

## ECFE 2016-2017

The WWG ECFE Comprehensive Needs Assessment meeting was held last Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at the WWG High School Library in Westbrook. Thirteen parents and community members were in attendance. We talked about many aspects of our ECFE program. I will share what we discussed and have planned for next year.

First, everyone was in agreement that we would like to move the start time up by 15 minutes for 2016-2017. So, we will now start at 5:30 PM and finish all ECFE activities at 7:00 PM. This extra fifteen minutes will give parents an opportunity to get home at a decent time and get their children ready for bed.

Second, parents wanted to thank Karley McClellan and Chelsea Nodding for a wonderful year! This was their first year as ECFE teachers and all parents thought they did a great job!

Third, the new ECFE facebook page is extremely convenient for parents. They can look at it whenever they need to, access it from their cell phones, and it also sends out postings to all parents when new information has been added to it.

Fourth, we spent a lot of time discussing the meal that is provided at ECFE. Parents would like to see more home cooked meals planned like tacos, subs, spaghetti, BBQ, tator tot hot dish, grilled cheese and soup, or Italian dunkers. We discussed we would plan a meal rotation and continue to place it on our WWG ECFE facebook page for all to access. Mrs. McClellan said she would arrive a little earlier to get these dishes in the oven because they will take longer to bake. Gayleen, our head cook in Westbrook, will prepare all of these meals at the Westbrook School before hand. Parents asked if we could stay away from having chicken nuggets and other processed foods served at many of the suppers.

The fifth item discussed was to cut down on our guest speakers. Parents would rather see two guest speakers each month, with the third night dedicated to discuss what the speakers brought to the program. This way parents could discuss/share what was presented and then bounce ideas off of each other for what works and doesn't work for them. Then the fourth night could be dedicated to a gym night, especially during the winter months. Winter is the perfect time to run around in the gym and play with soccer balls, P.E. equipment, etc. Karley and Chelsea have also set up an obstacle course on previous gym nights, which was well received by all.

The sixth item discussed was taking a few more field trips. Parents would like to see one of the field trips to the Children's Museum in Brookings, SD. The field trip would be sometime in March, on a Saturday, after winter sports, but before farmers get into the fields and the weather gets really nice. Parents also discussed having one night dedicated to school buses. The little ones are fascinated with the big yellow bus and a ride would be so much fun for them.

Parents were also wondering if we could do some ECFE activities during the summer nights from 5:00-6:00 PM with pizza to follow. I will check into that with Mrs. Kells about a swimming event and we'll see what dates we can come up with.

We also discussed having parents take turns helping the ECFE teachers with setting up, preparing the meal that night, and cleanup. All were in agreement that they would love to help and take turns.

We discussed if parents would like to change the night that we normally meet on. It was unanimous that we continue to meet on Monday evenings starting at 5:30 PM.

Some of you may have wanted to attend, but had other obligations. Feel free to give me a call at 507-859-2141 and let me know your thoughts, concerns, and ideas for continually improving our WWG ECFE Program. We would love to get more families involved in our ECFE program. The 2016-17 schedule will come out in August. We will also include it in the WWG school informational packets that come out around that time as well.

Thanks everyone,  
Mr. Olson/Principal  
WWG Elementary School