



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## Robotics @ WES

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 are the directions which control the hardware. The students worked with partners to build and program the robots. Then the students were given mini challenges to solve, which gave them a chance to try coding and provided them with an introduction to computer science. Sensors were introduced in hour five. The final hour involved a challenge that required a modification of the hardware and a modification of the computer program. Ms. Jessica Mellon, from the University of Maryland Extension Services, presented the lessons, assisted by classroom teachers, Ms. Carr and Ms. Moran. Students really loved building the robots and were very sorry to take their robots apart!



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A Title I School  
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## From the Principal...Mrs. Fazenbaker



January has come and gone. We are into the second half of the school year. My, how time flies! 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 note and/or a parent note telling us why your child is absent when your child is out of school. Please also call to let us know why your child is absent from 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 Central Office of the ACPS 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 were available

online on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. We also sent a copy of the report card home with students. The second Parent Conference Day will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00 PM and from 3:00-5:30 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...

Westernport Elementary School has been and will continue to conduct a variety of emergency drills throughout the year to practice different critical situations with students. Types of drills that will be performed are the following:

**Evacuation/Fire Drill:** Students exit the building in the event of an emergency situation, such as fire or smoke.

**Reverse Evacuation Drill:** During an outside activity, students re-enter the building due to an unsafe situation that is occurring in the neighborhood or surrounding communities.

**Drop, Cover, and Hold Drill:** Due to extreme weather events students drop to the floor, take cover under desks or tables, and hold on. The school participated in the Great South East Shakeout Drill on October 17<sup>th</sup> to practice in the event of an earthquake.

**Lock-In Drill:** All exterior doors are locked and regular instructional routines are followed inside the building. This is the normal procedure during daily instructional time except no one can enter or leave the building during this drill.

**Lockdown Drill:** With every situation presenting different scenarios, students and staff must make safety choices. The option determined by the ACPS is to instruct students in the "Run, Hide, Fight" method. Each school will show a video describing these procedures to students in grades 1-5. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers will use age-appropriate methods to communicate the same information. This approach teaches the following if an intruder enters the building:

**RUN means run and exit the building to a safe location.**

**HIDE means hide in a safe location that has been determined by the teacher.**

**FIGHT means fight to provide time to escape to a safe place, for example, throwing a book.**

Through a county initiative, the school has developed a Critical Incident Plan listing procedures to assist with emergency situations. If you have any questions regarding the county required drills listed above, please call the school at 301-359-0511. Be assured that the faculty and staff are committed to taking care of your children as if they were our own.

## School Calendar

- \* Feb. 3 (Mon.) 2-Hour Delayed Opening for Principal Staff Development; PTA Hoagie Sale begins (ends Feb. 18)
- \* Feb. 6 (Thurs.) The Storycorps from the Allegany County Public Library System visits WES
- \* Feb. 7 (Fri.) Arts in the School (Grade 5)
- \* Feb. 11 (Tues.) PTA Meeting @6:00PM
- \* Feb. 14 (Fri.) PTA Ice Cream Social (during school day)
- \* Feb. 17 (Mon.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES Closed-Presidents' Day

### COMING IN MARCH

- Mar. 2 (Mon.) Gardner's Candy Sale begins
- Mar. 9 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED for Parent Conference Day (Teacher Planning 10:00-noon) Conferences from 12:00-2:00 PM and 3:00-5:30 PM

## Be Safe Online

K-5 students at Westernport Elementary learn about internet safety each year as part of the library media curriculum. The curriculum (adopted in 2016 and updated in 2020) 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 about 10 classes 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

619 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 \$1,226.80, as of December 31, 2019. 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 mid-March 2020. Thanks for your support.



## Nutrition ABCs

University of Maryland Extension Educator Tammy Humberson, who visits our school on a regular basis to provide students with nutrition lessons, will be featured in our newsletter from time to time with nutrition tips for families.

Miss Tammy says, "The "Edible ABC" program encourages children to try new foods. This month's spotlight is on the "Cauliflower". A cauliflower is a cruciferous vegetable that is considered a "superfood" for its fiber content, high levels of vitamins B and C and antioxidants. Make eating cauliflower fun by helping your children prepare it by themselves. Show them how to break a head of cauliflower into small florets. Put the florets in a ziplock bag. Add one tablespoon olive oil and one half cup grated parmesan cheese. Close the bag and shake vigorously. Spread on a cookie sheet. Bake at 425 for 20 minutes. Enjoy!



## Attendance Matters

The PBIS team will continue to have after school attendance incentives 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 staff members.

The activity will be different each time 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 next activity began on Friday, January 8th.

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. Steven Wilson  
Supervisor of Human Resources  
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 include:

Week of January 6-10: Demmie Alt, Porter Beard, Kristyle Washington, Briella Robinson, Raylynn Martin, Harlie Todd and Jailyn Johnson.

Week of January 13-17: Jace Fitzgerald, Nathan Wade, Addison Lafferty, Lacey Custer, Bryan Claycomb, Lynden Haggerty and Ashlynn Durst

Week of January 20-24: Aubrie Lambert, Kevin Stumbaugh, Jaselyn Ravenscroft, Bailey Cavey, Gracie Cosner, Nathan Miller and Cheyenne Whetzel.



## Meet "Mr. Mike"



Mr. Michael Muir now working for the Allegany County Public Schools as a School Security Employee. He spends every day

at WES unless he is called to give assistance at a nearby school.

Mr. Muir is a native of Barton and a graduate of Valley High School. He is retired from the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Cumberland. His previous jobs have included being a police officer for the city of Frostburg and working as a security guard at Allegany College of MD.

Mr. Muir is served in the U.S. Army as part of the 101st Airborne. There he learned to rappel from helicopters! He is a Steelers and Pirates fan.

"Mr. Mike" hopes to get to know us at WES as the year goes on. He is very happy to have joined our school community.



## 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 Pre K-Ryder Hanlin and Kierra Bateson; Grade K-Owen Brashear & Skylar Crites; Grade 1-Jaselynn Ravenscroft & Atalie Wilson; Grade 2-Lacey Custer & Grayson Wilson; Grade 3-Taylor Saville & Addison Haggerty; Grade 4-Harlie Todd & Aiden Weimer; and Grade 5-Shayden Thierry & Jailyn Johnson.



**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.

### A reminder about... HANDICAPPED PARKING

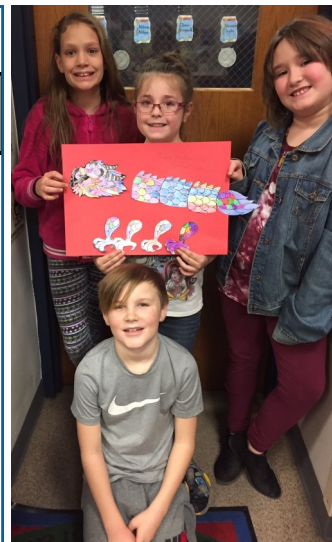
Attention Parents and Grandparents: Please do not block the handicapped parking spots at any time. These spaces are especially needed in the morning and evening for student drop-off and pick up. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

## Teamwork Counts



The Westernport Calico Coders received a second place trophy for Core Values (teamwork) at the First Lego League Qualifier, which was held on Saturday, January 11th at Allegany College of Maryland. The trophy and team project board is now displayed in the school library. Great job, students!

## Chinese New Year Celebration



Students at Westernport Elementary School celebrated Chinese New Year in library media classes on January 23rd and 24th, which were the two school days prior to official celebration. Fifth grade students worked on tangrams and did a writing activity with fortune cookies. Fourth grade students learned to read and write a few simple Chinese characters. Third grade students viewed a Chinese New Year parade and made dragons. Second grade students learned about the traditional red envelopes given to children by reading a story called "Sam and the

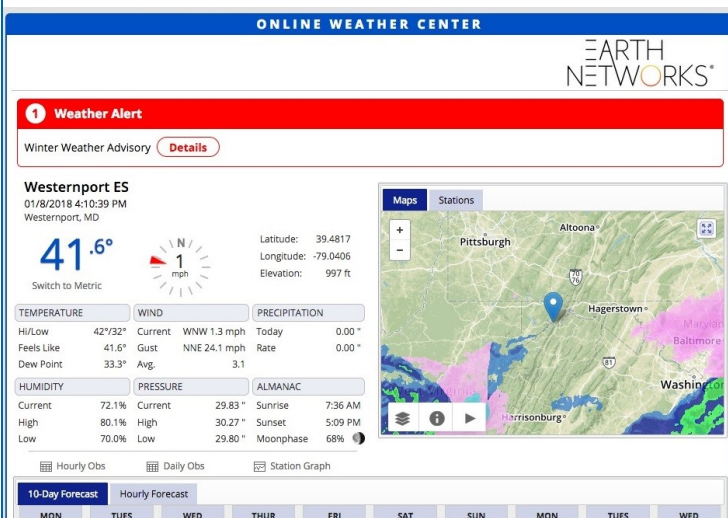
Lucky Money" and then created their own. First grade students listened to and discussed traditional and non-traditional Chinese folk tales and made dragon masks. Kindergarten students were taught some traditions of Chinese New Year and learned a few Chinese characters by reading a story about a dragon. They also created Tangram Tabbies. All students also worked on solving tangram puzzles in the computer lab. Shown displaying their dragon are third grade students Lily Johnson, Elisabeth Paugh, Gracie Platter and Declan McGeady.

**Gung Hay Fat Choy**

(May you be prosperous in this new year!)



## Weather @ WES



A rooftop WeatherBug device has provided weather information for WES since the year 2000 (or earlier.) The WeatherBug is provides temperature, rainfall and other information directly from the roof of WES and then 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](http://acpsmd.org/wt)