

# WESPTSA Newsletter

April 2018

## Food Allergies

A food allergy is a reaction of one's immune system after one eats a certain type of food; an allergic reaction can be displayed differently (e.g., digestive issues, hives, trouble breathing). A food allergy is different from a food intolerance, although the reactions can be the same. A food allergy can be quite severe, including hospitalization or death in some cases. The only way to currently prevent allergic reactions related to food is to avoid eating those foods as well as eating foods which may be produced in the same facility and/or have come in contact with those food items (referred to as cross-contamination). The top allergens include: peanuts, tree nuts, milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, soy, and wheat; these are labeled on all products.

Food allergies are actually covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which applies to all organizations that receive public funding (i.e., public schools). As such, under Section 504, students who have food allergies are provided reasonable accommodations (avoidance of allergens in their learning environments) and protection from discrimination.

To protect students with food allergies, the policy of the Williamston Elementary School is to avoid two of the top allergens in all places aside from the cafeteria - peanuts and tree nuts. To help to keep all students safe, all parents should check labels of the snacks and donated food they send into school. Only food items that do not contain peanuts or tree nuts can be brought into the classroom, no matter who is consuming them. Items with peanuts and tree nuts are restricted to the cafeteria. This policy pertains to holiday parties and items shared for any birthday celebrations.

### Upcoming WESPTSA & School Events:

4/9: Mileage Clubs starts (runs M, T, and Th through Memorial Day)

4/12: PTSA meeting (7-8:30 Discovery cafeteria)

4/19: PTSA Parent Info Night on Summer Programming

5/3: PTSA Ice Cream Social

5/9: Bike (or Walk) to School Day

5/10: PTSA meeting (7-8:30 Discovery media center)

5/23: Teacher/School Staff Appreciation Luncheon

5/28: No School (Memorial Day)

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April 9, 2018

## **Play-A-Thon for Friends of Williamston Parks**

Play-a-thon for the Parks is set for May 19, 2018. One thing that sets Williamston apart is people's willingness to band together to make a positive impact in the community. To raise money for the new playground at Volunteers Community Park, businesses, individuals and service clubs have contributed to the effort. Now, there is a chance for those that will benefit most from the new playground—kids and families—to make a difference.

The Friends of Williamston Parks announce a new fundraising opportunity for kids of all ages to contribute to the new playground at and have fun doing it. The Play-a-thon for the Parks is a daylong event on Saturday, May 19 at McCormick Park in Williamston. From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., there will be food, music, special activities and nonstop play.

Kids are encouraged to secure pledges for the number of hours they plan to play through The Get Movin' Crew website ([www.thegetmovincrew.com](http://www.thegetmovincrew.com)). Prize drawings will be held for those that register online and those that achieve the individual goal. The largest donation from each age group will be recognized as well. It is open to all kids, no matter their age or the school they attend. Donations also may be brought to the park on the day of the event.

The fundraising effort through The Get Movin' Crew will kick off April 13 and run through May 26. While any amount is welcome, FOWP has set an individual participant goal of \$75 and an overall goal \$15,000. All proceeds will go towards a new playground at Volunteers Community Park next to The Commons. The 85-foot by 50-foot area will feature four elements: a play structure featuring slides and climbing options; four swings; a Ten Spin that allows you to stand, kneel or sit while spinning; and a Tri Totter which provides three children the opportunity to bounce at the same time. While the kids are playing on May 19, parents, caregivers and other volunteers can assist with the Friends of Williamston Parks' annual park clean-up day. In the event of rain, the Play-a-thon and clean-up day will be held on May 20. For a complete schedule of activities and event updates, visit [www.williamstonparks.org](http://www.williamstonparks.org). To volunteer, email [williamstonparks@gmail.com](mailto:williamstonparks@gmail.com) or contact Cindy Bennett at 517-899-2731.

## **Used Book Sale Follow-Up**

The 2018 WESPTSA Used Book Sale raised \$649 for new books at the Williamston Elementary School Library. The proceeds topped 2017 by \$100. Students donated more than 1,840 books during the morning collection time, and many more were dropped off during the school day, at the Middle School and by teachers. Sixteen volunteers worked multiple shifts to make the collection times and sale possible. Thank you to everyone who donated books and volunteered their time.

# Destination Imagination

Interested in getting your kids involved in problem solving and creativity? Do they like team building and thinking outside of the box? Are your kids willing to make mistakes and learn from those mistakes? They might like Destination Imagination!

What is Destination Imagination? Destination Imagination is “a fun, hands-on system of learning that fosters students’ creativity, courage and curiosity through open-ended academic challenges in the fields of STEM, fine arts, and service learning.” [Click [here for the Destination Imagination site](#) and the [Michigan Destination Imagination site](#)]. Each year there are a number of different challenges that a team can choose from; each team looks to develop a solution to one main challenge.

Last year Williamston had 2 Destination Imagination teams - one at the elementary level and one at the middle school level. Team members are limited to 7 students within a level (e.g., elementary, secondary) and the registration fee is under \$200 for a team – although additional money may need to be spent on items to produce the solution to the selected challenge.

If you are interested in learning more about Destination Imagination, including how you might manage a team, please join us at 6:30pm in the Discovery Cafeteria on Thursday, April 12th (prior to the PTSA meeting). As each team is limited to 7 students - and the teams from last year are likely full with their returning members - access to new teams for Williamston will necessitate parents agreeing to serve as a team manager. Can't be there but want additional information? Feel free to contact Emily Bouck ([ecb@msu.edu](mailto:ecb@msu.edu)). Again, teams will need to secure their own registration fee as well as a team manager. The meeting on 4/12 is to provide prospective managers and/or parents with more information on this program.



Williamston Elementary School PTSA Summer Camp  
Information Night at Discovery Elementary Cafeteria  
April 19th 6:30 - 7:30pm

**Plan your kids summer in one hour!**

Many summer day and overnight camps will be attending,  
available with information and to answer your questions.