



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## At Last! We're Coming Back to WES!

As we begin the 3rd marking period and plan for students to enter back into school buildings, the following plans will be implemented. Please read all of the information carefully.

### Grades 2 - 5

Beginning Tuesday, February 2nd, all students in grades 2 through 5 will participate with their regular classroom teacher at their school for virtual instruction.

The return to schools timeline was approved by the elected Board of Education during the January 25 BOE meeting. Grade 2-5 students will participate in the previously implemented Hybrid/ Concurrent A/B A/B V schedule for in-person learning beginning Monday, March 8. (Please note that the word concurrent means simultaneously/at the same time.)

Students who are currently in a virtual classroom and whose families have chosen for them to opt out of any in-person learning will still participate with their classroom teacher remotely each day.

Students who will be returning to the Hybrid/Concurrent A/B schedule for in-person instruction will also participate with their classroom teacher remotely on the days when they do not attend school in-person.

**Fridays will continue to be a virtual learning day for all students.**

### PreK, Kindergarten, Grade 1

Students who were new to opting out in the second marking period and whose families have chosen for them to continue not participating in any form of in-person instruction for the third marking period will be placed with a virtual teacher soon after February 1st, when student / class size changes have been evaluated.

Students will begin attending in-person classroom instruction on Monday through Thursday, as was previously implemented, on Monday, March 1, 2021.

Students currently placed with a virtual teacher and whose families have chosen for them to continue to not participate in any in-person instruction will remain with the virtual classroom teacher.

**Fridays will continue to be a virtual learning day for all students.**

ARRIVAL TIMES 8:25-8:45

IF STUDENTS ARRIVE AFTER 8:45,

THEY WILL NEED TO BE SIGNED IN AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

Westernport Elementary  
172 Church Street  
Westernport, MD  
21562

A Title I School

Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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January-February 2021

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



Happy New Year, WES Families!

We look forward to a new beginning after a year of struggles, challenges, and hardships. But before we look forward, let's remember one thing we should not forget about 2020. Children demonstrated flexibility, perseverance, and resilience with the changes schools had to make. Our children have been amazing through this pandemic. We can learn from

them on how to be flexible and take things day by day. They are incredible little human beings!

As we begin this new year, the winter season allows us the opportunity to take a breath and enjoy our surroundings. The picturesque snow-capped mountains on my drive to school are breathtaking. Let's take this time to play in the snow, whether building a snowman, skiing, or making snow angels; this can

be fun for all. Snuggle up with a warm blanket and read a good book. Play a board game, look at old photos, or whatever amazing things bring joy and laughter with your families. While we battle this pandemic, it is vital that we focus on our children and our own mindfulness. Together we can do this!

In the upcoming weeks, we are looking forward to the return of students! Please make sure that your child

arrives between 8:25 AM and 8:45 AM. Otherwise, please sign your child in at the school office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school office at 301-359-0511 for information. You may also contact me using my email address, which is [Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org](mailto:Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org). Thank you for your support of your children, our school and this community!



## 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. Pictures of these students are displayed near the office. The most recent Peace Days winners include:

Week of November 9-13: No names drawn

Week of November 16-20 and November 23-25: Rosalie Brashear, Ryder Hanlin, Ella Aronhalt, Arianna Adkins, Zach Haggerty, Declan McGeady and Sarah Shingler

Week of December 1-4: Stella Metz, Aubrie Lambert, Jacob Whetstone, Jonathan Wolford, Colin Stafford, Annabell Taylor and Mason Weimer

Week of December 7: August Nies, Kay Heavener, Chaney Butler, Emitt Dawson, Adrianna Escobar Molina, Alivia Warnick and Nathan Whelan

Week of December 14: Bradley Paitsel, Ethan Brashear, Owen Brashear, Wesley Haggerty, Brody Hook, Emrick Johnson and Aiden Weimer

Week of January 4: Rosalie Brashear, Jace Fitzgerald, Jackson Lease, Johnathon Fasching, Dustlyn Rebar, Kaleb Whelan and Lauren Biser

Week of January 11: Hudson Placka, Ryler Wilson, Devyn Pritts, Jamyson Hanlin, Savannah Miller, Parker Rishel and Harlie Todd.

Week of January 18: Finn Taylor, Weston Reed, Kameron Cage, Jaselyn Ravenscroft, Khloe Douglass, Nickolas Dawson and Noah Davis

Week of January 25: Willow Ward, Aliyah Shingler, Aaliyah Spiker, Adrianna Stuart, Peyton Cavey, Hayleigh Sanford and Emma Streets

Peace Days treats are mailed to the weekly winners.



## WES School Calendar

- ☺ Jan. 4 (Mon.) SCHOOLS REOPENED FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING
- ☺ Jan. 18 (Mon.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED-Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday
- ☺ Feb. 1 (Mon.) End of First Semester- Close of Second Marking Period
- ☺ Feb. 2 (Tues.) SCHOOLS WERE OPEN FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING-Teacher Work Time 12:30-3:00 PM
- ☺ Feb. 15 (Mon.) SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED-Presidents' Day
- ☺ Feb. 17 (Wed.) Report Cards Released
- ☺ March 1 (Mon.) Grades PreK, K and 1 students return to WES (Monday-Thursday in person and Fridays virtually)
- ☺ March 8 (Mon.) Grades 2-5 students return to WES (following the Hybrid/Concurrent A/B A/B V schedule, as explained on page 1)



## 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



## Attendance Matters

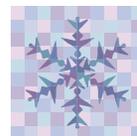
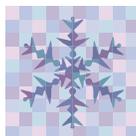
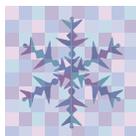
### A NOTE ATTENDANCE at WES (in person and virtual)

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 (Please keep in mind as students return to school...)

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.



## A Coke and a Smile

Donate the codes found on your Coca-Cola products. View the video to find out more about this easy way to donate to local schools and other causes in your community.

<https://us.coca-cola.com/give/>



The screenshot shows the Coca-Cola Give website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a hamburger menu, the Coca-Cola logo, a user profile icon, and a shopping cart icon. Below this is a large image of hands clasped together with the text 'Coca-Cola GIVE'. Underneath is a red banner that reads 'DONATE TO LOCAL SCHOOLS AND CAUSES IN YOUR COMMUNITY'. Below the banner is a paragraph of text: 'Join the thousands of people partnering with Coca-Cola who are making a difference in lives around the world. Watch the video to learn how you can donate codes from your favorite Coca-Cola beverages.' At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a small video player showing a person in a red shirt.

## Books Before Bedtime



A virtual "Books Before Bedtime" event was held from 6:00-6:45 PM on February 4, 2021. Families participated by using a google meet link provided by the school. Students in grade PreK-2 were invited to dress in their pajamas, wrap themselves in their favorite blankets and snuggle up with their favorite stuffed animals to get ready to participate in a night of bedtime stories, snacks, and prizes.

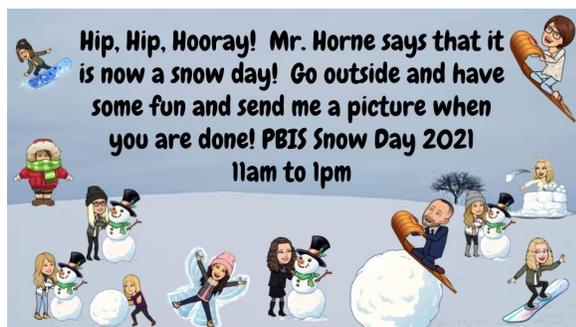
WES teachers Kim Aikman, Lisa Harris, Melissa Kealy and Beth Weber read bedtime stories and shared reading strategies with students and parents while those in our school community enjoyed their snacks in a cozy spot at home. (Students who preregistered were able to pick up a snack and a surprise the week of the event!)

Participating adults were eligible to win a \$25.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card. The adult winners of the gift card was the family of Chaney Butler, grade one.

This event was so popular that a few siblings in grades 3-5 joined in (no snack and treat, just to watch that is) because this event was just for younger students. There were about 40 students (plus their adults) in attendance. A great time was had by one and all.

## 'Twas a Surprise Snow Day (thanks PBIS!)

On, February 1st, Westernport faculty, staff and students were treated to a surprise "snowy" event sponsored by PBIS. It was a virtual snow day! From 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, all of us went out to enjoy the snow. (See more pictures on the WES PTA Facebook page!)



# 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 seventh 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 November.

About 20% of this year's Reeves Grant was used to purchase 36 eBooks to add to the Follett Destiny Discover "side" of the new Follett Online Library System, which is available to all students at WES. Students may access these eBooks by going to the Westernport Home Page (<https://www.acpsmd.org/wt>), then choosing Bookmarks, Students should click on the Follett Destiny Library Catalog (look for the "tree" on the top left corner) and log in through google using their usual ACPS credentials. Students may read the eBooks online or check out one at a time.

Approximately 80% of the grant money will be used to allow students choose a "free" book from a virtual book fair, if possible, or to purchase more eBooks to add to Follett Destiny Discover.

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 2021 (or for the possibility of more eBooks for students to enjoy...)



## 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. Debbie Dayton** is a new member of the cafeteria staff at WES. She is a transplant from Michigan. She moved to McCoole "for love", because her husband, Dave, retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service and wanted to go home. So here she is! Mrs. Dayton retired from Western Maryland Health System (now UPMC) after 19 years and decided that "retirement was not all it was cracked up to be." So she was happy to become a cafeteria lady. Mrs. Dayton and her husband have two grown children and one granddaughter, Molly. She absolutely loves living in the mountains of Western Maryland. She is also happy that there is a lot less snow in here than in Michigan!

**Ms. Megan Bray** is the new instructional assistant in Miss Kim's PreK. "Miss Megan" is a native of Keyser and a graduate of Keyser High School. She also has an associate's degree in Elementary/Early Childhood Education from Potomac State College of WVU. Ms. Bray then attended FSU for a year before coming to WES, where she truly feels like she is making a difference. Her hobby is baking and she runs a small baking business. Ms. Bray lives in Keyser with her fiancé, Tyler, and their three "fur" babies.

## Citizens of the Month (November, December and January)



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 November 2020 was citizenship.** Those students selected for November included PreK-Ryder Morgan, & Grayson Cuppett; Kindergarten- Kierra Bateson & Kyree Boal; Grade 1-Lennon Metz & Katalina McGeedy; Grade 2-Jayden LaRue, Mariah Wade & Adrianna Stuart; Grade 3-Eden Brashear; Grade 4-Adrienne Taylor & Annabell Taylor; and Grade 5-Nathan Miller & Kristen Paitsel.

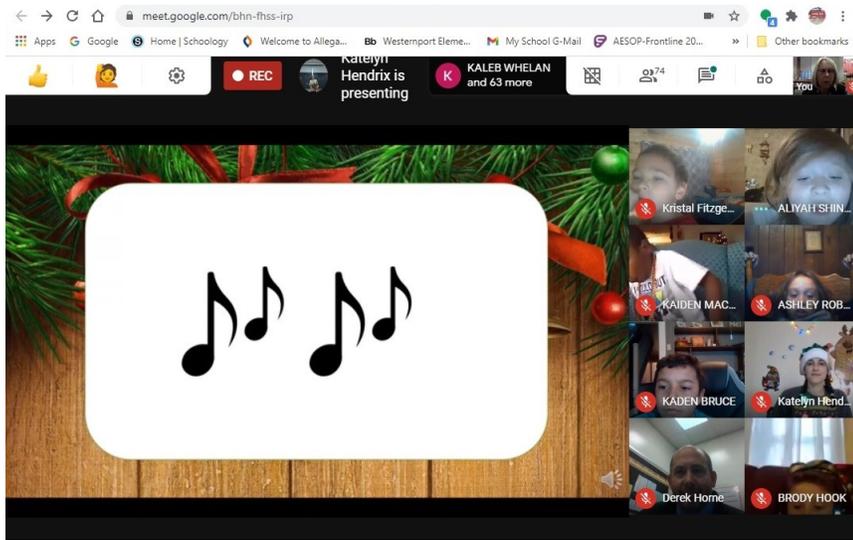
**The character trait for December was caring.** Those students selected for December 2020 included PreK-Jaxson Reed & Hudson Placka; Kindergarten-Bennet Twigg & Aliyah Shingler; Grade 1-Harleigh Mason, & Jacob Mayhew; Grade 2-Makenna Sgaggero, Koltin Spalding & Liam Muir; Grade 3-Landon Iliff; Grade 4-Gracie Shingler & Emily Ellifritz; and Grade 5-Aiden Weimer & Rachel Wolford.

**The character trait for January was fairness.** Those students selected for January 2021 included PreK-Addisyn Davis & Logan Shapiro; Kindergarten-Ethan Brashear & Luke Jackson; Grade 1-Porter Beard & Maci Iliff; Grade 2-Addison Wolfe, Lily Dennis & Jaxon Elliott; Grade 3-Lacy Custer; Grade 4-Bailey Brashear & Hayleigh Sanford; and Grade 5-Bentley Twigg & Megan Carpenter. Congratulations, students!

**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.

# Virtual Christmas Sing-a-long & Hot Chocolate and Books



**Christmas Sing-a-Long:** We danced. We sang. We smiled. We wrote in the chat. (Some of us "chatted" a lot!) But most important of all, we saw each other in one big group. About 75 members of the WES community joined together on Google Meet for a sing-along, which was held on Tuesday, December 22nd. Thanks to Ms. Katelyn Hendrix, our music teacher, for making this sing-a-long possible. It was a wonderful event.

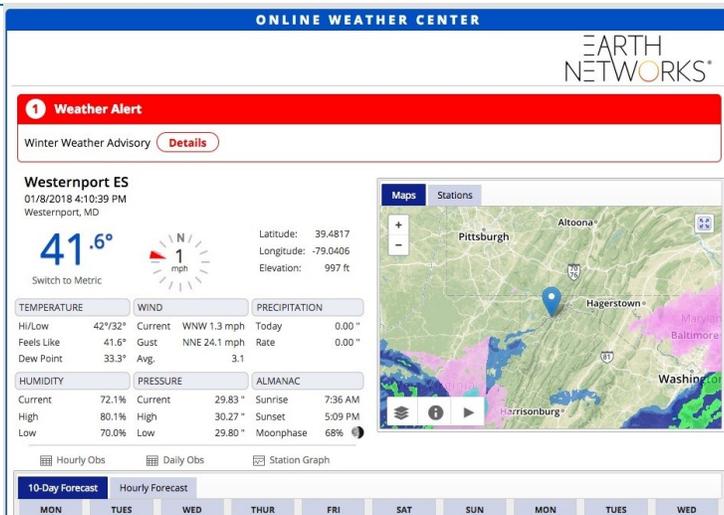
**Hot Chocolate and Books:** Reading tips were prepared for each grade level. Students received a book and a packet of hot chocolate mix. Santa appeared on the WES PTA Facebook page. It was not Christmas as usual at WES, but it was definitely one to remember. We hope that all students enjoyed their books and shared them with their families.



## Weather @WES



## To a Groundhog...



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](http://acpsmd.org/wt)

### A reminder about...HANDICAPPED PARKING (as students return to school)

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)

Update on February 2, 2021: Both Punxsutawney Phil and Western Maryland Murray saw their shadows, so get ready for six more weeks of winter!

