

# Whiteford Elementary School



December 8, 2023

Hello Bobcats!

## **23-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR AMENDMENT**

At last night's (11/30) Special Board of Education Meeting, the 2023-2024 School Calendar was amended to reflect the addition of an **Early Release on Monday, December 18, 2023**. On Monday (12/18), the Whiteford staff will be trained on our new SmartBoot Security System. At the April 17, 2023 Board of Education Meeting, the BOE approved the purchase of the LockOut USA Security System. The installation process is nearly complete. Our first step in the system becoming active is to train staff and students. Staff will be trained on 12/18 in the afternoon after students are released, and students will be trained in January 2024. For 12/18, the elementary will dismiss at 10:55am and the MS/HS will dismiss at 11:05am. Bus transportation for our students will still be provided home. You can learn more about this security system at: <https://lockoutusa.com/>

## **STAKEHOLDER BOND FEEDBACK & INTEREST MEETINGS**

As part of our next steps following the Strategic Plan Enrollment Vision Workshop Stakeholder Meetings in October, the Board of Education is considering a bond project to add additional classrooms and multi-purpose space at the elementary as well as moving forward with athletic complex upgrades that were identified as part of a study done in November 2022. We value stakeholder feedback, so we are offering all stakeholders an opportunity to attend a meeting on 12/13/23 or 1/10/24 at 6:30pm in rooms 2-3 of the MS/HS. At this meeting, stakeholders will have the opportunity to share feedback regarding the scope of the bond project, and understand the financial responsibility of the district and taxpayers. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. To assist in this process, The Collaborative (Design Team) and Wolgast Corporation (Construction Manager) will be facilitating the meeting. The information gathered at these stakeholder meetings will help assist the Board of Education in determining our next steps as we stabilize our enrollment and lower our class sizes.

## **SAFETY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS MEETING**

As part of our Strategic Plan goal to improve culture and learning environments, we have contracted with American Threat Assessment & Protection to evaluate our current safety processes and procedures at Whiteford. As a way to gather stakeholder safety perception data, we are seeking individuals that would be interested in attending a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 beginning at 6:30pm in the Board Rm. This meeting is intended to allow an opportunity to learn more about the perceptions of our stakeholders. If you are a parent, guardian, student, staff, or community member, we value your perspective, and we would like for you to consider participating in this focus group meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Scott Huard at: [scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us). There is a School Safety Focus Group Pre-Assessment survey that will be completed prior to the meeting.

### **Dine and Donate at Sidelines**

Don't know what to have for dinner? Dine in or carry out at Sidelines on December 12th to support the WPA. Flyers were sent home earlier this week and are also attached at the end of this email. Show the flyer and 20% of your purchase will go toward Whiteford WPA. Thanks Sidelines!

### **Elementary Christmas Concert**

The elementary Christmas Concert is Thursday, December 14 in what is now the middle school gymnasium (former high school gymnasium). In an effort to accommodate all of the families we have two performance times scheduled for the evening.

### **GYM DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM**

**K-2 students will perform at 6:00 pm**

**3-5 students will perform at 7:15 pm**

### **Camp Invention**

We will once again offer an opportunity to attend Camp Invention at Whiteford Elementary. This summer's theme is Illuminate! Students will explore the Earth and water with operation HydroDrop. Campers will embark on a global operation to help solve water challenges around the world. They will shine bright with let's glow where campers uncover the science of light through illuminating inventions and glowing animals. They will also create their own light up game boards and be an innovative all star.

### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

December 12	Donate & Dine at Sidelines
December 14	Elementary Christmas Concert

<b>December 18</b>	<b>½ day - dismiss at 10:55</b>
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December 22	½ day - dismiss at 10:55
Dec. 23-Jan. 2	No School - Christmas Break
January 3, 2024	Return to School

January 15	No School
January 16	6:00 WPA meeting in elementary cafeteria
January 18 & 19	½ day - dismiss at 10:55
January 19	End of second quarter

January 27	Family Fun Night - MS Gym
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Have a nice weekend and please let me know if there is anything I can assist with.

Educationally yours,



Marcy Anderson  
Elementary Principal



The Whiteford Bobcats are hosting a dine and donate at Sidelines Sports Eatery on Tuesday, December 12th. Be sure to show your server this flier

Present this flier to your server and Sidelines will donate 20% of your bill to the WPA!  
Dine in or carry out.



**Tuesday, December  
12th all day!**



Lambertville location only. 8116 Secor Road.

# Counseling Corner

## Whiteford Elementary School

### Diversity and the Power of Inclusion

Our innate desire to find our purpose and feel a sense of belonging can be disrupted by feelings of disconnection or exclusion and can cause deep emotional pain. In order to help children understand themselves and others and foster acceptance and value, diversity and inclusion are essential in education and throughout life.

When diversity and inclusion are embraced in the classroom, children approach learning with an open, confident, kind, and curious mindset. They learn to empathize with individuals from varying backgrounds, abilities, languages, learning styles, family structures, religions, beliefs, and more. This broad range of human differences is what diversity encompasses. Diversity and inclusion help all children become better learners, allowing them to understand different perspectives and appreciate the richness of human experience. While educators play a critical role in promoting diversity and inclusion in schools, parents and caregivers can also help foster this at home.



#### 1 Involve Children in Conversation

As children grow, they naturally learn to recognize differences between people. It's important to encourage them to acknowledge and celebrate these distinctions, using respectful language, and highlighting the positive aspects of diversity. Asking open-ended questions and listening without judgement can nurture their curiosity and encourage them to embrace diversity as they grow older. As a parent or caregiver, it's vital to express your own values for diversity and inclusion without shutting down their thoughts and questions. Empathy is a crucial element in teaching children to respect and appreciate others. It provides the ability to recognize the emotions of others and imagine how it feels to be in their place. When someone is being excluded, talk with your child about how that person might be feeling and what they can do to help. Empathy can be taught and developed over time. When children value diversity, they tend to be more compassionate and inclusive individuals. Encouraging empathy in children and promoting positive attitudes toward diversity creates a more harmonious and accepting society.

#### 2 Model Inclusive Behavior

Children absorb information from the role models around them. They are constantly tuned in, observing and learning from the people closest to them. It's important to examine your personal beliefs and behaviors and ensure they align with the values you want to instill in your child. Reading a variety of books and speaking out against bias can also be helpful. If something seems wrong or unfair, don't hesitate to make a positive change. By taking action together, children can be empowered to make positive changes on their own.

#### 3 Be Prepared to Answer Questions

Talking about differences can be difficult, but there are ways to make it more manageable. One approach is to be open and honest, without avoiding any questions. If you're unsure about how to answer a particular question, take the time you need to feel more confident. You can also ask why they asked the question, as this may help you better understand where they're coming from. It's important to be honest in your response and let them know it's okay to take a moment to sort through your own thoughts. Using a phrase such as "I need to think about the best way to answer your question" can show that you're taking their question seriously and want to provide a thoughtful response.



If you would like to learn more, please view my "Counseling Corner Newsletters and Resources" section in my "Resources" tab in my Schoology group :)





## WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Let's get cozy! Help us celebrate the final week before winter break with a

# *spirit week*

MONDAY, 12/18 - FRIDAY, 12/22

*Monday, 12/18: Jingle Bell Rock*  
Wear your jingle bells and light up attire!

*Tuesday, 12/19: Tacky Sweater Tuesday*  
Bring out the tacky sweaters! Wear your favorite tacky sweater or decorate a sweater you already have!

*Wednesday, 12/20: Winter Wonderland Whiteout*  
Let's make Whiteford Elementary a blizzard! Wear a white outfit and your favorite hat and scarf!

*Thursday, 12/21: Holiday Character Day*  
Dress as your favorite holiday character (ex: reindeer, elf, Santa, the Grinch, etc.)

*Friday, 12/22: Polar Express PJ Day*  
Wear your comfiest, coziest holiday PJs for a pajama day to end our week!





Camp Invention®

# GIVE THE GIFT OF **CAMP** AND **WIN!**

This holiday, give an unforgettable experience, the ALL-NEW 2024 Camp Invention®. Sign up between now and 12/31 using **code GIFT35** to **save \$35** and be entered for a chance to be one of 10 lucky winners to get their 2024 **registration for free**.



## YOUR LOCAL CAMP INFO:

**Whiteford Elementary**  
**Camp Invention: Illuminate**

**June 10, 2024 - June 14, 2024**  
**8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Uncover the science of light through illuminating inventions and glowing animals.**

**Create your own light-up game board.**

**Embark on an epic global operation to help solve water challenges around the world.**

**Mold, shape and transform ideas into amazing inventions in the prototyping studio.**



**SCAN TO  
REGISTER TODAY!**  
OR VISIT [INVENT.ORG/GIFT](https://www.invent.org/gift)

Purchase a 2024 camp registration before Dec. 31, 2023, and receive an entry for a chance to win one full camp registration refund! NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. See Official Sweepstakes Rules for details.

Camp Invention is exempt from licensing requirements governing recreational camps for children pursuant to Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations. Camp Invention operates an educational summer program and not a recreational camp; and therefore is not required to be licensed by local boards of health/health departments in the cities or towns where these programs are located. Camp Invention is not a school-sponsored program or school-affiliated activity.

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Nordson Corporation Foundation  
Overdeck Family Foundation  
United Way of Summit & Medina  
U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) STEM  
Walton Family Foundation



# Elementary Christmas Concert



Dear Parents or Guardians,

The elementary students will be having their Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 14. In an effort to accommodate all of the families we have two performance times scheduled for that evening;

**\*\*K – 2 students will perform at 6:00pm \*GYM DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM**

**\*\*3 – 5 students will perform at 7:15pm**

- **K–2** students are asked to arrive at 5:45 pm and report to their supervised classroom at the HS. Please do not take children to the classrooms before 5:45. (Classroom assignments are listed on the back.)
  - Parents may then be seated in the gym for the program.
  - Students will be walked to the stage for the performance at 6:00 pm.
  - After students are finished, Mr. Schreiber will release all students to their teacher to go back to their assigned classroom for pick-up by parents.
  - Please be respectful by allowing the students to return to their classrooms for parent pick-up. **Students are not to be released from the hallway.**
  - K–2 students and families are welcome to stay for the 3–5 program or may leave for the evening.
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- **3–5** students are asked to arrive at 7:00 pm and report to their supervised classroom at the HS. If your student has a younger sibling performing, please have them sit with you for the first performance. (Classroom assignments are listed on the back.) \*Band students arrive at 6:55 pm
  - Parents may then be seated in the gym for the program.
  - The band will begin their concert at 7:15 pm.
  - After students are finished, Mr. Schreiber will release all students to their teachers to go back to their assigned classroom for pick-up by parents.
  - Please be respectful by allowing the students to return to their classrooms for parent pick-up. **Students are not to be released from the hallway.**

**Classroom Assignments  
On the Back**



# Elementary Christmas Concert

## Room Assignments

Kindergarten	Mrs. Bowen	Room 21
Kindergarten	Mrs. Nagel	Room 22
Kindergarten	Mrs. Ovall	Room 24
First Grade	Mrs. Bischoff	Room 18
First Grade	Mrs. Cisek	Room 19
First Grade	Mrs. Prajzner	Room 20
Second Grade	Mrs. Best & Mrs. Vogel	Media Center
Third Grade	Mrs. Brunt	Room 20
Third Grade	Mrs. Tabbert	Room 19
Third Grade	Mrs. Young	Room 18
Fourth Grade	Ms. Hanselman & Mrs. Rodgers	Media Center
Fifth Grade	Mrs. Biddle & Mrs. Shepherd	Band Room

