



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## Ms. Carr Competes on Wheel of Fortune



Third grade teacher, Ms. Chelsea Carr, recently competed on the game show, Wheel of Fortune. She and her fiancé, Michael Kessell, flew out to Los Angeles for the November 3rd taping of the show, which was aired on Monday, January 2, 2023. Six shows were taped that day so Ms. Carr was part of the audience for hours!

Ms. Carr won \$3,000 by completing several puzzles. She said that being on a game show was "a dream come true and an experience that she would never forget." She also remarked that Vanna White was super nice and so positive and that it was fun to meet Pat Sajak. Each year literally millions of people send in a "try out" application or video and only about 600 hundred people are selected as contestants. Ms. Carr applied two years ago and was notified in May that she would appear on the show. The entire WES school community was so excited to see Ms. Carr on television! Before she went to California, Ms. Carr was surprised by a school assembly to wish her good luck. (Shown above are third grade students wishing Ms. Carr good luck and reminding her to "Buy a Vowel.")

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



The start of a new year can be a very motivating experience. It's a time when we can reflect with gratitude on the past and set our hopes and intentions for the days ahead. What's more, a new year gives us an opportunity to reinvigorate our enthusiasm for chasing goals and dreams.

We have an eventful winter and spring planned for our students. Let's make it a goal for our students to be here at school every day. (Look at

the chart on page 6 to see why having students be here at school each and every day really matters.) Yes, every minute counts!

If eighty percent of success in school is showing up at school, what does "showing up" consist of? "Showing up" consists of:

- arriving at school on time
- eating a good breakfast
- getting adequate sleep
- engaging in the learning process

Help your student form routines to help them "show up". Engage in this process with them.

(For example, our students are expected to arrive at school before 8:45 AM each morning; And as a reminder, breakfast ends at 8:45 AM.)

We look forward to seeing, engaging, and challenging your students.

Please contact me in at

school at 301-359-0511 or by emailing me personally at [Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org](mailto:Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org), if you have any questions or concerns.



## Fall Band and Orchestra Concert

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 Friday, December 9, 2022 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 songs including "Sweetly Sings the Donkey", "Jolly Old Saint Nick" and "Song of the Fjords".

**FOURTH GRADE BAND** members included: Arianna Adkins, Silas Beeman, Lily Dennis, Jade Greenwald, Isabella Reed and Makenna Sgaggero (Flute); Addison Lafferty and Ronan Snyder (Clarinet); Izaiah Clark, Cayde Crites and Willow Guinn (Saxophone); Natalie Harris, Madelynn Lantz and Aurora Stephens (Trumpet); James Ziler (Trombone); and Charlotte Haggerty, Jayden Larue, Aden Powell, Cyrix Whiteman and Atalie Wilson (Drums).

**FIFTH GRADE BAND** members included Bailey Cavey, Peyton Cavey, Nancy Cook and Tayler Getson

(Flute); Adrianna Escobar Molina Addison Hanlin, Ashlynn Lafferty, and Ashley Robertson (Clarinet); Mathew Alt and Bentlee Slaubaugh (Saxophone); Alonzo Burkett, Brody Hook, Brayden Iliff, Klarissa Paitsel, Colin Stafford and Aliko Stephens (Trumpet); Riley Gray (Trombone); Oliver Marsh, Aliyah Redman and Grayson Wilson (Drums).

The orchestra, directed by Mr. Jacob Blank, played a variety of music arranged for strings, including the songs: "D Major Scale", "Hot Cross Buns" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

**FOURTH GRADE ORCHESTRA** members included Hayden Doman and Jaxon Elliott (Viola); Johnathan Fasching, Jamyson Hanlin, Addison Hensley, James Johnson and Jase Lynn Ravenscroft (Violin).

**FIFTH GRADE ORCHESTRA** members included Kahlan Chojar (Viola); and Bentley Beaulé, Liam Chevalier, Khloe Douglass, Landen Iliff, Santana Kuhn, Brayden Lytle, Karson Oliverio, Dustlyn Rebar, Briella Robinson, Landon Shimer and Esther Smith (Violin).



## School Calendar

- ☺ Feb. 20 (Mon.) SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED-Presidents' Day
- ☺ Mar. 1 (Wed.) Parent Conference Day-Elementary Conferences 10:00 AM-12:00 noon and 1:00-3:30 PM
- ☺ Mar. 24 (Fri.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-End of MP3/Teacher Work Time
- ☺ March 27-31 (Mon.-Fri.) Scholastic Book Fair
- ☺ April 5 (Wed.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-Easter Vacation Begins (Offices Closed April 7 & 10)
- ☺ April 6 (Thurs.) Report Cards Released
- ☺ April 11 (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

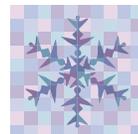
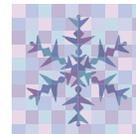
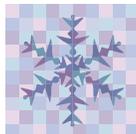
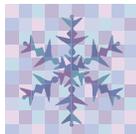
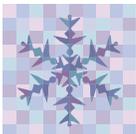
### ATTENDANCE at WES #1

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 the 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 little instruction will not 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.



## Robotics: Challenging Students to Complete a Task



In the fall, 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, Ms. Bolton and Ms. Carr. Students really loved building the robots and were very sorry to take them apart so that the robotics kits could move on to the next school!

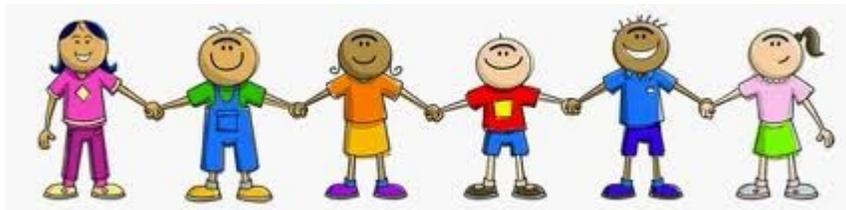
## Westernport Elementary PBIS

**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.

**PBIS School Wide Events...** Westernport will be hosting PBIS school wide events. Students may 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 Mr. Devin McGregor or Mrs. Laura Wilson (PBIS chairs) at 301-359-0511



## Thank you, Reeves Private Foundation!

Westernport Elementary School was recently awarded a \$2,000.00 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 ninth year that the Reeves Foundation has awarded a grant to the school. Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, library media specialist, applied for the grant in August and the check arrived at the school in the fall.

The grant money will be used to allow students choose a "free" book from an in-person book fair and/or to allow students to select a book from a choice sheet, depending on what works best with the recent supply chain issues.

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 their support of the spring book fair, which will be held from March 27-31, 2023.

## Memorial Book Donations

Thanks to Carol Eaton Mendelsohn, Bruce High Class of 1958, for her donation of \$100.00 to the school library and to BHS Class of 1970, for a donation of \$25.00 in memory of classmate, Danny Bosley. Thanks also to Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, who has continued to donate several books each year in memory of her former students. Memorial books are purchased when there is enough money donated to place an order. A plaque is placed inside each book. A donation of \$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. Ashton Colmer** is a new full-time cook at Westernport Elementary School. She grew up in Coney and now resides in Barton. Mrs. Colmer is a 2001 graduate of Westmar High. She has worked for ACPS Food and Nutrition for five years. Mrs. Colmer has been married to her husband Troy for 18 years and has three daughters Emily, 15 and twins Ryleigh and Carleigh, 11. She loves spending time with family, shopping, visiting new places and county music singer, Luke Bryan! She would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome to WES!

**Ms. Connie Morgan** is one of the lunch ladies at WES. She also works for Dollar General here in town and is an avid gardener in her spare time. Mrs. Morgan loves it when the WES kids come into the store and say, "Hey, you are the lunch lady at my school!" Ms. Morgan has four daughters and seven grandchildren, as well as a dog named Chico. She is a native of Piedmont and a graduate of Keyser High and now lives in Westernport. She is also very happy to be part of the Westernport Elementary School Community.

## Citizens of the Month (December and January)



Students selected as "Citizens of the Month" were recently chosen. **The character trait for December was integrity.** These students recognized for being honest and "doing the right thing even when no one is looking" were Kindergarten-Slate Guinn & Priscilla Mborogo; Grade 1-Bentley Paitzel, Maleah Tranum & Willow Ward; Grade 2-Andrew Perez & Danica Miller; Grade 3-Brennan Whetzel & Maci Iliff; Grade 4-Charlotte Haggerty & Atalie Wilson; Grade 5-Landon Shimer & Oliver Marsh.

**The character trail for January was Fairness.** Students who were recognized for "doing things that treat all people equally and with respect." were Kindergarten-Natalie Brashear and Noah Wegman; Grade 1-Kaen Miller, Paisley Edwards & Nora Broadwater; Grade 2-Adalynn Gregory and Ava Morgan; Grade 3-Katalina McGeady & Ezra Clark-Kuhn; Grade 4-Lily Dennis & Aurora Stephens; and Grade 5-AJ Burkett & Peyton Cavey Congratulations, students.

An upcoming character trait that WES students will be learning about is:

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

(March) **Positive Attitude**, which means "Trying to find the best in any situation."

**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.

## Fall 2022 in Review...

It has been exciting to see that so many "normal" WES events returned this fall and early winter. This year our students have seen sleight of hands by a magician (The Magic of Science, November 21st); watched a play on our stage, complete with new curtains (A Dickens Tale, Bright Star Theatre, December 6th); experienced Books Before Bedtime (December 7th); viewed the holiday Band and Orchestra Concert (December 9th) and enjoyed a program from the Maryland Science Center (December 14th). Students sang for their classmates in our gym, then for their parents on the stage of Westmar Middle School (December 20th) in the 2022 Holiday Vocal Concert. Finally, parents were able to recently visit the After School Program.



There are many upcoming events for the second semester of school, including PBIS incentives to help students remember to be respectful, responsible, safe and kind.

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## SNAP-Ed @ WES

Snap-Ed...University of Maryland Extension presents...  
NUTRITION EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM  
Hello Parents & Families!

Your child's school is partnering with University of Maryland Extension again this year. Snap-Ed educators from the Extension Office and classroom teachers will rotate teaching monthly nutrition lessons. We will also promote activities that help your child move more and try new foods. Teaching healthy habits is a team effort! Here are some ways you can get involved.

Take action at home!

- o Ask your child about the nutrition lessons and healthy foods they try in the classroom. Try a new food at home as a family.
- o Visit our blog at [go.umd.edu/eatsmart-blog](http://go.umd.edu/eatsmart-blog) for tips to keep your family healthy and active.
- o Look for newsletters, recipes, and other information in your child's backpack. Cook and try new foods together as a family.
- o Follow your school's social media sites and classroom pages to see what is happening in the classroom and throughout the school.



## Weather @WES



## To a Groundhog...



ONLINE WEATHER CENTER

EARTH NETWORKS\*

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

28.1°

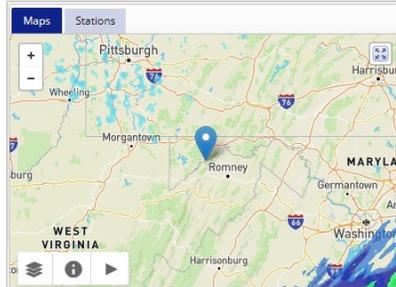


Latitude: 39.4817  
Longitude: -79.0406  
Elevation: 997 ft

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 streamed out to the internet. To access this information, use the Weather@WES link near the bottom of the school website, which can be found at [acpsmd.org/wt](http://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.



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

When a student misses **2** days a month..

They will miss 20 DAYS a year.

They will miss 30 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by graduation.

When a student misses **4** days a month..

They will miss 40 DAYS a year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 120 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by graduation.

