

WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

May 3, 2024

Hello, Bobcat Families!

It's so hard to believe our sweet Derby has been with us four years already! Please check out the flyer below to find out how you can support Derby and donate to help offset all the costs related to her care. We love and appreciate Derby and all she does to support our student body. We are also very grateful for Derby's special handlers, especially Mrs. Floyd-Kemritz, who graciously accepted Derby into her home as one of her own, so we ask that you please consider donating to such an amazing cause!

We are so excited for the opening of the Whiteford FFA Greenhouse today, Friday, May 3rd! The greenhouse is packed with an array of the most beautiful flowers and plants, all at new lower prices this year (please see flyer below for more details). The greenhouse will close on Sunday, June 2nd, so pop in and get what you need while you still can!

Be sure to check out all of the amazing opportunities for your child(ren) to participate in one (or more!) of Whiteford's Youth Athletic Camps this summer (see the flyer below for more details). We already have one youth camp in the books...please enjoy the pictures at the end of this newsletter of Whiteford's Youth Track & Field Camp...looks like it was a huge success!

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.



Hats off to Derby!



Let's Celebrate Derby in Style!

This is Derby's 4th year here at Whiteford and on May 5th we will be celebrating her 6th birthday!. We are so thankful for everything she does each and every day for our students, staff, and families. We want to celebrate her commitment to Whiteford and provide our school community the opportunity to show their love and appreciation for all she does!

What: Every Wednesday in May, starting May 8th - students can donate **\$1** and will be able to wear a school appropriate hat for the day. Students can give the donation to their classroom teachers in the morning.

Don't want to wear a hat but want to show your Derby love? There will be a spot to donate to Derby in front of the office. Funds raised will contribute to purchasing food, treats, monthly heart worm and flea treatments, necessary vet bills, etc.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support in ensuring that our school facility dog program continues to be a success!

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.



Whiteford FFA Greenhouse

Where: Whiteford High School
6655 Consear Rd.
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267
****Parking lot off Sylvania-Petersburg**

Contact Information:
Mr. Jake Gust
Email: jgust@whiteford.k12.mi.us
Cell: 517-605-2209 or
School: 734-856-1443 ext. 224



Open:

Friday May 3rd through
Sunday June 2nd

Hours:

Mon- Fri: 9 am-6 pm
Sat. & Sun: 10 am-4 pm

**Closed Memorial Day

****We are priced to sell this year and will NOT be offering an end-of-year sale**

What We Offer

- Annual flowers: 10" Hanging baskets, wall bags, 4" pots, 48 flats
 - Vegetables in 48 flats
 - Perennials: Gallon or 4" pots
- *Proceeds go to Whiteford FFA to help pay for student contests, conventions, program equipment & improvements





Whiteford Athletic Youth Camps



GRADES LISTED ARE FOR 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR
ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH GOOGLE FORMS.
REGISTRATION LINKS ARE IN SCHOOLGY GROUPS AND ON THE
SCHOOL WEBSITE.
PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE INFINITE CAMPUS STORE

Baseball

JUNE 10-12 9-11 A.M.
ENTERING 2ND -8TH GRADES

Boys Basketball

JUNE 18-20 9 A.M. - NOON
ENTERING 3RD-8TH GRADES

Girls Basketball

JUNE 25-27 3-6 P.M.
ENTERING 3RD-8TH

Volleyball Camp

ALL SKILLS CAMP
JULY 22, 24, 25
GRADES 3RD-9TH
VOLLEYTOTZ
3 YRS TO 2ND GRADE

Football Camp

JULY 22-24
4-5:30 P.M.
Entering 1st-6th



IMPORTANT DATES

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

Healthy Sleep Habits

Counseling Corner

Whiteford Elementary School

Healthy Sleep Habits: A Key to Success

As we approach the final months of the school year, it's important to revisit the topic of sleep -- an essential yet often overlooked component of our health and academic success. As students navigate through learning, growth, testing, and the excitement of summer fun, ensuring they receive adequate sleep becomes more important than ever.

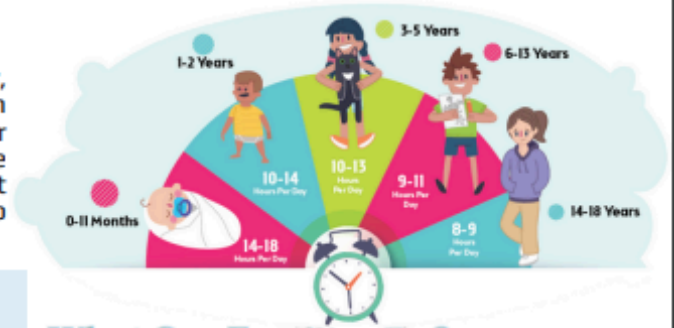
Why Does This Matter?

Research consistently shows that sufficient sleep is integral for children's physical growth, emotional regulation, and cognitive development. It plays a pivotal role in memory consolidation, meaning the lessons throughout the day are more effectively absorbed and retained during a good night's sleep. Children aged 6-13 require between 9-11 hours of sleep per night, a number that becomes challenging to meet with the increased demands and excitement towards the end of the school year.

Lack of sleep can lead to noticeable changes in behavior and academic performance. You might observe increased irritability, difficulty concentrating, or a decline in academic achievement in children not getting enough rest. These issues can be detrimental at a time when students are preparing for end-of-year tests, projects, or activities, potentially impacting their grades and overall satisfaction with the school year.

Symptoms of Sleep Deprivation

Sleep deprivation is often overlooked when addressing performance and behavioral issues in children. Given our hectic lifestyles this time of year, children's schedules are so packed that many children often struggle to get enough sleep, and the pressures to succeed affect the quality of their rest. If you're unsure about your child's sleep quality or patterns, you might consider signs of sleep deprivation like difficulty falling asleep or waking up, challenges with impulse control, decreased motivation, defiance/noncompliance, frequent school absences, unexplained hyperactivity, frequent emotional fluctuations, anxiety or increased anxious behaviors, poor concentration, signs of memory impairment, academic decline, irritability, etc. If you suspect that your child may be experiencing sleep deprivation, seeking guidance from their pediatrician can help guide you in re-establishing healthy sleep routines.



What Can Families Do?

To support your child in maintaining a healthy sleep schedule and routine, you can consider:

- Establishing a consistent bedtime routine** that includes relaxing, winding down activities, such as reading, drawing/coloring, meditation, or quiet play.
- Limiting screen time** at least an hour before bed can also significantly improve sleep quality. The blue light emitted by devices is known to interfere with the body's natural sleep-wake cycle, so intentionally limiting screen time before bed can impact sleep quality in a positive way.
- Keeping bedrooms dark and quiet**, as this helps limit additional distractions and unnecessary blue light exposure before bed or during nighttime awakenings. Keeping bedrooms cool and temperature-controlled helps the body stay relaxed, which also helps regulate sleep-wake cycles.

As parents, guardians, and caregivers, your involvement and encouragement can make a substantial difference in your child's sleep habits and, by extension, their overall well-being and academic performance. Let's work together to prioritize rest, ensuring our children end the school year on a high note and enter the summer months with energy, enthusiasm, and a foundation for continued success. Please let me know how I can support your family in this practice.

For more information on healthy sleep habits, please visit my **Counseling Corner Newsletters and Resources** section within my **Resources** tab in my Schoology group.

YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CAMP PICS









