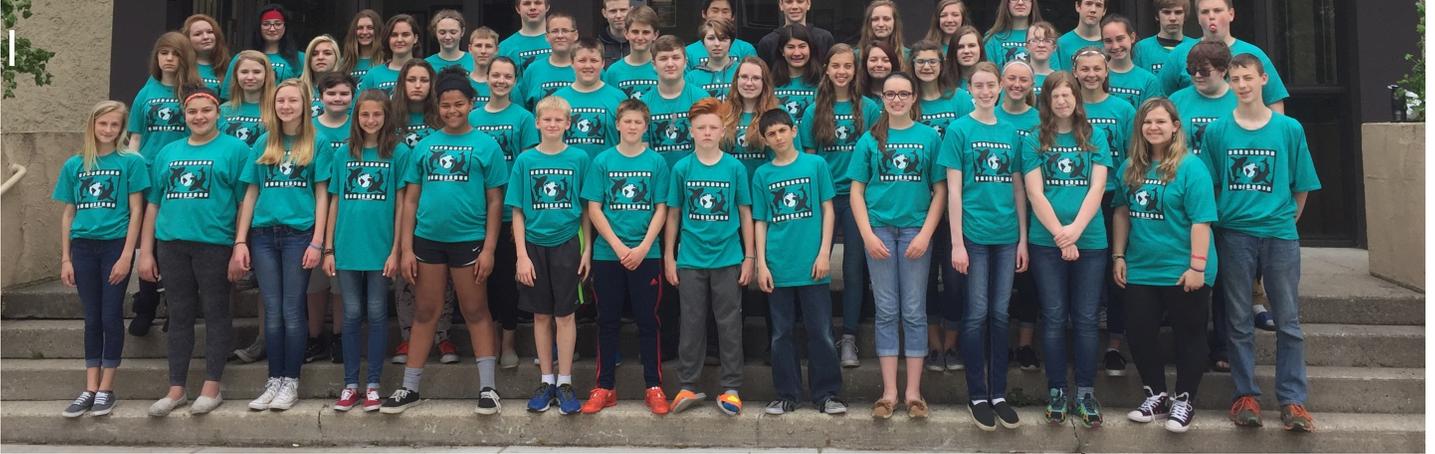


# Whitehall Middle School

## GreenScreens Film Festival

Connecting students, the White Lake community, and the environment through film



### Community Partners

- WMGLSI
- The Howmet Playhouse
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Muskegon Conservation District
- Old to New Media
- Film judges—Sarah Coleman, Joel Darling, and David Ruck

*Learning more about the environmental issues facing our community!*



### Our Project

**“The whole world is singing, but we’ve stopped listening.”**

—*Racing Extinction*

When 8th grade students at Whitehall Middle School learned about the environmental history of White Lake, as well as ongoing threats to the Great Lakes, this quote inspired them to take action! After conducting water quality testing and stream studies on six tributaries of White Lake, they researched the chemical pollution and habitat degradation that led to the lake being listed as a U.S. EPA Great Lakes Area of Concern in the 1980s. Through field trips, community inventories, mapping exercises and research on restoration work conducted by community activists and organizations, students learned more about the issues that affect our watershed, as well as other communities within our state. Armed with this new knowledge, students not only created films to explore these issues in depth, but they also planned a film festival for our middle school and community.

The third annual GreenScreens Film Festival took place on May 12th, 2016 at the historic Howmet Playhouse in Whitehall. This free community event included a screening of the documentary *Racing Extinction*, which was selected by the film festival student planning team after considering 10 professional environmental films. In addition, the top three student films—as decided by our film jury—were announced and screened as well. From threats to our honeybees, to the dangers of deforestation and dune loss, our student films covered a wide range of environmental topics. Over 60 top quality student films were created by our young environmental stewards during their English and science classes. By giving our students the freedom to select their own topic of interest, digital filmmaking program, and filmmaking team, their enthusiasm and engagement were very high. We look forward to developing this film festival into something that in future years will involve middle school students from other schools in Muskegon County, and that attendance by community members continues to grow.

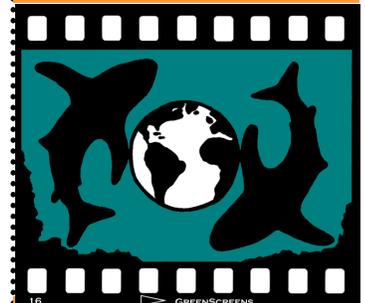
### Whitehall Middle School 2015-16

#### School Year Team:

- 160 Students
- 7 Teachers
- 8th grade English, Science, and Math classes



*Raising awareness about extinction at our evening screening for the community.*



*GreenScreens logo designed by 8th grader*

- All WMS 7th and 8th grade students attended the GreenScreens Film Festival on May 12, 2016 at the Howmet Playhouse.
- Students watched *Racing Extinction*, as well as the top three juried student films.
- Jenny Wong, biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Chad Hipshier, Assistant Director of the Muskegon Conservation District, speak to our students about habitat threats to Michigan species.



**L**earning **O**bjectives: Students will....

- Learn about the environmental history of the White Lake area.
- Learn how to conduct water quality tests.
- Conduct stream studies of the Little Manistee River and tributaries of White Lake.
- Raise salmon in our classroom tank to better understand their role in a healthy watershed.
- Research and create a short film about an environmental issue or event pertaining to the Great Lakes region.

## 2015-16 School Year Project Timeline

