



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Robotics @ WES

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

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Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Be Safe Online	2
BonusCard Update	2
Peace/Attendance	3
Kids in the Kitchen	3
Title I Tips/Poem	3
Citizens/More Robotics	4
Let's Go, Calico!	4
Weather @WES	



The third grade students at Westernport received six hours of foundational robotics lessons to introduce them to the definition of a robot, a machine that is programmed to perform a task. They also learned the difference between hardware, the pieces that the students can touch and what the robot is made from and software, which is the set of directions that controls the hardware. The students worked with partners to build and program the robots. Once the robots were built, the students were given mini challenges to solve, which gave them a chance to try coding and provided an opportunity for students with introduction to computer science. Sensors were introduced in hour five. The final hour involved a challenge that required a modification of the hardware in addition to a modification of the computer program. Ms. Jessica Mellon, from the University of Maryland Extension Services presented the lessons, assisted by classroom teachers. Students really loved building the robots and were very sorry to take their robots apart!



From the Principal...Mrs. Fazenbaker



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. Although I stress the importance of good attendance, I do not want your child to come to school if he/she is ill. Please send a doctor's note and/or a parent note telling us why your child is ab-

sent when your child is out of school. Please also call to let us know why your child is not in school. Students should be fever free for 24 hours before returning after any illnesses. Please note that we have no control over the automatic phone calls that you receive every morning from the BOE when your child is absent. If your child is absent and even though you have called to tell us, you will still

receive those calls. Report cards for the second nine weeks will be available online on Thursday, January 31st. Parent conferences will be held on Monday, March 4th from 11:00 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. More

information will be sent home at a later date, but the candy will be delivered in time for Easter baskets. Please support this Westernport fundraiser.

As always, thank you for all that you do for the students at WES. We appreciate all of your help in making our students (and school) the best that they (and we) can be!

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) Drop, Cover and 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 Drop, Cover and 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 Fazzenbaker 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, Karalee College.

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. Fazzenbaker, Principal

School Calendar

- * Feb. 4 (Mon.) PTA Hoagie Sale Starts
- * Feb. 7 (Thurs.) PTA Meeting @5:00 PM; PTA Executive Board Meeting @6:00 PM
- * Feb. 14 (Thurs.) PTA Ice Cream Social
- * Feb. 18 (Mon.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES Closed-Presidents' Day

COMING IN MARCH...

- * Mar. 4 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-Parent Conference Day (Teacher Planning 10:00-11:00 AM) Conferences from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM and 3:00-5:30 PM; PTA Hoagies delivered
- * Mar. 11 (Mon.) PTA Founder's Day Dinner
- * Mar. 26 (Tues.) Spring Individual Pictures



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. 16 characters are even safer!

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

612 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 \$1,381.48, as of December 2018.** 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>. The program runs through March 16, 2019. Martin's has given 31 million dollars to schools since 2005. Thanks for your support.



Kids in the Kitchen

This month, UME Educator Tammy Humber-son teaches us that a colorful diet is a healthy diet. Be sure to eat RED apples, GREEN lettuce, BLUE berries, PURPLE grapes, YELLOW squash, WHITE cauliflower and more. Play a game with your children by pointing out (and trying) new colorful foods in the produce section. ("What food do you see that is ORANGE?" Pumpkins, carrots, sweet potatoes and oranges!) Then cook some simple recipes with your children.

For kid-friendly recipe ideas, borrow the book *Eat Your Greens, Reds, Yellows and Purples* by DK from your local library. For more information, call Miss Tammy at 301-724-3320.

The University of Maryland Extension office in Allegany County partners with Westernport Elementary School to educate our students about healthy eating. Look for more tips for parents in upcoming newsletters.



Attendance Incentive

The PBIS team just started a new attendance incentive to reward students who are in school on time every day all day. The students who have earned perfect attendance will be invited to stay after school for special (and fun) activities with teachers who are PBIS team members. The activity will be different each month and will require a signed permission slip from the child's parent or guardian in order for the child to be allowed to stay. Advance notice will be given in order for parents to make arrangements to have their child picked up at the end of the activity. A timeframe will be given for each activity for which there will be no exceptions. The activities will end between 5:30 PM and 6:00 PM, depending on the specific activity. Tracking for the first activity will begin on Friday, January 25th which is the first day of the 3rd nine weeks of school. Good attendance is so important for your child's education. Please help your child to be a successful student by having your child in school **every** day, on time **every** day and in school **for the entire** day.

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 17-21: Maci Iliff, Paiton Lease, Jacob Mongold and Alivia Warnick

Week of January 2-4: Wade Barbe, Kiya Chojar, Lily Dennis and Taylor Saville

Week of January 14-18: Ashlynn Durst, Jeremy Fasching, Kevin Stumbaugh and Emily Weimer

Week of January 23-25: Jade Greenwald, Jackson Lease, Sarah Shingler and Destiny Studli



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 17-21 and January 2-4:
Vayda Marsh, Lily Dennis, Grayson Wilson,

Ethan Mauck, Aiden Weimer, Kyiah Green and Mikaili Fearon,

Week of January 7-11: Jacob Whetstone, Taylor Schramm, Rya Long, Gracie Shingler, Brie High, Nadiyah Placka and Gavin Ravenscroft

Week of January 14-18: Aaliyah Spiker, Atalie Wilson, Emily Weimer, Adrian Ketterman, Kaleigh Connor, Kyiah Green and Ashlynn Kilby



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-Arianna Adkins and Jayden LaRue; Grade 1-Zach Haggerty and Bailey Cavey; Grade 2-Nickolas Dawson and Ethan Mauck; Grade 3-Nick Freeman and Jeremy Fasching; Grade 4-Savannah Kimble and Nadiyah Placka; and Grade 5-Kolby Woolard and Nicole Youmans.



OUR MISSION: Westernport Elementary will partner with family and community to build a better world—one child at a time.

OUR VISION: Westernport Elementary will strive to prepare and empower students to successfully meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, by nurturing the whole child: intellectually, physically and emotionally.



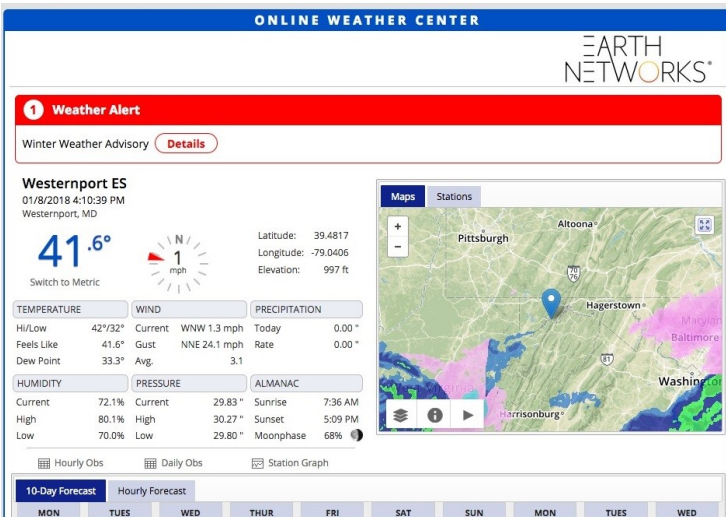
Let's Go, Calico!



Anthony Sarfino, a Westernport Elementary School alumni and now often a substitute teacher at our school, recently drew a new version of the school mascot, which is the calico cat. The previous calico cat mascot was created by Anthony when he was a fifth grade student at WES. It was the yearbook cover in 2005 and featured on the school website until very recently. Thanks, Anthony!

Weather @ WES

...and more robotics



A rooftop WeatherBug device has provided weather information for WES since the year 2000 (or earlier.) 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, which can be found at acpsmd.org/wt

