



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Thank You, Reeves Private Foundation



Westernport Elementary School was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant from the J. Norman and Margaret J. Reeves Private Foundation, which is administrated by First United Trust & Investments.

The mission of the Reeves Private Foundation is to benefit non-profit organizations in the vicinity of Westernport, Maryland; Keyser, West Virginia; Luke, Maryland and Piedmont, West Virginia. A committee of local representatives from those areas evaluates each grant request based on its merits and how the grant meets the desires of the foundation.

This is the fifth year that the Reeves Foundation has awarded a grant to the school. The majority of the grant money was used to allow each WES student to choose a "free" book from the November book fair. We are extremely grateful for this support for the One Student/One Book program.

The remainder of the grant will be used to provide student reading incentives and prizes to support the Accelerated Reader program during the 2017-2018 school year. We are also very grateful to the Reeves Private

Foundation for their support of the Accelerated Reader program at Westernport Elementary School over the years. The online subscription provides unlimited access to over 170,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes and to the AR Bookfinder. Westernport Elementary has participated in the Accelerated Reader program since November 1991. Currently, students in grades two, three, four, and five participate in this reading incentive program.

Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, media specialist, applied for the grant in August and received the check just in time for the book fair. Shown above are Max Cole, Lynden Haggerty (front row) and Emma Streets, Sarah Shingler and Nathan Miller (back row), holding some of the books selected by Ms. Melissa Kenny's second grade class.

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A Title I School
Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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From the Principal...Mrs. Fazenbaker

Happy New Year!

I would like to thank Mrs. Patty Zimmerman, Mr. Harold McClay and Mr. Jay Moon for the fantastic music, band, and orchestra programs that were presented in December. I really appreciate all of the work from our talented students and their dedicated teachers that goes into those programs. I also want to thank the parents, grandparents and the school community for supporting our students in their musi-

cal endeavors.

Students, parents and grandparents enjoyed Books Before Bedtime on Wednesday, December 5th. Special thanks to Mrs. Sarah Llewellyn, Kara McDowell, Tiffany Moran and Beth Weber for coming back to school at night for the event.

Thank you to our PTA for having a Santa's Secret Shop in mid-December. The children loved to shop for their loved ones and I am sure that the

parents loved the presents that their children picked especially for them.

Thanks also to our PTA. for getting in touch with Santa to schedule time for pictures here at WES. The children were very excited to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas!

It is hard to believe that we are almost through half of the school year. Please check the calendar in this newsletter to plan ahead for a scheduled

early dismissal (Teacher Work Time) on January 19th and scheduled whole day for Professional Development and Teacher Work Time on January 24th.

Please remember that my door is always open. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. It is a privilege to work with your children and to be a part of this wonderful school community!

Martin's BonusCards



597 Martin's BonusCard numbers have been collected to date by Westernport Elementary students, faculty and staff. The points from those BonusCard numbers have earned the school cash to use for student activities, which totals \$388.52 to date. (The new total has not yet been announced.)

Martin's has pledged to give away three million dollars to schools. So we still need YOUR BonusCard numbers! There is still time to register to support the school at <http://www.martinsaplus.com>.

Thanks to all who have supported this campaign by registering and then shopping for WES!



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 had no yellow or red behaviors. Pictures of these students are displayed near the office. The most recent Peace Days winners include:

Week of December 4-8: Joey Fearon, Ethan Mauck, McKenna Turner and Atalie Wilson
Week of December 11-15: Alyssa Marchinke, Oliver Marsh, Colin Stafford and Jaren Vasquez

Several peace parties have been held since September. The parties have included extra play and a "stop and dance" day. What will be the theme of the next Peace Treat? Stay tuned...



WES School Calendar

- ☺ Jan. 2 (Tues.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES REOPEN
- ☺ Jan. 10. (Wed.) Evergreen Heritage Art Program (Grade 3)
- ☺ Jan. 15. (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED- Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday
- ☺ Jan. 16. (Tues.) PTA Hoagie Sale begins
- ☺ Jan. 18 (Thurs.) END OF SECOND MARKING PERIOD; END OF SEMESTER
- ☺ Jan. 19 (Fri.) 3-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL-Teacher Work Time
- ☺ Jan. 24 (Wed.) SCHOOLS CLOSED (AM Professional Development/PM Teacher Work Time)
- ☺ Jan. 30 (Tues.) Report Cards Distributed

Coming in February 2018...

- ☺ Feb. 14 (Wed.) SCHOOLS CLOSED- Elementary Parent Conferences (10:00 AM-5:30 PM); PTA Hoagies Delivered
- ☺ Feb. 19 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED- Presidents' Day
- ☺ Feb. 20 (Tues.) Gardner's Easter Candy Fundraiser begins

Attendance Drawing Winners

Here are the 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, his/her name is not announced, but is put back in the bucket and a new name is drawn. Drawings are held each Monday on WWES-TV. One "gold" coin is awarded to each grade level.

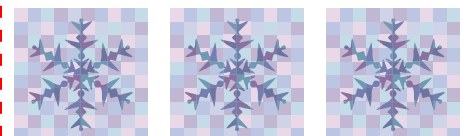
Week of December 4-8: Jaselynn Ravenscroft, Aaliyah Redman, Aron Custer, Emma Streets, Reid Robison, Michael Douglass and Kaitlyn Todd
Week of December 11-15: Willow Guinn, Brayden Riker, Emrick Johnson, Liam Dayton, Abigail Baker, Nautika Turner

and Zoe Pattison.
 The next drawing will be held on January 2, 2018.

A NOTE from Mrs. Fazenbaker about ATTENDANCE at WES
 I am always concerned about the number of tardies and early dismissals at WES. Your children are missing valuable instruction that cannot be made up. Our teachers are preparing your children for the PARCC Assessments, which will begin in mid-April this year. I want our students to do their best, but if they continue to miss instruction, that may not happen. I realize that tardies and early dismissals cannot always be avoided, but please try to schedule appointments late in the day so that no school has to be missed. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Safety First

A NOTE from Mrs. Fazenbaker about SAFETY at WES
 Parents, when you are in the lobby, please do not open the door to others who are coming into the school. Every person coming into the school needs to "buzz" the office for admittance. If you are at the door and have been "buzzed" in, please do not hold the door open for others who are behind you. They also need to push the button when they get to the door, and then they will be let into the lobby. Thank you for your cooperation with this important safety issue.



Fall 2017 Band/Orchestra Concert a Great Show



Fourth and fifth grade band and orchestra members performed for students, parents and community members during their annual holiday concert. The concert was held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM in the school gym.

The band, directed by Mr. Harold McClay, played a variety of instrumental music and featured these songs: *Hot Cross Buns*, *Rolling Along*, *Down By the Station*, *Sweetly Sings the Donkey*, *March Steps*, *Listen To Our Section*, *Good King Wenceslas* and *Up On the House-top*. **FOURTH GRADE BAND members** included: Jackson Brashear, Ava Fazenbaker, Cambia Guinn, Ashlynn Light and Kris Washington (Flutes); Aiden Kight and Emma Trexler (clarinets); Hunter Frey (Saxophone); Trey Idol, Maddixx Reed and Xzavier Wilt (Trumpets); Elia Jasmine Salas (Trombone); and Alyssa Crossland, Hailey Rodriguez-Cruz, Brody Dayton, Landen Haggerty, Abbigale Lambert and Nikoa Wilkinson (Drums). **FIFTH GRADE band members** included Cailyn Broadwater (Flute); Jenna Amoruso, Zoe Pattison and Makaylyn Whetzel (Clarinets); Jonathan Ray and Matthew Vasquez (Saxophones); John Arlott, Dawn Cook, Antwan Jackson, Mollee Slaubaugh, Harley Smith, Kaylee Snyder, Lindsey Stafford, Kaitlyn Todd, Marissa Tranum and Joella Wilkins (Trumpets); Hailey Durst (Trombone); and Tobias Hogan, Dade Kight, Owen McGeady and Brady Moran (Drums).

The orchestra, directed by Mr. Jay Moon, played a variety of music arranged for strings, including the songs: *What's For Lunch*, *Leftovers*, *On the Trail*, *Morning Dance*, *Walking Song*, *Rolling Along* and *A Mozart Melody*. **FOURTH GRADE ORCHESTRA members** included Zoey Kerchner, Emmalee Tranum and Nicole Youmans (Flute); Mikaili Fearon and Zegan Konke (Violas); and Aiden Burns and Skylar Dougherty (Cellos). **FIFTH GRADE ORCHESTRA members** included Gabriella Guevara Zelaya, Kierra Kaylor, Erin Kesner, Kadie Matthews and Maddox McKenzie (Violins); Alex Perry (Viola); and Autumn Kerchner (Bass).

Both groups played arrangements of *Jolly Old St. Nicholas* and *Jingle Bells*.

Meet the (New) Faculty and Staff

Mrs. Barbara Amtower is the guidance counselor at WES. She was very happy to return to WES in August. Mrs. Amtower began working in 1991 for the ACPS in 1991 and her first job was being a Reading Specialist at WES. She became the school counselor in 1995. After leaving Westernport, she served as the school counselor at Cresaptown and Beall Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Amtower is a native of Keyser and a graduate of Keyser High School. She has a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education-Social Studies

from WVU and two master's degrees from Frostburg State University. She is a Nationally Certified Counselor who has been working in schools for 29 years. Mrs. Amtower and her husband, Rick, live in Keyser with the youngest of their four children, Kathryn, who is currently attending Potomac State College of WVU.

Mrs. Kim Albright is a part-time instructional assistant at WES. She works with the morning PreK. She came to WES in spring 2017 and is very happy to be here. Mrs. Albright

is a native of Mount Savage, Maryland. She is a graduate of the former Mount Savage High School and is a graduate of Allegany College of Maryland, where she received an associate's degree in education. Mrs. Albright lives in LaVale with her husband and two children.



Recycling Continues (and Grows) @WES



The third grade classes of Mrs. Sarah Llewellyn and Ms. Tiffany Moran are continuing to sponsor a plastic "film" recycling program here at WES. This effort is in partnership with Trex.com, who will use the materials to make various products. This recycling project began in January 2017. This is a school-wide recycling effort, so all students, teachers and parents are asked to help. **If you wish to participate, please send in the following items: grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, ziplock & other re-sealable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. Do not send in plastic bottles and plastic containers.** All materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue. WES students are also recycling glue sticks and glue bottles through Trex.com as well as markers and dry erase markers through Crayola. WES is becoming a very "green" school.

Books Before Bedtime (for PreK-2)



Books Before Bedtime was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 for students in grades PreK through two. A total of 22 students wore their favorite pajamas and brought along their favorite blankets, pillows, and stuffed animals to be ready for a night of bedtime stories, snacks, and prizes. 21 adult family members also participated in the evening's activities.

Adult winners of the door prizes, which were Walmart gift cards, were Melva Shimer and Brandon Twigg. Each of the students received a paperback book to take home to keep. WES teachers Sarah Llewellyn, Kara McDowell, Tiffany Moran and Beth Weber directed the reading activities. A good time was had by one and all.

Resolutions for a Happy New Year

No one will ever get out of this world alive.
Resolve therefore to maintain a reasonable sense of values.
Take care of yourself. Good health is everyone's major source of wealth. Without it, happiness is almost impossible.
Resolve to be cheerful & helpful. People will repay you in kind.
Avoid angry, abrasive persons. They are generally vengeful.
Avoid zealots. They are generally humorless.
Resolve to listen more & to talk less.

No one ever learns anything by talking.
Be chary of giving advice. Wise men don't need it, & fools won't heed it.
Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, & tolerant of the weak & the wrong. Sometime in life you will have been all of these.
Do not equate money with success. There are many successful money-makers who are miserable failures as human beings. What counts most about success is how a person achieves it.

---Lloyd Shearer (1985)

WES Faculty and Staff wishes all of you a VERY Happy New Year!



Christmas Program



Students in PreK and grades three, four and five entertained family and friends during the annual Christmas program, which was held at WES on Tuesday, December 19, 2017. The first selection included

rhythm sticks, which had PreK students moving to the tune of "Music, Music, Music." Then the third, fourth and fifth grade classes performed a number of seasonal songs, including *Someone in the Chimney* (grade three), *12 Days of Christmas* (grade four) and *Show Biz Snowman* (grade 5). All students performed in the finale, which featured *Rise Up*, *Shepherd* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. The program was arranged and directed by Ms. Patricia Zimmerman, vocal music teacher at Westernport Elementary School.

(Shown above are Brady Moran, Kaitlyn Todd, Gabriella Guevara Zelaya and Jonathan Ray.)

Citizens of the Month

Students selected as "**Citizens of the Month**" exemplify the character trait for the month, as determined by the Allegany County Public Schools. 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-Brayden Iliff & Kahlan Chojar; Grade 1-Olivia Kenny & Adrian Ketterman; Grade 2-Emma Streets & Nick Freeman; Grade 3-Jaren Vasquez & Kyiah Green; Grade 4-Cambria Guinn & Mikaili Fearon and Grade 5-Dawn Cook & Gabriella Guevara Zelaya. We hope that these students will have a good time and enjoy the treat provided by McDonald's of Westernport, our partner in education. Congratulations, students!



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.