



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

The Book Fair is Coming! (April 4-8, 2022)



The annual "in-person" book fair is back and coming soon. It will be held in the second floor hallway of Westernport Elementary School from April 4-8, 2022.

- April 4-6 (Monday-Wednesday) The book fair will be open for all students to browse during library classes. Students will write wish lists. Students will pick one "free" book. Students will be given book fair flyers to take home.
- April 7-8 (Thursday-Friday) Students in grades PreK3 through grade 5 will shop for books, with the help of their teachers.

Profit from all sales will be used by Westernport Elementary School to provide extra funds for books and library-related programs in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

Supporting a love for reading is critical to student success. Please support the Westernport Elementary Book Fair and help your child find their next favorite book. It is uncertain at this time if Family Night will be held, due to pandemic restrictions, but parents who wish to shop online (with their children or to purchase gifts) may do so. (The link will be posted on Class Dojo, Schoology and the PTA Facebook site prior to April 4th.) Books make great holiday gifts! Thanks again to the Reeves Foundation for their support so that students may once again choose a "free" book from the book fair. Thanks also to Martin's in LaVale for providing paper and plastic bags student shopping days.

Congratulations to Mr. Josh Blowe, PE Teacher, for being named the Potomac Valley Conference Coach of the Year. The Lady Tornado Basketball team, which is coached by Mr. Blowe, was named team of the year. A quick outdoor pep rally was held at Westernport Elementary so that students could gather outside the building to cheer for the Keyser Lady Tornado basketball team as they drove through the school parking lot on their way to the state championship game in Fairmont, West Virginia! Students made signs and waved the team off on March 8th as they left our area for this important game.



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

Volume 14, Issue 7-8

March-April 2022

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Mobile Science Lab	2
Meet the (New) Staff	2
Peace Days	2
After School Program Masking Update	3
Citizens of the Month	4
Find Us on Facebook	4
Title I Tips	4
Mobile Science Lab	4
Community Movie Night	5



From the Principal...Mr. Horne



It is hard to believe that is March. We hope that the weather will cooperate and it will soon feel like spring. The arrival of spring means more hours of sunshine. The temperatures are on the rise which allows students the opportunity to get outside and burn off that built up winter energy. While getting outside is exciting, please take a moment to discuss with your child about using kindness, respect, and being safe while playing outside and crossing our parking lot. Please remember that it is imperative that our students are here at school, on time, and stay through-

out the day each and every day to ensure that they are getting the best education possible. Even a few minutes late or leaving early have a huge impact on a student's progress. Please talk to your children about the importance of school and make their attendance a priority. We have an amazing staff who are dedicated to your child's success; please allow them the opportunity to provide the best education possible for your students by having them here to learn. Our virtual Gardners Candies fundraiser has been a great suc-

cess. Our goal is \$3,000.00 in sales. We are at \$2,064.00 If you are wanting to buy Easter candy, check out our fundraiser www.gardnerscandiesfundraisings.com, which ends on April 10th. (Group code is 10-0344.) The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to benefit our students. We also have an apparel sale which ends on March 13th, which not a fundraiser but a chance to order, if you wish. www.westernport22.itemorder.com. Our school spring pictures are scheduled for April 12th. Please

also check out the article by Mr. McGregor about several upcoming community events to put on your calendar. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration will take place in late spring. Any student age three on or before September 1st may apply. Please call the school office (301-359-0511) to make an appointment. Keep an eye out for information on ACP's upcoming summer program opportunities. We will forward information as soon as it is available. (continued on page 2)

Meet the (New) Faculty and Staff

Ms. Tessa Lutton, a WES alumni, is the social and emotional support coach at Westernport Elementary. She is a graduate of Mountain Ridge High School. She also graduated from Towson University with a Bachelor's degree in Family and Human Services, with a concentration in services to children and youth. Ms. Tessa is working toward a master's degree in School Counseling from FSU. Ms. Tessa is currently renovating her new home in Cresaptown and will soon be living there with her 8-month-old Shih Tzu puppy, Grizzly.

Ms. Brittany Wilson, new instructional assistant, is a graduate of Frankfort High School. She then studied early childhood education at Potomac State and WVU. She previously worked at Head Start for five years with children from birth to three years old. She lives in Cumberland with her two cats, Minnie and Mac, and a golden retriever named Nova. She also helps take care of her seven-year-old niece, Sophie. Ms. Wilson loves helping the kids at Westernport learn and grow.

Mrs. Victoria O'Neal is a new instructional assistant and is based in fourth grade. She graduated from ACM with an associate's degree and previously worked at School Therapy Services and as an occasional therapy assistant. Mrs. O'Neal lives in Frostburg with her husband, Ty, and one-year-old son, Noah. In her spare time, she enjoys exercising/running and taking scenic drives on the back of her husband's Harley.

Mrs. Brooke Emerick is the virtual fifth grade teacher and is based at Westernport Elementary. She has lived in Allegany County her entire life and graduated from Fort Hill High School. Mrs. Emerick graduated from FSU in 2018 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She got married to Joseph Emerick in 2020, the weekend before the world shut down due to COVID-19. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and having game nights. She and her husband have two puppies named Roxie and Luna.

From the Principal, Mr. Horne (continued)

As we approach the last marking period, let us remember that even though this school year has been challenging, we need to finish strong. Our students will continue to be challenged and will grow. We look forward to seeing their growth. We appreciate your continued support and effort in a partnership for our children. Happy Spring!

If you have any questions at any time, 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.



WES Calendar

UPCOMING MARCH-APRIL EVENTS

- ☺ March 13 (Sun.) Daylight Savings Time begins; school apparel sale ends
- ☺ Mar. 25 (Fri.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-End of MP3/Teacher Work Time
- ☺ Mar. 28 (Mon.) Three-Hour Delayed Opening-Principal Staff Development
- ☺ April 4-8 (Mon.-Fri.) Book Fair
- ☺ April 8 (Fri.) Report Cards Released
- ☺ April 10 (Sun.) Gardners Candies Fundraiser ends
- ☺ April 12 (Tues.) Spring Pictures
- ☺ April 13 (Wed.) SCHOOLS CLOSED -Easter Vacation Begins (Offices Closed April 15 & 18)
- ☺ April 19 (Tues.) Three Hour Delayed Opening-SCHOOLS REOPEN-Principal Staff Development/Teacher Work Time
- ☺ April 21 (Thurs.) Community Movie Night (See flyer on page 5.)



Peace Days



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 no yellow or red behaviors. Pictures of these students are displayed near the office.

Week of January 19-21: Jayla Case, Peyton Davis, Kyree Boal, Aden Rogers, Koltin Spalding, Alex Kneisley and Savannah Baker

Week of January 24-28: Orrie Zais, Bentley Shillingburg, Weston Reed, Camden Shafer, Cyrix Whiteman, Briley Musick and Alivia Warnick.

Week of January 31-February 4: Maverick Guinn, Caroline Hughes, Karaliah Griffin, Madelynn Lantz, Mathew Alt and Hailee O'Haver

Week of February 7-11: Pennie Beard, Olivia Toft, Ryder Hanlin, Connor Coffman, Addison Hensley, Dustlyn Rebar and Hayleigh Sanford

Week of February 14-18: Liam Monahan, Alaina Rhodes, Kenzie Weiss, Maci Iliff, Addison Shingler, Addison Hanlin and Annabell Taylor

Week of February 22-25: Bennett Dobbs, Logan Rice, Jace Fitzgerald, Porter Beard, Kristyle Washington, Landon Shimer and Emily Ellifritz

Week of February 28-March 4: Brooklyn DeHaven, Reid Richards, Bennet Twigg, Jacob Mayhew, Jayden Larue, Decklin Weasenforth and Americus Greene



Mission & Vision

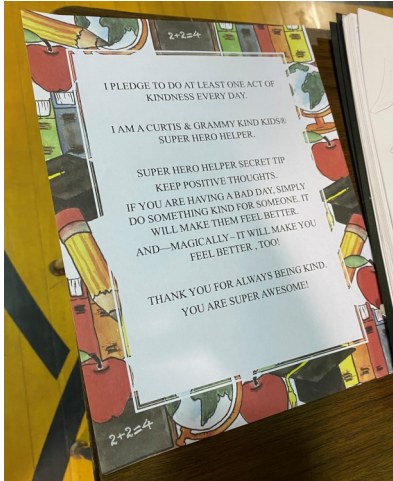
OUR MISSION: Westernport Elementary will partner with family and community to build a better world—one child at a time.

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.



Kindness can become its own motive.
We are made kind by being kind. ---
Eric Hoffer

Our After School Program Rocks!



The After School Program at WES, supported by grants from the Allegany County Public Schools, began in October 2021. Participating students have been busy with reading and math, recreation, doing homework and a variety of other activities. For example, all students in the After School program are part of the Crazy 8s Math Club! For a Glow-in-the Dark Geometry lesson, the students made geometric shapes using glow sticks. First, they built all sizes of triangles and quadrilaterals. Then, they laid out sticks to make mystical repeating patterns! They even made a giant beehive out of hexagons! The program is held on Mondays through Thursdays from 3:45-6:00 PM and dinner, prepared by HRDC, is served to the 30 students in grades one through five. Ms. Kim Aikman and Ms. Chelsea Carr are site coordinators and a variety of WES teachers also work with students, as well. Students have had a great year, so far,



Several special After School Program events which were held recently include (see pictures above): In January, the students attending the After School Program were treated to two presentations by Ella Holly, author of Curtis & Grammy Kind Kids® - a program highlighting the importance of service and a good work ethic. At the presentation on January 12th, students were encouraged to predict their life choices and careers twenty years in the future. The students received Curtis & Grammy Kind Kids® tote bags filled with pencils, kindness journals, crayons, activity pages and coloring pages. The students learned about a kindness pledge during the January 19th presentation. After reciting a pledge to perform at least one or more acts of kindness and service daily, each student received a Curtis & Grammy Kind Kids® lanyard clipped to a "SuperHero Helper" business card with the name of student listed on the card. Gifts of Curtis & Grammy t-shirts, ski caps, sweatshirts, and numerous other items were again distributed. Teachers voted on a King of Kindness and Queen of Kindness. King Brayden Iliff was awarded a king's crown. Queen Ella Aronhalt was awarded a tiara. The teachers chose these two students based on their consistent daily acts of kindness and service to others. On March 2, 2022, the students in the After School Program participated in a "Read Across America" night. Celebrity readers came to Westernport Elementary to read to the students. After hearing a story (or two), the students completed a craft with assistance from the staff from the Allegany County Library System. Finally, the students got to choose a book to read and take home! Students had time to dive into their books at the end of the night while enjoying a snack. We would like to thank Maryland Delegate Mike McKay, FSU English Professor Andy Duncan and "Miss Kate" Metzger from the Allegany County Library System Storycorps for spending the evening with us!

MASKING UPDATE: At a special meeting of the Board of Education held today, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, the school board voted to make masks optional in Allegany County Public School buildings and on school buses, effectively immediately. Students returning from isolation or quarantine will still be required to wear a mask at school and on the bus until day 11. Other recommendations and changes are as follows:

1. Isolation requirements will not change for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.
2. Quarantine requirements will not change for individuals who are a close contact outside of the school classroom or school bus.
3. Requirements will not change for those students who have symptoms of COVID-19.
4. Quarantine will not be required for close contacts within the classroom or on the school bus. Contact tracing will not be done in these environments.
5. There will be no restrictions on capacity for indoor events in Allegany County Public School buildings.
6. All precautions in regards to distance and hygiene will remain in place, such as a six-foot distance between students when eating.

Food, Fiber & You (Mobile Science Lab Returns)



Westernport Elementary School students recently participated in Maryland Agriculture in the Classroom activities supported by grant funds provided through the Allegany County Public Schools. Students in grades PreK-5 attended classes in the Mobile Science Lab supplied by the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation,

which was parked for a week on the front lawn of the school. The activities included scientific investigations including "Sugar Sheriffs", "Forest & Me", "The Science of Chocolate", "Take Me Out to the Ball Game", and "Sticky Bean."

Shown above are students participating in the "Sticky Bean" activity. In the activity, isolated soy protein and calcium hydroxide are used to produce a glue from soybeans. The glue, because of its long polymer chains, makes a good adhesive. Students tested the strength of their glue against Elmer's Glue using a peel test, tensile strength test, and shear strength test. Ask students in grades 3, 4 or 5 which glue worked the best!

Title I Tips

Westernport Elementary School has a Schoolwide Title I Program. This means that the federally funded instructional staff may work with all of the students in our school, and our school develops a Schoolwide Title I program designed to increase academic achievement for all students. A Schoolwide Program helps us to use federal funds to meet the needs of all students more effectively. Title I provides additional resources for our school, including

- Instructional materials for our students.
- Professional development for teachers.
- Information about how to help children succeed in school for parents.
- Parent/Family Engagement Programs.
- Additional staffing to provide support for reading & math instruction.

Find Us on Facebook

The Westernport Elementary PTA Facebook page was created to give members of our Westernport Elementary community important information, announcements, and updates about school happenings and events. Parents may use the link on the Westernport Home Page (click on For Parents and then PTA News) or search Facebook to find this group and request to join it. This is a closed group, but please be respectful when posting on this page. Administrators have the right, and responsibility, to remove anything that is offensive, inappropriate, or not pertaining to PTA initiatives and efforts.



Citizens of the Month

The character trait for **January** was **Fairness**. That means doing things that treat all people equally and with respect. The character trait for **February** was **Kindness**. That means saying or doing something positive to someone. Students selected received a trip to McDonald's.

January "citizens" included Brooklyn DeHaven, Jaclynn Taylor, Elizabeth Grady, Paisley Edwards, Jayme Greenwald, Kierra Bateson, Kaiden Wilt, Aden Rogers, Kiya Chojar, Devyn Pritts, Wesley Haggerty, Johnathan Fasching, Peyton Cavey, Parker Rishel and Americus Greene.

February "citizens" included Braxton Marvin, Pennie Beard, Nora Broadwater, Caroline Hughes, Lillian Robinson, Ava Morgan, Aubrie Lambert, Owen Brashear, Brantlee Lavelle, Camden Shafer, Taylor Schramm, Addison Lafferty, Klarissa Paitsel, Annabell Taylor and Adrienne Taylor.

Winter Art in the Showcase

Check out the many beautiful winter scenes in the showcase opposite the office. This beautiful picture was created by Gabriel Lepley in grade two. Great job, Mr. John Seibert, and way to go, students!



Westernport

Community Movie Nights

April 21

May 19

June 2



ACTIVITIES AT 6:45 PM

MOVIES AT 7:30 PM

FREE
SNACKS!

FUN

COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES!

GIANT
OUTDOOR
MOVIE SCREEN!

Bring the family and friends, blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a night out with your Westernport family!

FEATURED COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

ALLEGANY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
ALLEGANY ARTS COUNCIL
CHALK IT UP TO CIVILITY
MOUNTAIN LAUREL MEDICAL CENTER
ROCKY GAP STATE PARK
UPMC WESTERN MARYLAND
WALNUT RIDGE FARM
WESTERNPORT PTA

Dates subject to change
For more information contact Westernport Elementary School



