

# Whiteford Elementary School



June 2, 2023

**Hello Bobcats!**

What another beautiful week!

## **Camp Invention:**

We are once again offering Camp Invention for students in grades K through 5th grade. Each year the camp is centered around a different theme; this year's theme is Wonder! Students will travel to four stations each day where they will be met with different challenges. Students will build entrepreneurship skills and design a pop up business in one station. Another station will have them invent a mini skate park as they learn about physics, engineering, and art as they build ramps, bowls, and rails. Children will become confident event planners as they engineer light-up party hats, build musical instruments to experiment with sound vibrations and explore the science of color with bubble art banners. The last station will have students exploring nature, biomimicry, genetics and adaptive creativity as they transform a MimicBot into a one-of-a-kind animatronic stuffie (they will also need to let me know what an animatronic stuffie is:)).

If you are interested in learning more, click [here](#) for the link. The camp is all day from June 19-June 23. There is a flier at the bottom of this newsletter with some codes for a reduced price.

Please email me or Brianna Best at [brianna.best@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:brianna.best@whiteford.k12.mi.us) with any questions you may have.

## **Counseling Corner:**

A message from Ms. Ehman

As we approach the end of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible growth and learning that I've witnessed this year. This year has certainly been full of challenges, but through it all, I've seen remarkable perseverance and resilience. It has been an honor to teach your students and watch them learn and grow, and I am grateful to be a part of their journey 😊 As I begin to plan for next year, I would greatly appreciate some feedback! If you have a few minutes and would like to participate, here is the link to my Google survey:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L3HAeE11VoUa2Xt2Z8F5p\\_WVE2rr1UktP0o655Wv00E/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L3HAeE11VoUa2Xt2Z8F5p_WVE2rr1UktP0o655Wv00E/edit). Thank you all for a great year!

We are so fortunate to have wonderful team members like Ms. Ehman at WES to support our students. We truly value your opinion as caregivers, so it would be very helpful if you have a couple of minutes to complete the survey. The feedback will help know how best to support students in the future.

Continue scrolling for the complete counseling corner newsletter with great ideas for the summer months.

### **Meal Magic Accounts:**

As the school year winds down, we ask all parents to watch the balance in their student's Meal Magic account. If the account is in the negative, please make a deposit to cover the negative balance and any other purchases that may be made through the end of the school year.

Parents of seniors...

Any balance remaining on your senior student's account at the end of the school year will be transferred to a younger sibling's account (if applicable). If there are no other siblings in the district, any balance in excess of \$10.00 will be refunded to the family if a request is made in writing by the parent and a mailing address is provided. These requests should be made to the Business Office ([acctg@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:acctg@whiteford.k12.mi.us)) by June 16, 2023.

### **Yearbooks are IN!**

The elementary yearbooks have arrived and were distributed today. If you did not order one and would like to purchase one, we do have a few extras in the elementary office.

They are \$15.00 each. We will accept either cash or check (made out to Whiterford Schools). Please contact the office if you are interested in purchasing one.

### **Lost and Found:**

Our lost and found is once again overflowing. Please stop by and take a look. Anything left at the end of the year will be donated. Please come in and take a look. Items are added to the tables daily as coats and sweatshirts are left on the playground at the end of the day, especially with cooler temperatures in the morning.



Here we are - the last week of reminders. Report cards will be sent home on the last day of school. If for some reason your child is not in attendance on that day, it will be in the office to be picked up at your convenience.

**Important Dates:**

June 7	Kindergarten Celebration 1:45
June 8	Early Dismissal
June 9	5th grade celebration - 9:30
June 9	Early Dismissal - Last Day!

As always, please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Anderson".

Marcy Anderson  
Elementary Principal  
[anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us)  
734-856-1443 ext. 104

# Counseling Corner

*Whiteford Elementary School*



## Incorporating SEL Skills at Home During Summer Break

Summer break doesn't mean that your child has to stop growing their social emotional skills! In fact, there are so many activities children can partake in throughout the summer that can help them grow and strengthen these skills when they aren't as focused on academic work. SEL encompasses 5 core competencies (self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making) that provide ample opportunities for learners to practice any time of the year!

## Ideas to Integrate SEL into Your Summer Learning Routine

### Create Positive Affirmation Art

Starting the day with a positive affirmation can make such a difference in children's lives. Create positive affirmation art, either in the form of sidewalk art, creating a colorful poster, or making positive affirmation cards to read aloud each morning!

*I can do this*

### Complete Monthly Challenges

Many kids love the idea of a challenge. Giving children a challenge to complete in a given time frame allows them to focus their attention on something specific and helps grow a certain set of skills at once! Some FREE challenges include a [coping skills challenge](#) and a [kindness challenge](#). Click the links to learn more!

### Use Outdoor Time to Your Advantage

Spending time outside can be beneficial for a variety of reasons! Practice grounding, mindfulness, and attention by going on a nature hunt. You can also encourage unstructured play to enhance your learner's confidence, creativity, independence, and problem-solving skills!

### Explore Calm Down Kits

Children need adult support to learn to control their feelings. They also need space and time to learn what works for them and what doesn't. Summer break is the perfect time to allow children to explore this. Create a calm down corner full of cozy pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals, and incorporate a kit that contains items that can help children calm down. You may consider adding books, stress balls, Play-Doh, sand timers, or sensory bottles to the kit. Have a discussion with your student about which tools work best!

### Read, Read, Read!

Practice reading while simultaneously developing social emotional skills! All you have to do is read a story and discuss the relevant SEL skill. Some fan favorites include "I Like Me!" by Nancy Carlson, "In My Heart: A Book of Feelings" by Jo Witek, "Interrupting Chicken" by David Ezra Stein, and "The Invisible String" by Trudy Ludwig. You can also simply Google "children's stories to develop SEL skills" for many, many more options!

### Incorporate Movement Breaks

Movement can help build important SEL skills, like teamwork, good sportsmanship, and perseverance. You can incorporate any type of physical activity, such as sports, walks, bike rides, or yoga, into your daily routine! As an additional benefit, relaxing movement breaks, like yoga, help children develop self-control and focus, as well.

### Utilize a Journal

Expressing emotions through the use of a journal is a wonderful way to get children thinking about how they're feeling and why. Visit my Schoology page's "Resources" section to find a list of journal prompts. There are several social emotional learning journals available for purchase online, as well!

### Write Stories

Provide an SEL topic and ask your learner to write their own story! Examples include kindness in friendships, honesty, making positive choices, self-esteem, and growth mindset. This can help build their relationship skills!

