



# W.E.S...It's Elementary2

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## Plastic "Film" Recycling Continues @ WES

Westernport Elementary  
172 Church Street  
Westernport, MD  
21562  
A Title I School  
Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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The third grade classes of Mrs. Sarah Llewellyn and Ms. Tiffany Moran are continuing to lead a new plastic "film" recycling program here at Westernport Elementary. This recycling project began in January. This is a school-wide recycling effort, so all students, teachers and parents are asked to help. **If you wish to participate, please send in the following items: grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, ziplock & other re-sealable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. Do not send in plastic bottles and plastic containers.** All materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue. So far, the students have been successful in keeping 14 lbs. of plastic out of the landfill.



## From the Principal...Mrs. Fazenbaker



January has come and gone. I really thought that we may get through January without any snow days, but we did not quite make it. Let's hope we can get through the month of February without any more of them. Flu season is upon us as well. Although I stress the importance of good attendance, I do not want your child to come to school if he/she is ill. However, please send a doctor's note and/or a parent note telling us why your child is absent when your child is out of school. Phone calls are made every day whenever your child is not in school.

Students should be fever free for 24 hours before returning after any illness. Report cards for the second nine weeks were sent home on Friday, January 27th. Parent conferences will be held on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 AM to 3:00 PM. If you have any questions or concerns, this is the time to talk with your child's teacher or myself. We want to help! Mrs. Nelson will be holding a parent workshop on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 PM in the library media center. The topic of the workshop is

"Building Respect for Rules, Authority and Other People." A letter will be sent home later this month. Please RSVP so we may plan for this meeting. We are selling Gardner's Candy again this year. Profit from the candy sale will be used to purchase new play equipment for all grades (kickballs, basketballs, wiffle balls/bats, etc.) for the children to use during lunchtime recess and also for our PE classes. Teachers will be given money for their room accounts to purchase supplies for the stu-

dents, if there is any remaining profit. The fundraiser will start on Tuesday, February 21st and end on Friday, March 3rd. Candy will be delivered on March 27<sup>th</sup>, in time for Easter. Please support this WES fundraiser. Please remember that my door is always open and I do want to help all children at Westernport to achieve. Let me know of any questions or concerns that you may have. We must work together for the success of every child who attends WES.

## In Case of Emergency...

Did you know that every school in Allegany County has an Emergency Plan?

The Westernport Elementary School Emergency Plan was created to serve the needs of the school population during a typical school day, as well as in the event of an emergency situation. The school staff is aware of the procedures, reviews them throughout the year, and periodically rehearses various situations with the students in order that all will be prepared for a crisis. The original emergency plan was written in 2006-2007 using a format provided by the ACPS and was done in cooperation with emergency personnel and members of our local community. It is updated yearly.

There are six basic ways to respond to any emergency situation: 1) Lockdown (in which the building is locked and individual classroom doors are locked); 2) Lock-In (in which the building is locked, but the classrooms are not); 3) Shelter-in-Place (in which faculty, staff and students move to adjacent hallways and put plastic on all doors to keep fumes or chemicals from causing health issues); 4) Evacuation (in which students are moved to a location outside the school building due to a fire or another emergency inside the building); 5) Reverse Evacuation (in which students are moved into the building when there is a situation nearby that might prove a risk to students who are out on the playground); and 6) Duck-Cover-Hold (in which the entire school population takes shelter in the first floor hallway in case of a weather-related event such as a tornado).

As parents, you should remember that when WES is in a Lockdown, Shelter-in-Place or Duck-Cover-Hold emergency response, staff members cannot answer the doorbell or open the doors to admit parents until the situation has been resolved. Be assured that the faculty and staff are committed to taking care of your children as if they were our own.

Our Emergency Team consists of Alexa Fazenbaker (incident commander) and staff members, Stacey Hanlin, Deb Hendrickson, Julie Kyle, Kim Martin, Melissa Nelson, Tamela Rankin, Nurse Patti Rounds, and Beth Weber, as well as community member, Tim Dayton.

### HANDICAPPED PARKING (Just a Reminder...)

Attention Parents and Grandparents: Please do not block the handicapped parking spots at any time. These spaces are especially needed in the morning and evening for student drop-off and pick up. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Sincerely, Mrs. Fazenbaker, Principal

## WES School Calendar

- ◇ Feb. 2 (Thurs.) Miss Stacey & Miss Kate (Allegany County Public Library) visit AM-PreK @9:00 AM, Kindergarten @9:30 PM and PM-PreK @ 1:30 PM; Jump Rope for Heart Presentation @2:00 PM
- ◇ Feb. 3 (Fri.) PTA Hoagie Fundraiser orders due
- ◇ Feb. 6 (Mon.) Family Fit & Fun Night @6:00 PM (See page 4.)
- ◇ Feb. 8 (Wed.) STEM Activity Night (Grades 3, 4 & 5) from 6:00-7:30 PM
- ◇ Feb. 10 (Fri.) Arts in the Schools (Mrs. Sechler AM & Mrs. Swisher PM)
- ◇ Feb. 14 (Tues.) PTA Ice Cream Social; PTA Parent Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- ◇ Feb. 15 (Wed.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-Elementary Parent Conferences from 8:15 AM-3:00 PM; PTA Hoagies delivered
- ◇ Feb. 20 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED- Presidents' Day
- ◇ Feb. 21 (Tues.) Parent Workshop held by Melissa Nelson, Guidance Counselor (Topic: Building Respect for Rules, Authority and Other People); Gardner's Candy Sale begins



## Be Safe Online

K-5 students at Westernport Elementary learn about internet safety each year as part of the library media curriculum. The new 2016-2017 curriculum is a group of lessons from Common Sense Education. Primary students will spend approximately six classes working on internet safety topics. Intermediate students will spend eight classes this year working on internet safety. Lessons will continue through grade twelve. Many weekly guidance lessons also focus on internet safety topics.

Once again, here are some internet safety tips that are helpful for parents and children alike.

**Pick a strong password.** Don't use common words or significant dates in your life. Create a password of **8-12 characters** that's a mix of letters—both upper and lowercase—and numbers/punctuation marks so it can't be guessed easily.

**Avoid Common Passwords**

Your password is a defensive precaution

against hackers and identity theft. Don't make it easy for someone else to invade your privacy online. A study of more than 32 million exposed passwords (by Internet security firm Imperva) revealed the 10 most common, which are 123456-12345-123456789 Password-Iloveyou-Princess-Rockyou 1234567-12345678-Abc123

**Don't give your birth date.** Using your full birth date—month, day, and year—can give hackers and identity thieves an avenue to more confidential information. Share just the day and month, or no birthday at all.

**Use privacy controls.** Limit what's available on your online profile so strangers don't have complete access to everything you post online.

**Vacations.** Don't announce online that you're going to be away. An empty home is an easy target for burglars.

—Adapted from and used by permission from *Cut & Paste*

## Martin's BonusCards

596 Martin's BonusCard numbers have now been registered by Westernport Elementary students, faculty and staff. The points from those bonuscard numbers have earned the school \$1,563.97 to date (December 2016.) Please register bonuscard numbers from your home, your extended family, your friends and your neighbors. All who wish to support WES may now register online at <http://www.martinsaplus.com>.



## Counting Sheep (a Winter 2017 AR Contest!)

This winter, we would like to encourage our Accelerated Readers in grades 2-5 to help others by participating in a "Read to Feed Activity" from January 3rd-March 17th. This reading activity is in conjunction with Heifer International. Our goal will be to give one sheep to the program and to purchase other animals (as yet to be determined) from money donated to our readers by family sponsors.

**RULES:** WES students will read and take quizzes during the contest period. Only **Reading Practice** quizzes taken during the contest period will count.

In addition to AR points, each student will "earn" 10 cents, per quiz passed, and the money earned will be combined to "purchase" a sheep. (The money "earned" will be provided by grant funds and will not exceed a total of \$120.00.)

Students are also encouraged to ask parents, grandparents, and family members to sponsor them as they read so that additional animals may be purchased. Students who

raise additional money from sponsors will vote to choose these animals, which could be a flock of chickens, honeybees or geese!

The top four students in each grade who earn the most Accelerated Reader points will be invited to attend the "Counting Sheep Celebration." All other students who pass a minimum number of AR Reading Practice quizzes during the contest will be eligible to be in a drawing to select four more winners, per grade. To prevent indiscriminate quizzing, students who are in the "top four" or students who pass the minimum number of quizzes also must have an average of 70% of quiz questions correctly answered to be eligible to attend the small celebration.

As always, you are welcome to read to your child, read with your child and encourage your child to read independently. You may help your child select from quizzes on over 170,000 books (nearly half of which are nonfiction) by using the AR Bookfinder, which is available at <http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>

## Title I Tips

Title I is a federal program which provides supplemental funding to schools that qualify according to Free and Reduced Meal Student (FARMS) eligibility. Title I schools must strictly follow the policies set by the federal government. If you believe that a federal regulation has been violated, you are able to express your concerns through the use of a complaint form, which is available in the school office.

The policy is also posted in our school and is on the website of the Allegany County Public Schools.

<http://www.acpsmd.org/>



## To a Groundhog on February 2

Wake up, sleepyhead!  
Put your dreams away.  
Everyone is waiting  
for what you have to say.  
Will your shadow make a blot  
on the snow today or not?  
Will the sun start turning hot?  
Will the month be cold, or what?  
Hurry, sir, and tell us  
on this Groundhog Day.

Wake up, sleepyhead!  
What's a little snow?  
If your shadow follows you,  
back inside you'll go.  
Will the coming six weeks be  
wintry, cold, and shivery?  
Balmy, warm, and summery?  
Groundhog, what's your prophecy?  
Better get your glasses on,  
So you'll really know! (Anonymous)



## Peace Days



The drawing for **Peace Days** winners is held each Monday and is sponsored by the school office. A small prize is awarded to students who have had a peaceful week. These are students who have followed the rules for the previous week and have had no yellow or red behaviors. Pictures of these students are displayed near the office. The most recent Peace Days winners (full weeks) include:

Week of December 19-22: Mason Brashear, Anthony Dolly, Declan McGeady and Rylee Moran

Week of January 3-6: Clayton Davis, Maa-ziah Fertig, Aiden Kight and Lindsey Stafford

Week of January 9-13: Jackson Brashear, Ava Fazenbaker, Addison Hanlin and Dade Kight

Week of January 16-23: Ava Lupettie, Landon Shimer, Gracelyn Shingler and Gracie Shingler

Week of January 23-27: No drawing

## Attendance Drawing Winners

The weekly **attendance drawing** is sponsored by Verso Corporation. The names of the students who are drawn from the "pot of gold" are checked against the attendance list from the previous week. If a student whose name is drawn is present at school each day for the previous week, he/she wins a silver or gold dollar. If a student is absent, tardy or leaves early on any day during the previous week, the student's name is not announced but put back in the bucket and a new name is drawn. Drawings are held each Monday on closed-circuit WWES-TV. One coin is awarded to each grade level. These students (in order from PreK-5) have won coins, to date:

Week of December 19-22: Mathew Alt, Ethan Mauck, Ava Lupettie, Jaquan Jackson,

Caleb White, Brady Moran and Jacy Tinsley

Week of January 3-6: Landon Shimer, Delaney White, Sean Wade, Gabe Cramer, Dominic Saville, Wyatt Riggleman and Corbin Ravenscroft

Week of January 9-13: Bentlee Slaubaugh, Delaney White, Mason Weimer, Aaliyah Dorsett, Dae Rinker, Alex Perry and Brayden Reed

Week of January 16-20: Klarissa Paitzel, Declan McGeady, Fischer Beeman, Jaren Vasquez, Alyssa Crossland, Erin Kesner and Talen Kerchner

Week of January 23-27: Landen Iliff, Everlee McNeal, Lauren Biser, Kyiah Green, Cambria Guinn, Landon Collins and Tyler Quinn



## Citizens of the Month

Students selected as "Citizens of the Month" exemplify the character trait for the month, as found on the ACPs school calendar. The character trait for **December** was Caring. Those students selected for December took a trip to McDonald's for a treat! Students included: Grade K-Gracie Platter & Everlee McNeal; Grade 1-Kristen Paitzel & Emma Streets; Grade 2-Jaquan Jackson & Caden White; Grade 3-Zoey Kerchner & Abbigale Lambert; Grade 4-Mollie Slaubaugh & Elizabeth Ketterman; and Grade 5-Morgan Steckman & Brayden Reed.



dare  
care

**THE MISSION** of Westernport Elementary School is to prepare and empower all students to successfully meet tomorrow's challenges. We will partner with family and community to nurture the whole child, intellectually, physically and emotionally, to build a better world — one child at a time

literacy  
collaboration  
**MATH**  
21st Century students  
curiosity  
solution  
formulation  
systems identification  
problem  
communication  
solving  
intellectual  
creativity  
critical  
media information

## Family Fit & Fun @ WES

### Let's Get Sporty...

Come to the FREE Westernport Fit & Fun Night!

**Date:** Monday, February 6, 2017

**Time:** 6:00-7:00 PM

**Place:** Westernport Elementary Gym

Join us for a family night of active games and healthy activities! This event is free and open to the entire family. This event is part of the Family Fit & Fun Challenge and a great way to get moving during the winter months! Each child who participates will receive a special take home prize. Door prizes will be drawn at the end of the evening. Wear your favorite sports-themed attire and join us. It's free!

Sponsored by the Western Maryland Health System, the YMCA, Make Healthy Choices Easy and the Allegany County Health Planning Coalition.



## Next Gen Science: Weather



Mrs. Candice Smith's kindergarten class has been learning about different types of weather using the Next Gen Science curriculum. On January 23rd, the students were able to observe and discuss the weather as it changed from rain to sleet and then from sleet to snow. The students made a hypothesis to figure out why the weather was changing. Then Mrs. Smith helped the students to check the radar map on WeatherBug to help them to make a conclusion for their hypothesis. Shown above are student weather watchers looking for a change in the Westernport weather.



## Top AR Students (so far)



Westernport Elementary students in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been reading books and taking tests since the Accelerated Reader program was kicked off on September 6, 2016. The top point earners at the end of January include: Jacob Van Pelt (a member of the 100 point club), Lindsey Stafford and Jessica Snyder (back row) and Trey Idol and Jacob Fazenbaker (front row). Congratulations to our top point earners (so far) during our 26th year of Accelerated Reader (and fifth year online!)