



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Guys Read Comes to WES



The *Guys Read* program was kicked off at WES on Wednesday, January 20th and will continue for seven more weeks. All fourth grade boys are participating in this program, which is sponsored by the Allegany County Library System.

Each Wednesday, a group of fourth grade boys will eat lunch in the art room. At the same time they will listen to a volunteer guest reader as he introduces a book by reading a chapter or two aloud. Five copies of this book will then be available at school for the boys to check out and continue at their own pace.

Grant money obtained by the public library system is paying for the 40 books that are donated to each school. The *Guys Read* program, according to Lisa McKenney, program coordinator, is "all about creating motivated, lifelong readers. Boys will read---if they are given reading that interests them... Making the *Guys Read* experi-

ence fun is key so that the boys participating see reading as enjoyable and that men like to read."

The books that will be shared in the next few weeks include: Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made, Weird But True, The Hoboken Chicken Emergency, Three-Ring Rascals: The Show Must Go On, The Strange Case of Origami Yoda, Star Wars: Jedi Academy, How to Train Your Dragon, and Big Nate in a Class By Himself.

Shown above with guest readers Mr. Robin Summerfield, local field representative for Senator Ben Cardin, and Mr. John Taube, Director of the Allegany County Library System, is enthusiastic reader, Connor Dayton, a student from the fourth grade class of Mrs. Jennifer Hughes.

Westernport Elementary

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A Title I School

Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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From the Principal...Mrs. Fazenbaker



January is over! I thought that we might get through last month without any snow days and then "Jonas" hit the area. Let's hope that we have no snow days in February! Flu season is also upon us. Although I stress the importance of good attendance, I do not want your child to come to school if he/she is ill. Students should be fever free for 24 hours before returning after any illness. Please send a doctor's note and/or a parent note

telling us the reason for your child's absence. Phone calls are made every day to track students who are not in school. Report cards for the second nine week period will be sent home on February 2nd. Parent conferences will be held in the afternoon of February 24th and the morning of February 25th. If you have any questions or concerns, this is the time to see your child's teacher or myself. We want to help!

Mrs. Melissa Nelson will be having a parent workshop on February 8th. The topic is "Helping Children Learn Self-Discipline." The workshop will be held in the Media Center at 2:00 p.m. Please RSVP. We are selling Gardner's Candy again this year. Profit from the candy sale will be used to pay for the Aquatic Mobile Science Lab that is scheduled from February 29th through March

4th. The candy will be delivered on March 9th, just in time for Easter. Please support this school fundraiser. Please remember that my door is always open and I want to help all children at WES to achieve. Please let me know of any questions or concerns that you may have. We need to work together for the success of all students who attend our school.

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, Melissa Kenny, Kim Martin, Melissa Nelson, Tamela Rankin, Nurse Patti Rounds, and Beth Weber, as well as community member, Tim Dayton.

WES School Calendar

- ◇ Feb. 1 (Mon.) Gardner's Easter Candy Fund-raiser begins
- ◇ Feb. 2 (Tues.) Report Cards Distributed
- ◇ Feb. 3 (Wed.) Guys Read @ 12:30 p.m.
- ◇ Feb. 8 (Mon.) Awards Assemblies (@9:30 a.m. for grades K-2 and @ 10:00 a.m. for grades 3-5); Parent Meeting re "Helping Children Learn Self-Discipline" with Mrs. Nelson @ 2:00 p.m. in Media Center
- ◇ Feb. 10 (Wed.) Guys Read @12:30 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. STEM activity (grades 3-5)
- ◇ Feb. 12 (Fri.) PTA Ice Cream Social
- ◇ Feb. 15 (Mon.) **SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED**-Presidents' Day
- ◇ Feb. 17 (Wed.) Guys Read @ 12:30 p.m.
- ◇ Feb. 18 (Thurs.) Gardner's Candy Order Forms and Money Due to School Office
- ◇ Feb. 24 (Wed.) **3-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL**-Elementary Parent Conferences
- ◇ Feb. 25 (Thurs.) **3-HOUR DELAYED OPENING**-Elementary Parent Conferences

Be Safe Online

K-5 students at Westernport Elementary learn about internet safety each year as part of the library media curriculum. 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 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 **\$2,012.54** to date. There is always time to register the bonuscard numbers from your home, your extended family, your friends and your neighbors. All who wish to support WES must now register online at <http://www.martinsaplus.com>.



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

(The students, faculty, and staff of WES hope that the Groundhog made the correct prediction! After the big snow of January 2016, we are definitely looking forward to spring!)

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://acpsmd.org>



All County Orchestra Festival



Fifth grade students, Mary Keller, Caden Kyle, Kaitlynn Lands and Brandon Zais, and fourth grade student, Jacy Tinsley, will participate in the All County Orchestra Festival as members of the junior orchestra. The concert will be held at Fort Hill High School on Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Directing the elementary portion of the concert will be Allegany County Orchestra instructors Patricia Aaron, Jay Moon (WES Orchestra teacher), and Sierra Tretter.

Featured songs will be *Storm*, *Pepperoni Pizza Rock*, *In Prospect*, *D String Boogie*, and *Dinosaur Dig*. Congratulations to all who were selected to participate in this county-wide musical program. These students will travel to Cumberland for weekly practice so that they will be well prepared for the concert. Westernport Elementary School orchestra students will also gain valuable experience by playing with students from throughout Allegany County.



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 14-23: Wade Barbe, Gabbie Guevara Zelaya, Rylee Moran and Colton Shingler

Week of January 4-8: Gracie Custer, Aiden Kight, Owen McGeady and Eliza Rutter

Week of January 11-15: Carlee Blizzard, Nathaniel Ketterman, Hailey Rodriguez-Cruz and Nautika Turner

Week of January 18-22: 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 21-23, 2015 & January 4-8: Everlee McNeal, Fischer Beeman, Damon Sarfino, Zoey Kerchner, Kadie Matthews, Corbin Ravenscroft and Jacob Tinsley

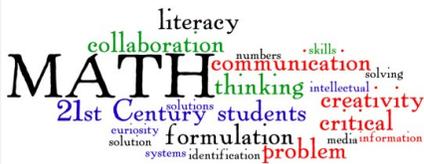
Week of January 11-15: Ben Broadwater, Emma Kelley, Ethan Adams, Ava Fazenbaker, Brady Moran, Eddie Davis and Wyatt Murphy

Week of January 18-22: Declan McGeady, Sean Wade, Ian Derham, Caleb White, Gabbie Guevara Zelaya, Carter Kight and Macy Guinn

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 will take a trip to McDonald's for a treat! Students included: Grade K-Tony Talbert and Kane Donnelly; Grade 1-Kambria Spalding and Emma Rose Decker; Grade 2-Nautika Turner and Emma Trexler; Grade 3-Gabbie Guevara Zelaya and Sofia Weasenforth; Grade 4-Brayden Reed and Alyssa Taylor; and Grade 5-Mary Keller and Jaden Lee

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



At the (Public) Library...

- ◇ Ms. Barbara Riffey, manager of the Westernport Branch of the Allegany County Library System, recently hosted a library tour for the fourth grade students of Mrs. Jennifer Hughes and Mrs. Janice Raines. Some of the students who did not have library cards then signed up to get their own.
- ◇ A newly created Story Corp team of children's librarians from the Allegany County Library System now visits local elementary schools. Team members, Kate Metzger and Stacy Winters, will be providing children's programming and outreach to the Westernport community. They will visit students grades PreK and Kindergarten at WES soon.
- ◇ All that you and your family need to take advantage of the library's collection of books, DVDs, e-books, magazines (and much, much more) is a library card, which is free for residents of Allegany County, Maryland. Ms. Barbara is always happy to see WES faculty, staff and especially students stop in to the Westernport branch to use the many materials available there. You and your family may also "check out" the many free resources found at the Allegany County Library System by clicking on <http://home.alleganycountylibrary.info/>



Hour Of Code 2015



Students in grades K-5 at Westernport Elementary School participated in the worldwide "Hour of Code" during the week of December 7-11, 2015. It was a great experience and students are still talking about it. The "Hour of Code" is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics of computer programming. There were approximately 191,025 "Hour of Code" events scheduled worldwide throughout the week. All K-5 students enjoyed their chance to do coding, either as a whole class experience using the interactive Light Raise unit or as individuals, and are looking forward to seeing new scenarios on the code.org website soon. Shown here are students from Mrs. Mallory Sechler's fifth grade class who worked on their coding assignments in the computer lab. Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson organized the event at WES and Ms. Melissa Blank, ACPS, provided resources.

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 8, 2015. The top point earners at the end of the first semester include: Gwendolyn Fazenbaker and Jessica Snyder (both members of the 100 point club) as well as McKenna Swisher, Alex Reed and Jacob Van Meter. Congratulations to our top point earners (so far) during our 25th year of Accelerated Reader (and fourth year online!)