



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Help Your Children to "Do Their Best on the PARCC Test!"

Students in third, fourth and fifth grade will be taking the Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers (PARCC) test in April. This is a test of reading and math achievement that meets the testing requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. Students will use a computer to take both the reading and math tests. Here are test taking tips for you to share with your children in grades 3, 4 or 5.

Before the test

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a good breakfast. (Students will be served breakfast each testing day.)
- Come to school with a positive attitude.

During the test

- Stay calm.
- Listen carefully to the directions.
- Focus on the task that you are being asked to complete.
- Work at a steady pace and check your answers.

Do your best on Multiple Choice Questions by remembering to:

- Read the question/problem and all answers carefully.
- Cross out the wrong answers to eliminate unwanted choices.
- Reread the questions and answers.
- Check to make sure you have not left a question unanswered.
- Carefully check your scrap paper answers with the answers on the test.

Do your best on Constructed Response Questions by remembering to:

- Read the question/problem carefully.
- Highlight words in the directions and other key words, as necessary.
- THINK about your answer and organize it in your mind.
- Enter your answer, work, or explanation in the box.
- Use the Basic Equation Editor or Open Response Equation Editor, as necessary.
- Reread the problem, question, and answer to check your work.



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A Title I School
Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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From the Principal...Mrs. Fazenbaker

The school year is definitely flying by. We recently held an awards assembly at WES. I was proud of all of the students who received awards for their hard work, citizenship and attendance during the second nine week grading period. The Mobile Science Lab was at WES in late February. The students participated in many hands-on activities throughout the week. Thank you to all who participated in the fundraisers which helped to

bring the lab to WES. Fifth grade students will be taking the Science MSA test on March 21st and 22nd. On Tuesday, March 29th, I will give an overview of the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment which students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be taking in April. This informational meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. in

the Media Center. Please join me to see what your children are learning and to view samples of the assessment that they will be taking. I will also review the parent report that will be sent home with the students after taking the test. PARCC Testing in our county is from April 7th to May 20th. The testing calendar can change if there is a school closing, 2-hour delay or change to the calendar

during that time. Students in grades 3, 4 & 5 will know when they are testing and a note will be written in the assignment book to let you know as well. Finally, please talk to your child about the testing and the importance of doing his/her best. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration will take place on March 31st and April 1st. Any student age four on or before 9/1/2016 may apply.

Mid-March/April 2016 WES Calendar

- ☺ March 16 (Wed.) Guys Read @ 12:30 p.m.-Grade 4 Boys
- ☺ March 17 (Thurs.) Grade 4 Sheetz Gift Card Raffle Money due
- ☺ March 18 (Fri.) Grade 3 parents to visit math class @ 11:30 a.m.; 3-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL-PM TEACHER WORK TIME
- ☺ March 21-22 (Mon. and Tues.) Grade 5 MSA Science Test
- ☺ March 22 (Tues.) Kindergarten to Senior Center @ 10:00 a.m.
- ☺ March 23 (Wed.) Guys Read @12:30 p.m.; CLOSE OF THIRD MARKING PERIOD
- ☺ March 24 (Thurs.) Grade 2 parents to visit math class @ 9:00 a.m.; 3-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL-Easter Vacation begins. OFFICES CLOSED March 25th and March 28th.
- ☺ March 29 (Tues.) SCHOOLS REOPEN
- ☺ March 30 (Wed.) Guys Read @ 12:30 p.m.-Fourth Grade Boys (Makeup Session)
- ☺ March 31 (Thurs.) PreKindergarten and Kindergarten Registration

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

- ☺ April 1 (Fri.) PreKindergarten and Kindergarten registration
- ☺ April 7 (Thurs.)-May 20 PARCC Testing Window
- ☺ April 9 (Sat.) PTA Spring Fling
- ☺ April 11 (Mon.) Report Cards Distributed
- ☺ April 15 (Fri.) Career Day

- ☺ April 18 (Mon.) Grade 5 Panoramic Picture @ 9:00 a.m.
- ☺ April 20 (Wed.)-April 24 Allegany County Art Show at the Country Club Mall
- ☺ April 22 (Fri.) Kindergarten Field Trip to the C & O Canal
- ☺ April 26 (Tues.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED-Primary Election Day
- ☺ April 27 (Wed.) 2-HOUR DELAYED OPENING for Professional Development

UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

- ☺ May 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- ☺ May 5 (Thurs.) Band Tour
- ☺ May 6 (Fri.) Fifth Grade Field Trip to Hershey Park



WES Citizens

Students selected as "Citizens of the Month" exemplify the character trait for the month. The character trait for **January** was **Fairness**. Those students selected for January took a trip to McDonald's for a treat! Students included: Grade K-Makenna Turner and Eliza Rutter; Grade 1-Max Kalbaugh and Kealana Puaauli; Grade 2-Tommy Ellifritz and Brody Dayton; Grade 3-Wyatt Riggleman and Owen McGeady; Grade 4-Catelynn Davis and Mackenzie Derham; and Grade 5-Leuma Puaauli and Elizabeth Schramm. The character trait for **February** was **Respect**. Those students selected for February also took a trip to McDonald's for a treat. Students included: Grade K-Darryn Gillaspie and Noah Heavener; Grade 1-Finn McNeal and Destiny Studli; Grade 2-Nicole Youmans and Gracie Shingler; Grade 3-Landon Collins and Harley Smith; Grade 4-Rylee Moran and Morgan Steckman; and Grade 5-Jason Haggerty and Wyatt Murphy

Hooley Plunge 2016



Thanks to Kim Aikman, chairperson; WES faculty members, Lisa Harris, Missi Kenny and Candice Smith, and Max Aikman, John Fazenbaker, Hannah Kenny, Bob Shockey and Alex Smith, WES friends, who took the Hooley plunge on the chilly Saturday morning of March 5th. Thanks also to all who donated coins or cash or purchased Hooley items. You helped Westernport Elementary School to raise \$1,263.00 to support the Special Olympics. Thanks so much!



Martin's Update



595 Martin's Bonus-Card numbers have now been collected by

Westernport Elementary students, faculty and staff. The points from those bonuscard numbers have earned the school \$3,230.10 to date. There is still time to register numbers from your family, your extended family, your friends and your neighbors by going online at <http://www.martinsaplus.com>

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.



Peace Days Winners

A drawing is held each Monday to award a small prize to four students who have had a peaceful week. These are students who have followed the rules for the previous week and have no yellow or red behaviors. Pictures of these students are displayed near the office.

Week of February 1-5: Carlynn Escobar, Cayden Haggerty, Ethan Mauck and Kenneth Wiles (No Drawing February 8-12th)

Week of February 15-19: Autumn Kerchner, Everlee McNeal, Matthew Saville and Harlie Todd

Week of February 22-26: Nevaeh Blowe, Mackenzie Derham, Sarah Shingler and Laney Suder

Week of February 29-March 4: Gwen Fazenbaker, Alex Reed, Jessica Snyder and Wyatt Walker

PBIS Dance Party

The Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Dance was held on Friday February 19, 2016. Students who had no more than one yellow behavior per week, no red behaviors and no office referrals were eligible to attend. Homework guidelines were at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Behaviors were tracked from January 19th through February 19th.

The 30-minute activity was led by Mrs. Melissa Nelson, guidance counselor, and Mrs. Shelly Fitzgerald, LAP instructional assistant. Students who did not earn the dance stayed in their classrooms and did a positive behavior activity.

Thanks to Michael Gurtler, parent volunteer, for the great sound system and wonderful musical selections.

Find Us On Facebook!

The Westernport Elementary PTA Facebook page was created to give members of our Westernport Elementary community important information, announcements, and updates about school happenings and events. Parents may use the link on the Westernport Home Page (click on For Parents and then PTA News) or search Facebook to find this group and request to join it. This is a closed group, but please be respectful when posting on this page. Administrators have the right, and responsibility, to remove anything that is offensive, inappropriate, or not pertaining to PTA initiatives and efforts.



Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl



Fourth and fifth grade AEP students participated in the Northeast Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl on February 17, 2016. 100 multiple-choice questions were presented online and students worked as a team to choose the correct answer out of five possible choices within a 60-second time period. Up to fifteen points could be earned if the question was answered the first time. Five points were awarded if students answered the question the second time. Categories ranged from current events and math to literature, sports

and even nursery rhymes. WES students answered 75 of 100 questions correctly, and 51 questions were answered on the first try. Most importantly the students worked well together to use their background knowledge. No adult help could be used in reading the questions aloud or in any other way. The spring quiz bowl, America Answers, will be held after school in late April for all interested fifth grade students. Westernport Elementary students have participated in the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl since 1989.

Attendance Matters

It is important for your child to arrive to school on time every day and that your child not leave early from school, not just during testing days. When your child is late to school or leaves early from school, he/she is missing valuable instruction that is hard to make up. Your child is considered tardy when he/she arrives after 8:45 AM. Classroom instruction ends at 3:20 PM every day. Please get your child to school on time and avoid picking up your child early so he/she can receive a WHOLE day of instruction.

Attendance Drawing Winners

These are the latest results of the weekly attendance drawing, which 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 name is not announced but put back in the bucket and a new name is drawn. The following students have won coins recently by being in school:

Week of January 29 & February 1-5: Bailey

Brashear, Makinzie Zais, Vinnie Dyer, Mikaili Fearon, Jacob Fazenbaker, Jacy Tinsley and Leuma Puaauli

Week of February 8-12: Parker Rishel, Jeremiah Woolard, Jaden Paugh Lee, Kolby Woolard, Owen McGeady, Corbin Ravenscroft and Bryson Wilkins

Week of February 15-19: Gabrielle Shingler, Carlynn Escobar, Vinnie Dyer, Trey Idol, Maddox McKenzie, Abigail Decker and Kaylee Blocher

Week of February 22-26: Bailey Brashear, Mason Weimer, Ian Derham, Nikoa Wilkin-

son, Brady Moran, Zach Gooding and Leuma Puaauli

Week of February 29-March 4: Ethan Mauck, Darryn Gillaspie, Wyatt DiChiera, Kris Washington, Cailyn Broadwater, Alex Reed and Kyler Baker

See our School Newsletter
online (and in color)...

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

Click on "Newsletters."

"Bee a Reader"



The Accelerated Reader winter "Bee a Reader" contest had great participation in spite of delayed openings and snow days. Many members of the Blue, Green, Red and Yellow Bee teams worked hard to win the contest and to support their teams by passing two, three, four, or five Accelerated Reader tests from January 4th through March 11th. (The end of the contest was postponed due to multiple snow days.) All members of the Red Team who supported their team will be treated to a lunchtime party All stu-

dents who supported their teams will receive a coupon for a free cafeteria ice cream. A total of 488 tests were passed during the contest. A total of 479.9 points were earned by the participants in grades 2-5. Shown standing by the not quite finished "bee board" is fourth grade student, Hayden Martz, who is a member of the Yellow Bee team.



Wearing of the Green

It ought to come in April, or, better yet, in May when everything is green as green—I mean St. Patrick's Day.

With still a week of winter this wearing of the green seems rather out of season—it's rushing things, I mean.

But maybe March is better when all is done and said: St. Patrick brings a promise, a four-leaf clover promise, a green-all over promise of springtime just ahead!

—Anonymous

Note: A shamrock is a clover with only three leaflets on each stem. A four-leaf clover is very rare! Be sure to read the "I Am Lucky" stories that were written on traditional shamrocks by grade 2 students and displayed on their bulletin boards.

Stem Night 2016



STEM Night was held on February 10, 2016 for third, fourth and fifth grade students. A total of 19 parents and 19 students participated in activities which incorporated science, math, engineering and technology. Mrs. Sarah Llewellyn, Ms. Tiffany Moran, Mrs. Janice Raines and Mrs. Mallory Sechler assisted with the many activities offered.



Title I Tips

Parents have the right to know the highly qualified status of the teachers and instructional assistants who work with their children. You may get this information by making a written request to:

Mr. Jeff Blank, Chief Human Resources Officer

108 Washington Street

P. O. Box 1724

Cumberland, MD 21501-1724



Questions, Questions...

Mrs. Alexa Fazenbaker, principal, wants to remind parents that her door is always open to them that if they have any questions or concerns or wish to discuss any school topic with her. Mrs. Fazenbaker's e-mail address is alexa.fazenbaker@acps.k12.md.us and you may contact her at any time. You may also call the school at 301-359-0511 to schedule a conference. Mrs. Fazenbaker is always glad to assist students and parents in any way.

