O elija un paquete a continuación y complete su formulario de pedido.



Exclusive discounts online!  
¡Descuentos en línea exclusivos!

Scan to order now!  
¡Echa un vistazo para encargar ahora!

### 1 Choose a Package

Elige un paquete

#### Prints, Digital Images & Enhancements

Impresiones, Imágenes Digitales y Mejoras

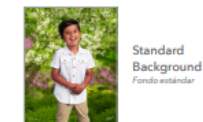
<b>A. Premium</b> \$74.99	<p>2 - 8x10 4 - 5x7 4 - 3x5 12 - 2x3</p>	<b>Shutterfly Digital Image*</b> with background choice — Includes Bonus Items — Name and Grade On All Pictures AND Premium Retouching  Removes blemishes plus whitens teeth and evens skin tone
<b>B. Plus</b> \$54.99	<p>1 - 8x10 4 - 5x7 2 - 3x5 8 - 2x3</p>	<b>Shutterfly Digital Image*</b> with background choice — Includes Bonus Items — Name and Grade On All Pictures AND Basic Retouching  Removes blemishes
<b>Digital Only</b> ONLINE ONLY	2 Shutterfly Digital Images* one with background choice one with standard background	— Includes Bonus Items — Includes Enhancements: Name & Grade on All Pictures Premium Retouching
<b>C. Standard</b> \$32.99	1 - 8x10 4 - 5x7 2 - 3x5 8 - 2x3  Shutterfly Digital Image* with standard background	Name & Grade On All Pictures not included, available as an Add-On Retouching not included, available as an Add-On
<b>D. Basic</b> \$16.99	2 - 5x7 2 - 3x5 4 - 2x3  Shutterfly Digital Image* with standard background	Name & Grade On All Pictures not included, available as an Add-On Retouching not included, available as an Add-On

#### Choose your Background

Elige tu fondo

Image Code

More backgrounds & options available online!  
¡Mas fondos y opciones disponibles en línea!



### 2 Choose your Add-Ons

Elige tus complementos

#### More Add-Ons & Special Offers available online!

¡Mas complementos y ofertas especiales disponibles en línea!

- E. 8 - 2x3 Wallets **\$14.99**
- F. 4 - 3x5 **\$14.99**
- G. 2 - 5x7 **\$14.99**
- H. 1 - 8x10 **\$14.99**

- I. Designer Magnets **\$14.99**  
Imanes de diseño

- J. Teal Arch 2-5x7 Prints **\$14.99**  
Impresión Arco Azul 2 de 5x7

- K. Variety Magnets **\$14.99**  
Imanes variados

#### Lifetouch + Shutterfly

\*Your Lifetouch digital images will be delivered to your Shutterfly account. New users will need to create an account. You'll be notified when your images are ready to view, download & share.

- Physical Prints Delivered to Home or School
- Digital Image Delivered via Shutterfly

5003444 Questions? Contact our Help Center at [lifetouch.com/support-us](http://lifetouch.com/support-us). Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.

¿Preguntas? Comunícate con nuestro Centro de Ayuda en [lifetouch.com/support-us](http://lifetouch.com/support-us). Selecciona Fotografía Escolar K-12 para recibir asistencia. When you pay by check, you authorize us to process the payment as a check transaction, or to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your checking account. A service fee may be charged on returned checks. Post-dated checks are not accepted. By completing and submitting this order form, you are agreeing to all of Lifetouch's terms and conditions located at [www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions](http://www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions) and to our privacy policy located at [www.lifetouch.com/privacy](http://www.lifetouch.com/privacy). Cuando pagas con cheque, nos autorizas a procesar el pago como una transacción mediante cheque o a usar la información de tu cheque para realizar una transferencia electrónica de fondos desde tu cuenta de cheques por única vez. Por cheques rechazados se podrá aplicar un cargo. No se aceptan cheques de pago diferido. Al completar y enviar este formulario de pedido, aceptas todas las condiciones de Lifetouch ubicadas en [www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions](http://www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions) y nuestra política de privacidad ubicada en [www.lifetouch.com/privacy](http://www.lifetouch.com/privacy).





The Croswell is excited For Whiteford to join us soon  
for...



**Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 9:45 a.m.**  
&  
**Friday, March 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

#### **About the Show:**

CJ is reluctantly staying with his Nana in a world considerably different from the one he is used to. Usually he is stuck in his phone or tablet but his extremely over the top Nana drags him on a bus ride to travel through her neighborhood. The bus is loud, gritty and weird, but guided by his veritable force-of-nature Nana, CJ travels a little closer to his roots and sees that things are not always what they seem. Get ready for this eclectic, hip hop journey.

#### **What to Expect:**

Students will arrive at the Croswell Opera and will be escorted by staff to their seats. Depending on what day your student is coming, the show will begin either at 9:45 or 10:00 a.m. The run time is approximately 1 hour long. After the performance, students will be escorted back to their buses to return to Whiteford.

#### **Audience Expectations:**

If this will be your first time seeing a theater performance, below are general theater etiquette and guidelines.

- Arrive early so you can be seated while the lights are up
- Listen quietly and pay attention. Sit forward in your seat. Express appreciation through clapping at appropriate times such as the end of a scene
- Plan to use the restroom before sitting down as it can be distracting to the actors to leave in the middle of a performance
- No outside food or drinks. For our Daytime Performances, concessions is closed
- Do not put your feet on the seats

**We can't wait to see you in March!**

**NEW 'LUNCH WITH MOLLY' DATE COMING UP THIS MONTH:**

A large, white cow mascot with black spots, wearing a pink polka-dot headband and a pink polka-dot apron with a purple ruffled collar. The mascot is standing in a school cafeteria, holding a young girl in a white shirt and blue jeans. In the background, other children are sitting at tables.

# **LUNCH**

With

# **MOLLY**

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Whiteford Elementary Cafeteria**

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Molly will be with us for all three lunch periods  
She will be handing out hugs, high fives, bookmarks, and of  
course a yummy treat.

**Come visit with Molly and learn the importance  
of Calcium and sample a delicious, calcium  
rich treat!**

