



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Robotics: Challenging Students to Complete a Task



In January, third grade students at WES 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 teachers, Mrs. Brantner and Ms. Carr. Students really loved building the robots and were very sorry to take them apart!

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Jewel Lambert, who retired from the ACPs effective January 1st. Mrs. Lambert worked at several school cafeterias, including WES, then returned as our cafeteria manager in 2015. We hope that Mrs. Lambert enjoys spending more time with her family. Mrs. Emily Lewis is now the acting cafeteria manager.

Westernport Elementary

172 Church Street

Westernport, MD

21562

A Title I School

Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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From the Principal...Mr. Derek Horne



We hope that the new year has started off well for all of you. While we are excited for a new year of learning and growth, let's pause and reflect on our accomplishments. Our students, staff, and families have persevered through difficult times to foster an atmosphere of hope for our students' future. Students continue to show growth each and

every day with support from the staff and families. We can do this together! Let's also take a breath and enjoy our surroundings during this winter season. The picturesque snow-capped mountains on my drive to school are breathtaking. Please continue to share photos of our students playing in the snow, building snowmen,

skiing, or making snow angels. Other ideas to share are students snuggling up with a warm blanket and reading a good book; playing a board game, looking at old photos, or whatever amazing things bring joy and laughter to your families. We love seeing our students enjoying these family times together. Together, let's share, experience, and contribute

to an exciting and successful 2022 for our children!

Please contact me at 301-359-0511 or at Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org, if you have any questions or concerns.





Peace Days Winners



A drawing is held each Monday to award a small prize 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. The most recent Peace Days winners include:

Week of November 29-December 2: Aspen DeVore, Stella Metz, Trinitee Hummer, Owen Brashear, Mya Kolberg, Klarissa Paitsel and Bailey Brashear

Week of December 6-10: Luke Shimer, Ember Redman, Leah Kolberg, Nathan Wade, Atalie Wilson, Landen Iliff and Adrienne Taylor

Week of December 13-17: Liam Monahan, Alaina Rhodes, Noah Sanford, Lennon Metz, Ronan Snyder, Briley Musick and Bryan Claycomb

Week of January 4-7: Jaclynn Taylor, Elizabeth Grady, Andrew Perez, Taylor Windle, Wesley Haggerty, Alex Kneisley and Hayleigh Sanford

Week of January 10-14: Asher Madero, Paisley Edwards, Weston Reed, Elyanah Hartman, Madison

Lantz, Brayden Iliff and Ben Broadwater.

Students who are the Peace Days winners get to take a special trip to the Token Tower!



School Calendar

- ☺ Jan. 28 (Fri.) Report Cards Released
- ☺ Feb. 21 (Mon.) SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED-Presidents' Day
- ☺ Feb. 22 (Tues.) Parent Conference Day-Elementary Conferences 10:00 AM-12:00 noon; Teacher Planning 12:00-2:00 PM; Teacher Lunch 2:00 -3:00 PM; Elementary Conferences 3:00-5:30 PM
- ☺ Mar. 25 (Fri.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-End of MP3/Teacher Work Time
- ☺ Mar. 28 (Mon.) Three Hour Delayed Opening-Teacher Work Time
- ☺ April 8 (Fri.) Report Cards Released
- ☺ April 13 (Wed.) SCHOOLS CLOSED -Easter Vacation Begins (Offices Closed April 25 & 18)
- ☺ April 19 (Tues.) Three Hour Delayed Opening-SCHOOLS REOPEN-Principal Staff Development/Teacher Work Time

Title I Tip #4

SCHOOL PARENT COMPACT

The School Parent Compact outlines what the school staff, parent/family and child will do to increase learning for our students. Parents/family members and school staff help to write the agreement. We review the compact each spring and ask for parents to comment on the compact each year. The compacts are signed and used as a tool during the year to help everyone remember how important it is for all of us to work together to help our students learn.



Attendance Matters

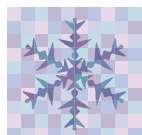
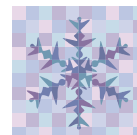
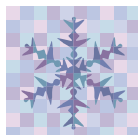
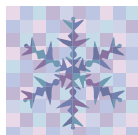
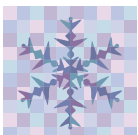
A NOTE ATTENDANCE at WES

Teachers are always concerned about the number of late arrivals and early dismissals at WES. When this happens, children are missing valuable instruction that cannot be made up. Teachers are preparing your children to advance to the next grade level in the fall, as well as for the **MCAP Assessments**, which will be in spring this year. We all want our students to do their best, but if they miss instruction, that may not happen. We realize that tardy situations and early dismissals cannot always be avoided, but please try to schedule appointments after or late in the school day so that no instruction will be missed. Thanks for your help!

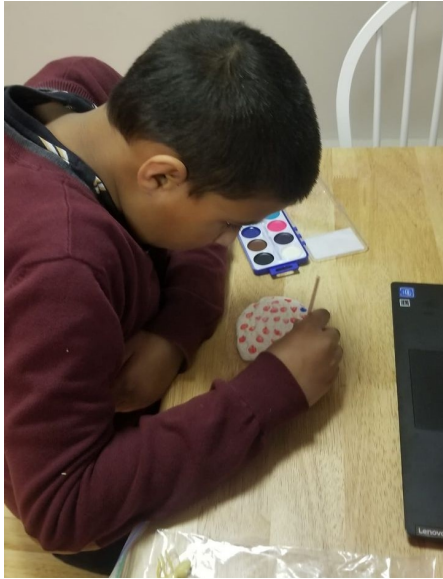
Safety First

A NOTE 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.



More ELA, Math & STEAM Activities Ahead



Student activities such as Books Before Bedtime, Math Night and STEAM Night are being planned by staff members who serve on these school committees. Each committee is responsible to plan two evening activities, which are held throughout the school year. The activities are often varied, depending on the grade level of the students. The first STEAM Night was held in November and the first Books Before Bedtime event was held in December 2021. Math Night will be upcoming. Each event had approximately 50 students in attendance. If your child was not able to participate in one (or both) events, stay tuned for information about upcoming opportuni-



Westernport Elementary PBIS



What is PBIS? PBIS is a process for creating a safer, positive, and more effective school environment. It focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. PBIS allows our school to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide rules and procedures.

What are the school rules? We PAWS to be Respectful, Responsible, Safe, and Kind! This is the expectation for our students and staff. These rules can be applied to and used to teach discipline at school as well as home. Parents can use these four rules with their children to help correct homework habits, attendance issues, bad attitudes, and other family conflicts. The students are reminded throughout the school day of these rules. The PBIS language helps create a consistent flow of positive behavior.

DOJO points... Teachers will give students a DOJO point when they catch them following the school rules. All staff, including bus drivers, will give DOJO points to students that they feel go above and beyond in the following the school rules. Teachers use Class DOJO to communicate with parents and to recognize positive behavior.

Token Tower... Students can visit the Token Tower after receiving 10 DOJO points. After 10 points, they cash them in for a token. The Token Tower has small prizes for the students to choose from and is kept in the hallway by the middle doors on the second floor. This usually happens twice a month.

PBIS School Wide Events... Westernport will be hosting PBIS school wide events. Students can earn their admission to these events by meeting the guidelines for each event. Parent letters will be sent home before each event. These incentives may include a fall event, spirit week, winter movie, dance, snow celebration day, and a Rodeo, which is the biggest event at the year's end.

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Shelly Fitzgerald or Mrs. Laura Wilson (PBIS chairs) at 301-359-0511

Thank you, Reeves Private Foundation!

Westernport Elementary School was recently awarded a \$1,925.00 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 eighth year that the Reeves Foundation has awarded a grant to the school. Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, media specialist, applied for the grant in August and the check arrived at the school in early fall.

The grant money will be used to allow students choose a "free" book from an in-person book fair or to allow students to select a book from a choice sheet, if an in-person book fair is unable to be held safely.

We are extremely grateful to the Reeves Private Foundation, for this support for the One Student/One Book program that we have had in the past and for the possibility of continuing it in spring 2022 a book fair of some kind.

Memorial Book Donations

Thanks to Rose Mary Logsdon, who donated money to purchase two library books in memory of Mr. Lee Wilson. Thanks also to Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, who has continued her tradition of placing several books in the library each year in memory of her former students. Memorial books are usually purchased in June of each year, or when there is sufficient money to place an order. A plaque is placed inside each book. A donation of \$20.00-\$25.00. per book, is appreciated.

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 belated, but a VERY Happy New Year!



Meet the (New) Staff

Mrs. Staci Wilson is a full-time Title I Intervention Teacher at Westernport Elementary. Mrs. Wilson is a graduate of Frostburg State University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in science. She also has a Master's Degree in literacy. Mrs. Wilson is a lifelong resident of Allegany County and is a graduate of Fort Hill High School. She lives in LaVale with her family and a cute puppy named Lily.

Mrs. Carrie Beeman is the PreK3 teacher at WES. She graduated from Frostburg State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Before coming to WES, she taught three, four and five-year olds at Head Start for 17 years. Mrs. Beeman lives in Ellerslie with her husband, Adam; son Wade, age 11; daughter, Ella, age 9; and a handful of pets. She and her family keep busy with dance, karate, fishing and hunting. Mrs. Beeman is so excited to be a part of our school and loves teaching the littlest members of the WES community.

Citizens of the Month (December)



Students selected as "Citizens of the Month" exemplify the character trait for the month, as determined by the Allegany County Public Schools. Student "Citizens of the Month" were recently chosen. The character trait for December was integrity. These students were recognized for being honest and "doing the right thing even when no one is looking." PreK3-Phoenix Blair; PreK4-Caysen Lafferty; Kindergarten-Stella Metz, Emmett Hanlin and Bentley Paitzel; Grade 1-Leah Kolberg and Trinitee Hummer; Grade 2-Skylar Crites, Eli Karalewitz and Nathan Wade; Grade 3-Arianna Adkins and Jade Greenwald; Grade 4-Landen Iliff and Kahlan Chojar; Grade 5-Ethan Mauck and Bailey Brashear. Congratulations, students! Display your yard signs proudly!

Upcoming character traits that WES students will be learning about are:

(January) Fairness, which means "doing things that treat all people equally and with respect."

(February) Kindness, which means "saying or doing something positive to someone."

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.

More Congratulations



Congratulations to Dustlyn Rebar in grade four who was selected this fall as the Maryland State Winner of the Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program, 2020-2021 contest. Every spring, Bonnie Plants sends live, baby cabbage plants to registered third grade classes "with a mission to inspire a love of vegetable gardening in young people, teach kids where their food

comes from, and grow our next generation of gardeners." Dustlyn grew her cabbage over the summer with her grandfather, the late James (Jimmy) Keller, and submitted the picture of her cabbage and weight to Mrs. Tiffany Brantner in September. Mrs. Brantner officially submitted Dustlyn's picture and entry to the contest. Because of Dustlyn's hard work and dedication, she won a \$1,000 college scholarship. Perhaps Dustlyn will study agriculture some day or grow a huge garden!

Snow Valentines



Weather @WES



To a Groundhog...



ONLINE WEATHER CENTER

EARTH NETWORKS®

Westernport ES
01/20/2022 12:03:15 PM

28.1°

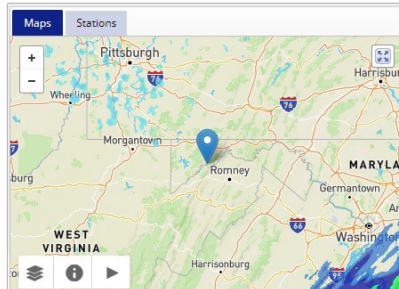


Latitude: 39.4817
Longitude: -79.0406
Elevation: 997 ft

TEMPERATURE	WIND	PRECIPITATION
Hi/Low 38°/27°	Current N 11.8 mph	Today 0.00"
Feels Like 17.9°	Gust N 19.5 mph	Rate 0.00"
Dew Point 13.0°	Avg. ESE 9.7 mph	

WET BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE
Current -- 10 Min Avg. --

HUMIDITY	PRESSURE	ALMANAC
Current 52.5%	Current 30.27"	Sunrise 7:32 AM
High 87.9%	High 30.29"	Sunset 5:22 PM
Low 52.3%	Low 30.02"	Moonphase 95%



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)

A rooftop WeatherBug device has provided weather information for WES since the year 2000 (or earlier.) The WeatherBug collects data about 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 link in the middle of the school website, which can be found at acpsmd.org/wt

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.

