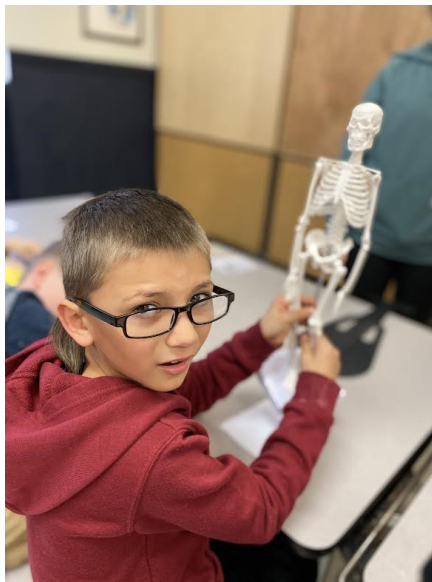




# W.E.S...It's Elementary2

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## Biomedical Science Careers, anyone?



A group of students from the Biomedical Science Honors program at Mountain Ridge High School recently visited Westernport Elementary School, accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Becky Byzon. The students in this program take a "deep dive into all of the different aspects, careers, and tests of the biomedical field." They participate in Project Lead the Way (PLTW) units, which help them to build knowledge and skills in areas including computer science, engineering and biomedical science. They also learn problem-solving, develop critical and creative thinking skills, as well as gain knowledge in the areas of communication, collaboration and creative thinking.

The third grade students of Mr. Ben Benson and Ms. Chelsea Carr participated in hands-on activities with the visiting students and really enjoyed it. WES students were able to learn about bones and skulls, practice reading an eye chart and see the reaction from a simple test on a knee, among other skills. The third grade teachers and other staff members enjoyed seeing WES alumni Chloe Cole, Gabby Guevara-Zelaya, Chloe Haggerty, Layla Miller, Lindsey Stafford, Morgan Steckman and McKenna Zais interact with their students. Other high school students working with the third grade classes were Samantha Blubaugh, Madison Bowman, Ava Fiorita, Lindsey Kahl and Brycen Ritchie. All of these high school students plan to enter career paths to study psychiatry, dental hygiene, pediatrics or forensic science, marine biology, veterinary medicine, pre-medical studies, nursing, and other medical fields. Shown above are (at left) Trace Vinci and (at right) MR student Gabby Guevara Zelaya and Kylaha Heavener.

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

Volume 16, Issue 5-6

January-February 2024

### Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Calendar                                    | 2 |
| Title I Tips                                |   |
| Safety First                                |   |
| Attendance Matters1                         |   |
| Attendance Matters2                         |   |
| Counselor's Corner                          | 3 |
| Westernport PBIS                            |   |
| Citizens of the Month                       | 4 |
| Meet the New Staff                          |   |
| Resolutions for a Happy New Year            |   |
| Thanks, Reeves Private Foundation/Memorials |   |
| 100th Day Trivia                            | 5 |
| To a Groundhog                              |   |
| Handicapped Parking                         |   |
| Weather @ WES                               |   |
| Attendance Matters3                         | 6 |
| STAR CARD                                   |   |



## From the Principal...Mr. Derek Horne



The start of a new calendar 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.



## Attendance Matters1: New Incentive

Attendance incentives in the form of cafeteria ice cream and cookies started in late January. Students who come to school every day for an entire week will receive a coupon for a cafeteria ice cream each Friday. At the end of the month of February, each student in the classroom with the highest attendance, per grade level, will receive a cookie. It is important for students to attend a full day of school each and every day, unless they have a fever, are vomiting or flu-like symptoms.



## School Calendar

- ☺ Feb. 19 (Mon.) SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED-Presidents' Day
- ☺ Mar. 4 (Mon.) Parent Conference Day-Elementary Conferences 10:00 AM-12:00 noon and 1:00-3:30 PM
- ☺ March 11-15 (Mon.-Fri.) Scholastic Hallway Book Fair
- ☺ Mar. 20 (Wed.) End of MP3
- ☺ Mar. 21 (Thurs.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-PM Teacher Work Time
- ☺ Mar. 27 (Wed.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-Easter Vacation Begins) Offices Closed March 29 & April 1)
- ☺ April 2 (Tues.) SCHOOLS REOPEN
- ☺ April 5 (Fri.) Report Cards Released
- ☺ May 14 (Tues.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED-Primary Election Day

## Mr. Blowe Coaches 200 Winning BB Games



Mr. Josh Blowe, physical education teacher and a member of the Westernport Elementary staff for the past eight years, became the most winning coach in the history of Keyser High School since it consolidated in 1976 Mr. Blowe has now coached the Golden Tornado Girls Basketball teams to 200+ victories. Mr. Blowe emphasizes that these "wins" are not his alone. The winning games are the product of teamwork between all coaches and all team members over the years in which he has been coaching. Keyser High has a great group of female athletes this year, too, which has put the Keyser Golden Tornado Girls at #1. In fact, one of the current stars of the team, Autumn Kerchner, attended WES as a student.

Mr. Blowe was also recently voted as Teacher of the Year by his colleagues at Westernport Elementary. Congratulations, Mr. Blowe!

## 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 Matters2

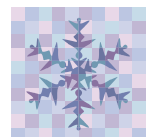
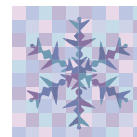
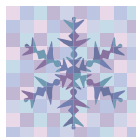
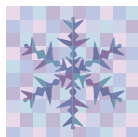
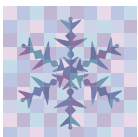
### ATTENDANCE at WES #1

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.





# Counselor's Corner



"Kindness" is the character trait of the month for February. During this month, lessons during guidance and social skills classes will feature the topic of kindness to others and kindness to oneself. Self-esteem is how we value and perceive ourselves. It is important to start talking about this at a young age so Ms. Tessa and I will be doing lessons focusing on ways students can boost their self-esteem and confidence! Ask your child about ways they can show kindness to others at school and at home!

In March, Ms. Tessa and I will continue to teach the Toolbox curriculum and will be gearing up for statewide testing. The Character trait for March is "growth mindset" which encourages students to find the best in any situation and to never give up (even if things seem "boring" or hard to do!)

## Books to check out

### Self Love & Self-Esteem:

Confidence is my Superpower, by Alicia Ortego (available through Amazon)

Beautiful Oops!, by Barney Saltzberg (available through Amazon)

### Growth Mindset:

The Magical Yet, by Angela DiTerlizzi (available at public library)

Bubble Gum Brain, by Julia Cook (available through Amazon)

### Happy, Healthy Kids Tip!

Research suggests that 20 minutes of uninterrupted, quality time with your child is more valuable than hours spent together multi-tasking. This short burst of focused time together builds your connection and makes your child feel valued, important, and loved.

Each day during the month of February, or whatever time period works for you, surprise your child with a heart on his or her bedroom door with a positive statement about them on it! *Examples: You are so helpful! You make me smile!*

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your child!

Laura Wilson - School Counselor

Tessa Lutton - Social Emotional Coach



## 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, Winter Olympics, and a Spring Fling, 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 **\$1,750.00 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 11-15, 2024.

## Memorial Book Donations

Thanks to the Bruce High Class of 1969 for their donation of \$100.00 to the school library in memory of classmate, Linda Ritchie Bender. Thanks to Karen Kelly for a donation of \$50.00 in memory of former WES custodian, Goldie Tichinell. Thanks also to Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, who has continued to donate several books each year in memory of her former students.

## 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. Barbra Carter** is a new member of our cafeteria staff. She enjoys being one of our lunch ladies! Mrs. Carter is a native of Cumberland and a graduate of Allegany High School. She has been married for nine years to her husband, Tyler, and has three children and four cats. Mrs. Carter enjoys cleaning (a little too much) and her goal in life right now is to be a good mom/wife.

**Ms. Shay Musick** is a new instructional assistant at WES. She is a native of Cumberland and a graduate of Fort Hill High School. She now lives with her family and their dog, Bean, in Westernport and loves working close to home. Ms. Musick is excited to announce that she has passed her ParaPro test!

**Mrs. Cheriann Menges** is the school social worker serving the western region of Allegany County. She and her husband have three children who attend school in the Mountain Ridge district. Ms. Menges is a licensed clinical social worker and her background is primarily in Emergency Behavioral Health, Outpatient Therapy and Foster Care.

## 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-Michael Hans & Bentley Mayhew; Grade 1-Slate Guinn, Bennett Dobbs & Pennie Beard; Grade 2-Willow Ward & Mack Brashear; Grade 3-Jace Fitzgerald & Andrew Perez; Grade 4-Brantlee Lavelle & Aaliyah Spiker; Grade 5-Taylor Schramm & Addison Lafferty.

**The character trait for January was Fairness.** Students who were recognized for "doing things that treat all people equally and with respect." were Kindergarten-Canaan Dennison & Madelynn Sweitzer; Grade 1-Gabriel Morris, Isis (Izzy) Roe & Avery Todd; Grade 2-Esdras Gonzalez Ramirez & Emmett Hanlin; Grade 3-Cella Crites & Addalynn Gregory; Grade 4-Carter Blacka & Addalye Bennett; and Grade 5-Elijah Craze & Liam Muir. 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.

# 100th Day Celebration (and Trivia!)



On Tuesday, January 30, 2024, students and staff at WES celebrated the 100th day of school. Students dressed up as if they were students 100 years ago OR if they were 100 years old. There were a lot of creative costumes!

Here is some 100th Day Trivia:

- The cornerstone of the school was laid on **November 9, 1922**. The building was named Bruce High School, in memory of Oliver Bruce, an educator in the community for 45 years. The first graduation was held in the school gym on **June 25, 1923**, although the school was not yet finished.
- On **September 4, 1924**, 156 students and 10 faculty members moved into the building.
- In **1938 and 1939**, an addition was made to the left of the original building using a grant from the Public Works Administration (PWA). The cafeteria kitchen area was added at the same time.
- Students in grades 7-12 moved into "Bruce on the Hill" in **spring of 1957**. Hammond Street Elementary students moved to the building in **April 1958** and the building became Westernport Elementary.
- Look for a piece of green tape on the floor of the second floor hallway which marks the line where the addition to Westernport Elementary ends (McDonald's side) and the original building begins.
- Teachers and students using rooms located in the original part of the building include Miss Orange and Mrs. C. Smith (Kindergarten) on the first floor, as well as Mrs. Clark and Mr. McGregor. Ms. Bolton and Mrs. Chapman (grade 2), Mr. Jones (grade 5) and Mrs. Staci Wilson and students are using 100 year old rooms on the third floor. Ms. Carr and students (grade 3) and the Faculty Room, Main Office (front part), Guidance Room and Gym/Stage area are 100-year old rooms on the second floor.

Shown in the photo on left are twins Reid Richards (left) and Luke Richards (right) standing by the line



## Weather @WES



## To a Groundhog...



### ONLINE WEATHER CENTER

EARTH NETWORKS®

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

28.1°

Switch to Metric

12  
mph

Latitude: 39.4817  
Longitude: -79.0406  
Elevation: 997 ft

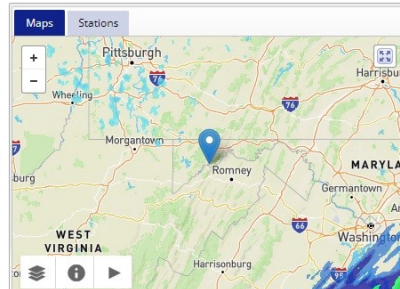
| TEMPERATURE      | WIND               | PRECIPITATION |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Hi/Low 38°/27°   | Current N 11.8 mph | Today 0.00"   |
| Feels Like 17.9° | Gust N 19.5 mph    | Rate 0.00"    |
| Dew Point 13.0°  | Avg. ESE 9.7 mph   |               |

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%   |

Hourly Obs Daily Obs Station Graph



10-Day Forecast Hourly Forecast

THUR FRI SAT SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

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.

## 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)





# 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.

# STAR Cards from YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

## STAR CARD

### Student Access Resource

Students in Allegany County Public Schools and Bishop Walsh have special, student library cards known as STAR CARDS. With STAR CARDS students can access exclusive library resources plus check out up to three books or audiobooks with no late fees.



### What is a STAR CARD?

The STAR CARD is your access key to the world of information and learning. It is a special library account, which you can use to borrow books, e-books, magazines, journals, online encyclopedia, and other resources. Language learning tools & homework help available,

### Request a STAR CARD number.

When you check out at the circulation desk, tell the staff you want to use your STAR CARD. They will ask for your name and birth date to confirm your identity. Write your number here.

| Prefix        | Student ID Number |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 2 2 1 0 S 0 0 |                   |

Example, a student with the ID of A01234 has a STAR CARD number of 22210S00A01234. All the "0"s on the card are numbers, unless students last names starts with an "O".



Scan to request a STAR Card number.

PIN information on the other side  
October 2023

### What is my PIN number?

Important: Your STAR CARD account has a four-digit PIN Number or password which is set to the last four digits of your STAR CARD.

### How do I use my STAR CARD at the Allegany County Library System?

#### You have access to:



Live tutors available 7 days a week between 2 PM-Midnight, EST



Casual, cultural, and conversational learning. 70+ languages with conversation-based language lessons for web, iOS, and Android.



Explore amazing adventures in science, nature, culture, archaeology, and space. Best for children aged 6-14.



Use to: Prep for SAT, ACT, GED, and more. Research undergrad and graduate programs. Find tuition assistance.



Explore your passions:  
Photography  
Drawing  
Music  
Coding  
Jewelry making



*\*Must be 13 years or older for a Udemy account*

**301-729-0855**

*Please note that all resources can be accessed with a regular library card.*

**[www.alleganycountylibrary.info](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info)**

*These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Allegany County, the Superintendent, or this school.*

If you have any questions, contact any branch of the Allegany County Library System:

**<https://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/>**

The library which is closest to our school is right here in Westernport. The library phone number is 301-359-0455. You may speak to Mrs. Kathy, Mr. William or Mrs. Linda and they will be glad to help you. The Westernport Library is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:00-8:00 PM and on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.