

WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

February 9, 2024

Hello, Bobcat Families! At Whiteford Elementary, we focus on School-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (SW-PBIS). Our Behavioral Interventionist, Mrs. Mariann Hillard, supports all students, classrooms, and teachers in living out our Bobcat mantra of being SAFE, being KIND, being RESPECTFUL, and being RESPONSIBLE! We strive to promote these qualities each day in all areas of our school. We work to create and develop

relationships with students and families, and we take our partnership in raising successful, productive, contributing members of society very seriously. We understand that our young students do not always live out this mantra, so we have support in place to allow students to reflect and correct negative behaviors. To support our mantra in showing KINDNESS, our Bobcats and staff celebrated KINDNESS by sharing a fist-bump with our friends this morning. It was stressed that we would NEVER use our fist to punch, hit, slap, or hurt others, but rather, use our fist to bump another as an act of KINDNESS and TOGETHERNESS. It was a FIST-BUMP FRIDAY!



STAFFING UPDATE - SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

This week, our new Speech & Language Pathologist, Mrs. Alisha Hixson, started at Whiteford Schools. Mrs. Hixson is replacing Mrs. Krea, who resigned earlier this year to pursue a new adventure. While Mrs. Krea will be missed by our students and staff, we are excited to have Mrs. Hixson join our school family. Mrs. Hixson has nearly 10 years of speech and language school experience, and she is quickly becoming acclimated with her schedule and students at Whiteford. Mrs. Hixson can be reached via email at: alisha.hixson@monroeisd.us, and she has an office at the elementary school.

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.

LIFETOUCH SPRING PICTURES

Spring picture day is coming to Whiteford Elementary on Friday, February 23. Parents/guardians can pre-order pictures on 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 or Linda Groch at: 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.

SPRING COUNT DAY

This Wednesday (2/14) is not only Valentine's Day, but it is our Spring Count Day. The Spring Count Day is mandated through the State School Aid Act, and it is when all public schools in Michigan tally the number of students attending their school. The Fall Count Day counts for 90% of our school funding, while the Spring Count Day accounts for the remaining 10%. Please make sure your child is in attendance on Wednesday (2/14). If they are not in attendance, we are still able to count students under certain guidelines for students that are excused, unexcused, or suspended.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

With the start of the 2nd 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 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, so there will be NO DENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTNERS OR NEW 1ST GRADE STUDENTS FOR THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR!

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.



IMPORTANT DATES

February 13	WPA Dine & Donate Fundraiser - Forest View
February 14	Happy Valentine’s Day / Spring Count Day
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 14-15	Field Trip Croswell
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

Wishing you well,



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

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

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

DINE & DONATE

MENTION THIS FLYER

Hosted by the Whiteford Bobcats and
Forestview Lanes in support of the WPA.



TUESDAY , FEBRUARY 13

Donating 10% of all food sales all day, and bowling after 9 pm
to support the Whiteford Parents' Association and their
mission to support Whiteford Agricultural Schools, staff, and
students.



**2345 DEAN ROAD
TEMPERANCE, MI
48182
734-847-4915**

Unable to attend? Provide a monetary
donation dedicated to the **Whiteford
Parents' Association** to continue to
support services provided, such as: Back to
school picnic, field trip transportation fees,
planners, carnival, scholarships,
playground equipment, staff appreciation,
student success, and beyond. It is parents
and community that make this happen.

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

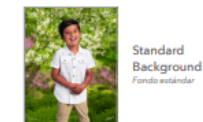
A. Premium \$74.99	<p>2 - 8x10 4 - 5x7 4 - 3x5 12 - 2x3</p>	Shutterfly Digital Image* with background choice — Includes Bonus Items — Name and Grade On All Pictures AND Premium Retouching Removes blemishes plus whitens teeth and evens skin tone
B. Plus \$54.99	<p>1 - 8x10 4 - 5x7 2 - 3x5 8 - 2x3</p>	Shutterfly Digital Image* with background choice — Includes Bonus Items — Name and Grade On All Pictures AND Basic Retouching Removes blemishes
Digital Only 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
C. Standard \$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
D. Basic \$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
Imanes de diseño **\$14.99**

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

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

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. Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.

¿Preguntas? Comunícate con nuestro Centro de Ayuda en 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 and to our privacy policy located at 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 y nuestra política de privacidad ubicada en 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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH
Whiteford Elementary Cafeteria

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!**

