

WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

April 19, 2024

Hello, Bobcat Families!

The Track & Field Scrap Metal Fundraiser ends soon (May 1st), so don't forget to round up all of your metal scraps and drop them off in the hopper, which is located behind the new High School Gym; scroll down for more details.

The Growing Tree After School Program is expanding its services. The program will now include a summer child care program for children entering kindergarten through 6th grade. Check out the flyer below for more information.

Please review the "Important Dates" section at the bottom and keep reading the teacher newsletters for all the important upcoming activities and special events.

Wishing you well,



Marcy Anderson
Elementary Principal

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)

Based upon survey data collected from families in December/January and other considerations, we are moving forward with a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classroom for the 2024-2025 school year. The program is designed for students who will turn 5 between May 1, 2024-December 1, 2024. Students who turn 5 before May 1, 2024 will also be considered based on screening results. The TK program is limited to 15-18 students. Parents who were unable to attend Kindergarten Round-Up with their student will need to contact the Elementary Principal, Ms. Anderson, at anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us or 734-856-1443 Ext.104 to set up a screening time for their child. We will begin contacting parents of students who meet the criteria for Transitional Kindergarten after May 1 to seek interest in enrolling in the Transitional Kindergarten program. You can access additional information by accessing [Transitional Kindergarten \(TK\) Information](#). Please contact Ms. Anderson if you have any questions about the program or setting up a screening time.



MSTEP TESTING

Our students have done a fantastic job this week with their MStep testing. The students test in the morning from 8:15-9:00, take a break from 9:00-9:30 to move and get a snack, then test again from 9:30-10:15. At 10:15, they are done testing for the day. There are no time limits on MStep, so if they didn't finish the entire test in one day, they can finish it the next. By setting these shorter testing windows, we are finding the students are not getting as fatigued as in past years. Research shows students perform better academically after movement breaks, so we are making sure to provide those for our students daily in teaching, we need to also do it while we are assessing their learning.

Thank you for helping your child come to school well rested and ready to go each day.

We will continue our state testing for the next couple of weeks.

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.

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.



DO YOU HAVE AN INCOMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENT?

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

If you missed our screening day and would like to set up an appointment, please contact Marcy Anderson at 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 on Whiteford's website under the "Student Registration" tab

- 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 30	1st Grade Field Trip: Ritter Planetarium
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 31	Field Day/Carnival Day Rain Date
June 4	Kindergarten Graduation 1:30 - elem cafeteria
June 5	Half day - Dismiss at 10:55am
June 6	5th Grade Graduation 9:00 - elem cafeteria
June 6	Last Day of School, Half day - Dismiss at 10:55am
June 10	School Board Meeting 6pm Boardroom
June 10-14	Camp Invention



GROWING TREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FLYER

Growing Tree After School Program is Expanding !

The program will now include a summer childcare program for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. We are housed at Whiteford Wesleyan Church, 10285 Sylvania Petersburg Road, Ottawa Lake, MI

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 7 am to 6 pm

Registration: These will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis
Returning latchkey or preschool family: \$25 New Family: \$50

To Register or request more information:

734-856-2430 Whiteford Wesleyan Church

419-279-0442 Director

Fees Per Child:

½ day (6 hours or less): \$30

Full Day: \$45

Weekly: \$180

The program will provide 2 snacks a day: mid - morning and mid - afternoon.
Families will be required to provide sack lunches and drinks daily.

Dates of Importance:

June 10-14: CLOSED for maintenance

June 24-28: Church will hold Vacation Bible School, 9 am to 11:30 am.

Families are invited to attend. Program will be open. ½ day fees charged to those who attend.

July 4 and 5: Closed for holiday

August 28: Last day of Program

Latchkey begins first day after school dismisses

Counseling Corner

Whiteford Elementary School

Staying Safe Online

Accessing the internet and logging onto social media has become a daily routine for many individuals, including elementary school students. While not all young students have their own social media accounts or use social media on a daily basis, the accessibility of the internet through devices like computers, tablets, iPads, phones, and even smart TVs emphasizes the importance of teaching children about internet and social media safety. Despite the positive aspects of social media, such as educational opportunities and staying connected with friends and family, there are also risks associated with its misuse, especially for younger users. Research shows that platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, and Instagram are consistently the most popular among elementary-aged children. By being proactive, we can establish a safer online environment for children to learn, explore, and connect.

Be Internet Awesome

Check out Google's "Be Internet Awesome" website to discover ways to promote safe online exploration and play for children. Keep reading for a quick preview of The Internet Code of Awesome: The Fundamentals!



Be Internet Smart

Share with care and communicate responsibly.

Be Internet Alert

Know the signs of internet scams, and don't fall for the fakes.

Be Internet Strong

Protect your privacy, create strong passwords, and keep your location services turned off.

Be Internet Kind

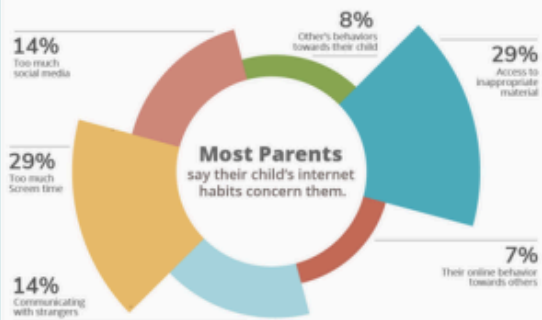
Set a positive example for others, spread positivity, and take action when you encounter inappropriate or hurtful behaviors by others.

Be Internet Brave

"When in doubt, talk it out!" Encourage kids to ask questions, practice open communication, and be clear about rules and expectations around social media, the internet, and technology.

For more information on internet and social media laws and safety, please visit my **Counseling Corner Newsletters and Resources** section within my **Resources** tab in my Schoology group.

What's most concerning to parents?



So... What Can Caregivers Do?

Have conversations with your child about keeping personal information safe.

Personal information includes phone numbers, addresses, passwords, school or town names, birthdate, and more. Additionally, remind your child not to accept friend requests from anyone they don't know. An unsettling part of the internet and social media is that you never know who is trying to learn more about you and why.

Maintain privacy by keeping your location private and turning off location services.

Teach your child the importance of not sharing their location with strangers, and ensure they understand the reasons behind this safety measure.

Follow the "WWGS" rule.

The What Would Grandma Say? rule may sound silly, but it's a great way to teach children (and adults!) to be mindful of what they are posting and sharing online. Teach your child not to post anything they wouldn't want their teachers, principal, parents, future college admissions officers, future employers, and of course, grandma, to see. Additionally, keep in mind that once something is posted, it may not be completely erased. Even if you delete something, there's the possibility that it can still exist somewhere (e.g., someone could have taken a screenshot or saved the post).

Consider not allowing your child to have their own social media accounts until they are at least 13 years old.

Social media platforms have specific age restrictions (at least 13 years old) for a purpose. For more information on why this matters, please visit the Resources tab in my Schoology group.

SCRAP METAL FUNDRAISER



The Whiteford Track & Field scrap metal fundraiser will run from March 1st until May 1st unless donations start to run slow. 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