



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## WeatherBug @ WES

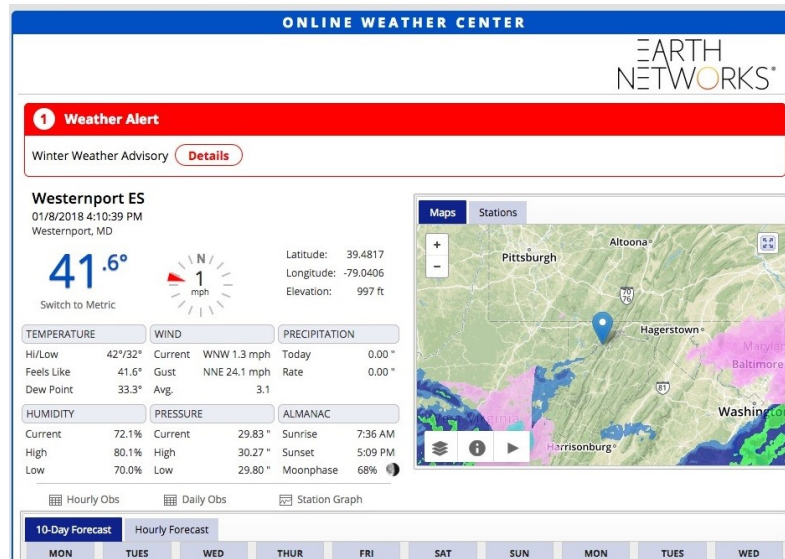
Westernport Elementary  
172 Church Street  
Westernport, MD  
21562  
A Title I School  
Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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A rooftop WeatherBug device has provided weather information for WES since the year 2000 (or earlier.) The original "box" and weather station was obtained by Mr. Steve Wilson, former principal, and has served us well over the past two decades. Although hallway information remained, the "box" failed for the last time before the beginning of the school year. It was recently replaced and upgraded to current standards, thanks to Mrs. Nil Grove, IT Department, and her staff. The WeatherBug is once again providing information directly from the roof of WES and this information is streaming out to the internet. To access this information, use the Weather@WES tab in the middle of the school website. Thanks also to Mr. Blaise Blume, IT technician, and Mrs. Kim Martin, head custodian, for their help.



## From the Principal...Mrs. Fazenbaker

## Spring Pictures

January has come and gone. I really thought that we might get through January without any snow, but we did not quite make it. Let's hope we can get through the month of February without any snow days. 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. Also, please call and let us know why your child is not in school. Stu-

dents should be fever free for 24 hours before returning after any illness. Report cards for the second nine weeks will be available online on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Parent conferences will be held on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM-5:30 PM. If you have any questions or concerns, this is the time to talk with your child's teacher or with me. We want to help! We are selling Gardner's Candy again this year. The sale starts on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and will

end Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The candy will be delivered Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, which will be in time for Easter baskets. Profit from the candy sale will be used to purchase laptops for student use. Please support this Westernport 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.

**The spring individual student pictures will be taken on Monday, March 19, 2018.** The fifth grade panoramic picture, class pictures and the staff picture will also be taken that day.



## 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 and staff members, Erin Foutz, Barbara Amtower, Shelly Fitzgerald, Deb Hendrickson, Julie Kyle, Kim Martin, Tamela Rankin, Beth Weber, as well as community member, Tim Dayton, and the school nurse.

### 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. 1 (Thurs.) Allegany County Public Library Storycorps (AM-PreK @ 9:00 AM, K @ 9:30 AM, PM-PreK @ 1:30 PM); AR Contest "Reading is Llama-licious" begins
  - \* Feb. 5 (Mon.) Awards Assembly for Students
  - \* Feb. 13 (Tues.) Valentine's Day Ice Cream Social (AM-PreK @ 11:00, PM-PreK-5 @ 1:45 PM)
  - \* Feb. 14 (Wed.) Parent Conference Day @ 10:00 AM-5:30 PM; PTA Hoagie Delivery
  - \* Feb. 19 (Mon.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED-Presidents' Day
  - \* Feb. 20 (Tues.) Gardner's Easter Candy Fundraiser begins
- UPCOMING EVENTS:
- \* Mar. 5 (Mon.) PTA Founder's Day Dinner @ 6:00 PM
  - \* Mar. 6 (Tues.) Gardner's Candy Sale ends
  - \* Mar. 19 (Mon.) Spring Pictures/Staff Picture/Grade 5 Panoramic Picture



## Be Safe Online

K-5 students at Westernport Elementary learn about internet safety each year as part of the library media curriculum. The new curriculum (adopted in 2016) 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. Some 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

595 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 \$1,298.59, as of December 2017. 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> through January 31, 2018.



## Reading is Llama-licious (a Winter 2018 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 February 1st-April 3rd. This reading activity is in conjunction with Heifer International. Our goal will be to give one llama 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" 25 cents, per quiz passed, and the money earned will be combined to "purchase" a llama. (The money "earned" will be provided by grant funds and will not exceed a total of \$150.00.)

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 receive a small "Reading is Llama-licious" prize. 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 receive a prize.

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



Parents have the right to know the certification 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



## 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 18-22: Wade Barbe, Eden Brashear, Irelyn Haines and Jaselynn Ravenscroft

Week of January 8-12, 2018: Megan Carpenter, Tobias Hogan, Georgia Kight and Dustlynn Rebar

Week of January 22-26: Steven Johnson, Klarissa Paitzel, Cole Ramsey and Shayden Thierry



## 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 18-22: Addison Lafferty, Aaliyah Redman, Emily Ellifritz, Carlyn Esco-

bar Molina, Kyiah Green, Maddixx Reed and Elizabeth Ketterman

Week of January 2-12, 2018: Natalie Harris, Adrianna Escobar Molina, Emrick Johnson, Jeremy Fasching, Jayden Paugh Lee, Ava Fazenbaker and Jacob Fazenbaker

Week of January 16-26: Izaiah Clark, Peyton Cavey, Maci Barbe, Mason Weimer, Emily Gurtler, Hailey Rodriguez-Cruz and Kadie Matthews.

WWES-TV is glad to be back on the air. Our closed-circuit TV show is directed by Mrs. Hendrickson. The camera person is Kaitlyn Todd. The "stars" are Miss Shelly and Ms. Kyle. Thanks to all for your patience this fall when we were not able to broadcast school wide in October, November and December.

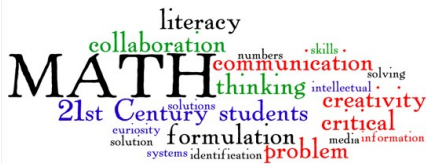


## Citizens of the Month

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 **January** was Fairness. Those students selected for January will take a trip to McDonald's for a treat! Students included: Grade K-Ray Simon & Bailey Cavey; Grade 1-Ben Broadwater & Emily Ellifritz; Grade 2-Nevaeh Blowe & Kaleigh Connor; Grade 3-Holli Konke & Wade Barbe; Grade 4-Damien Miller & Nikoa Wilkinson; and Grade 5-Brady Moran & Joella Wilkins



**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



## Arts in the Schools 2018



In partnership with the Allegany County and Maryland State Arts Councils and the Community Trust Foundation, The Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation in conjunction with Mountain City Center for the Arts brought an Arts in the Schools program to Westernport Elementary School. Arts in the Schools activities include a combination of arts, poetry, literature, history, music and movement to teach children more about both art and science. Third grade students at WES participated in the half-day "Dancing in the Garden" program on January 10th. They learned about the life cycle of a sunflower, explored the famous sunflower paintings of Vincent Van Gogh, created their own sunflower sculpture and danced the role of a sunflower. Shown above are students in Mrs. Sarah Llewellyn's classroom, who are working on their sunflower sculptures.

## Farewell, Nurse Patti



After spending almost seven years at Westernport Elementary, Nurse Patti Rounds left the school in mid-January. During her time at WES, Nurse Patti provided Band-Aids, took temperatures and blood pressures, was the first called at the time of playground accidents and provided specialized nursing care to students in our school. Nurse Patti is a 1991 graduate of Potomac State College (medical secretary) and is a 1993 graduate of Allegany College of Maryland. She is a registered nurse in both MD and WV. Nurse Patti has had a variety of nursing experiences during her career, in addition to school nursing. She recently received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Regis University in Denver, Colorado, doing her clinical work in the local area. She will soon be working as a home hospice nurse in Mineral County, WV. Although Nurse Patti will miss the faculty, staff and students of Westernport Elementary, she is excited to begin this new chapter of her nursing career.

Good luck, Nurse Patti, from all of us.

## 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 11, 2017. The top point earners at the end of January include (left to right): Trey Idol (a member of the 100 point club), Emmalee Trantum, Ava Fazzenbaker and Gavin Ravenscroft. Congratulations to our top point earners (so far) during our 27th year of Accelerated Reader (and sixth year online!)

**Read-Read-Read and Test-Test-Test!**