

WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

March 8, 2024

Hello, Bobcat Families!

Another busy and terrific week is in the books for Whiteford Elementary. Reading month is going wonderfully and staff and students are continuing to enjoy the many activities related to this special time. State Representative William Bruck made an appearance today to read to some of the classrooms, our WPA has generously donated another fun snack with an encouraging message about reading attached, reading bingo is going strong, and we had a very special visit from Bitsy and Ms. Kwas, to name just a few.

Our 5th grade students celebrated D.A.R.E. graduation today. The essay readers chosen from Mrs. Shepherd's class were Kensi Miller and Clay Oval; from Mrs. Biddle's were Raegan Hubbard and Bryce Wernet. This year's D.A.R.E. Spirit Award recipients were Avery Dietz, Braunn Peters, Hudson McCormack, and Genevieve Miller. Our Keith Dressel Award recipient this year was Marley Kemritz. Congratulations to all our special award recipients and to the entire 5th grade student body for participating in such an important and impactful program. Thank you to our fantastic 5th grade teachers, Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Shepherd, and a huge thank you to Sergeant Bomia, as well, for making such a big difference in our young and impressionable Bobcats' lives.

A reminder that next week we have Kindergarten Round-Up (Thursday, March 14th, from 1pm-7pm in the elementary school cafeteria), 4th grade Wax Museum (Ms. Iott's class on Tuesday March 12th and Ms. Hanselman's class on Wednesday March 13th; presentations will be held in the elementary cafeteria from 2:10pm-2:30pm), and field trips to the Croswell Opera House on Thursday, March 14th (1st, 3rd, and 4th, grades) and Friday, March 15th (KG, 2nd, and 5th grades). We are really packing it all in before we head to Spring Break at the end of the month!

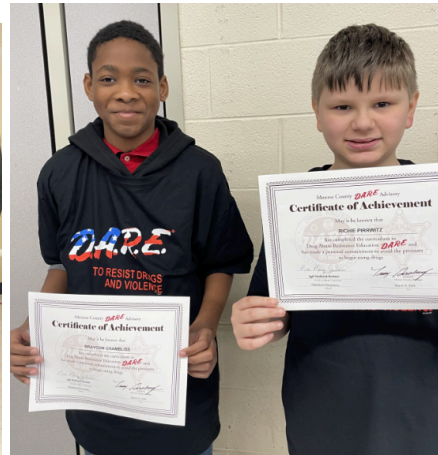
Wishing you well,



Marcy Anderson
Principal



DARE GRADUATION



MESSAGE FROM LIFETOUGH

Dear parents,

School pictures are ready!

To order, log in to your account on mylifetouch.com or create an account using your student's school ID number.

All families can also log on and order a FREE Digital SmileSafe card.

Learn more about the SmileSafe program at mylifetouch.com.

Thank you!

VISIT FROM BITSY IN HONOR OF READING MONTH

Whiteford Elementary had a very special visitor this week in honor of Reading Month! Ms. Kwasniak, our Elementary and Middle School Spanish Teacher, brought her miniature horse, Bitsy, to school to help her tell the story "The Horse in Harry's Room". "Ms. Kwas." also presented a slide show of Bubba the horse and Bitsy visiting nursing homes, birthday parties, and visits to other local places. The students were thrilled to meet Bitsy, ask questions, and give her a pet! A big thank you to Ms. Kwas (and all her amazing helpers) for making it possible for the kids to enjoy such a special reading month event! 💙💛🐾📖📚



CHAPSTICK DONATIONS

With the overwhelmingly positive response we received from our “magic” mint request and spongy “ice pack” request (thank you, amazing school community!) I figured it might be a good idea to toss it out there that our littles could use some chapstick! This time of year, we get a lot of little visitors in the office with dry, cracked lips asking for chapstick. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

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!

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.

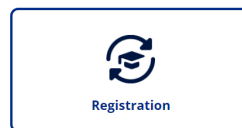
ILLNESS & DISEASE

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.



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](https://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/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: As of 2/23/24, we have been instructed by the Monroe County ISD to notify parents that the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment will be required by law for the 2024-2025 school year. Incoming Kindergarten and 1st grade students new to Michigan Schools will be required to have the dental assessment. The dental assessment form can be accessed [here](#). We have reached out to a mobile dental group that provides dental assessments for free to schools to help support our families. As we learn more about this possible option, we will communicate with families. More information will be shared at KG Round-Up on March 14.



IMPORTANT DATES

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
May 13	School Board Meeting 6pm Boardroom
May 17	Field Day/Carnival Day
May 27	No School - Memorial Day
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



Decision-Making

March 8, 2024

Counseling Corner

Whiteford Elementary School

Teaching Responsible Decision-Making

Research indicates that adults typically make around 33,000-35,000 decisions daily, whereas children make only about 3,000 decisions. Some choices are routine, like turning off alarms or lights, snuggling our pets, or brushing our teeth, while others, such as what to wear or major life decisions, require deeper consideration. These choices can significantly impact our day and even our future. Responsible decision-making is defined by CASEL as "the ability to make personal choices for things like behavior and social interactions across a variety of settings." Teaching children responsible decision-making is critical, but putting it into action is equally important to nurture their engagement, thoughtfulness, and productivity. Developing decision-making skills empowers children to be independent, responsible, and self-assured, giving them a sense of autonomy and fostering resilience. It also encourages self-discovery and helps them define their values. As adults, we play a key role in guiding children through the thousands of choices they face, supporting them as they learn to navigate decision-making. It's essential to allow room for them to make mistakes, as this is how they learn and grow, gaining the experience and confidence needed to make better decisions in the future. Continue reading to learn how we can help our children develop decision-making skills!

1 Practice and Model Decision-Making

It is important for children to develop skills in responsible decision-making. One effective way to nurture this ability is by modeling and guiding children through the following steps:

1. Identify and clearly state the problem at hand.
2. Brainstorm potential solutions.
3. Consider possible consequences.
4. Select a solution to implement.
5. Test the chosen solution.
6. Reflect on the outcome and make adjustments as needed.

In order to exhibit responsible decision-making skills, children must acquire additional skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, sound judgment, reasoning, and solution identification. Finally, making helpful and healthy choices involves understanding the impact of their choices on both themselves and those around them. For a more in depth explanation of these steps, please visit the "Counseling Corner Newsletters and Resources" section in my "Resources" tab in my Schoology group!



2 Avoid Rescuing (when appropriate)

Making decisions is a crucial skill for everyone, and our decision-making abilities improve each time we encounter and resolve challenging situations. With the exceptions of considerations like safety and risk, if we intervene and attempt to solve all problems that children have, their skill development will be hindered. By letting children make mistakes, they can enhance their problem-solving and conflict resolution skills. This hands-on experience helps them become more confident and capable of making decisions as they grow. Sometimes, children will make mistakes, face the consequences, and learn from those choices when faced with similar situations in the future. Allowing children to learn from their mistakes is a valuable approach to instilling lasting decision-making skills in them.

3 Teach T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak

This acronym serves as a reminder for children to pause and think before speaking, ensuring that their words are: **T**True, **H**Helpful, **I**Important, **N**Necessary, and **K**Kind. If any aspect of the acronym is not met, they should consider keeping their thoughts to themselves. By encouraging children to pause and think before they make a choice, they are also building their self-control abilities, another essential aspect of responsible decision-making.

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



**Whiteford Elementary School
Kindergarten Round Up
By Appointment Only
Elementary Cafeteria
Thursday, 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



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!