



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## The Book Fair is Coming! (March 27-31, 2023)



The annual book fair has been delivered! It will be held in the second floor hallway of Westernport Elementary from March 27-31, 2023.

- March 27-29 (Monday-Wednesday) The book fair will be open for all students to browse during library classes. Students will write wish lists. Students will be given book fair flyers to take home.
- March 30-31 (Thursday-Friday) Students in grades K-5 will shop for books, with the help of teachers and parent volunteers.

Parents who wish to shop online (with their children or to purchase gifts) may do so. (The link can be found on Class Dojo, Schoology and the PTA Facebook site). Books make great holiday gifts!

Parents may also sign in at the office to shop on Thursday (8:30 AM-noon and 1:00-3:00 PM) or on Friday (8:30 AM-noon). The book fair will close on Friday at 2:00 PM.

Thanks again to the Reeves Foundation for their support by providing grant funds to Westernport Elementary School so that students may once again choose a "free" book at the time of the book fair. Students will be able pick one "free" book from a choice sheet prior to the book fair and books will be delivered to classrooms when they arrive. The books from the "choice sheets" will be purchased through Main Street Books in Frostburg so that the money may be kept within our local community. Thanks also to Martin's in LaVale for providing plastic bags to help students with their shopping experience.

Profit from all sales will be used by Westernport Elementary School to provide extra funds for books and library-related programs in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Encouraging a love for reading is critical to student success. Please support the Westernport Elementary Book Fair and help your children find their next favorite book.

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

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## From the Principal...Mr. Horne



It is hard to believe that the month of March is almost over. We hope that the weather will cooperate and spring weather will begin to appear. With the arrival of spring means that we will have more hours of sunshine and 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. Parents, we need your help. Please remember that it is imperative that our students are here, on time, and stay throughout the day 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 students about the importance of school and make their attendance a priority. We have an amazing staff that are dedicated to your child's suc-

cess. Please allow them the opportunity to provide that education for your students by having them here to learn every day. Our virtual Gardners Candy fundraiser has been a great success. Our goal is \$2000 in sales; we are at \$1789. If you are looking for Easter candy check out our fundraiser at [www.gardnerscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.gardnerscandiesfundraising.com), and please use our group code 10-0344. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used for a variety of

activities for our students. The fundraiser ends on April 2nd. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration will take place in late spring. Any student ages three or before September 1st may apply. Please call the school office (301-359-0511) to make an appointment. Keep an eye out for information about ACPS's upcoming summer program opportunities. We will forward information as soon as it is available. As we approach (continued on page 2)

## Meet the (New) Faculty and Staff

**Mrs. Olivia Bateson** is a new instructional assistant at Westernport Elementary School, working mainly in first grade. She was born and raised in Cumberland and is a graduate of Fort Hill High School. Mrs. Bateson lives in Westernport with her husband, Ryan, daughter, Kierra, and their three dogs: Rage, Rylee and Raven. Mrs. Bateson also works part-time as a delivery driver for Port West. When she is not at work, she is completely devoted to Kierra and the many sports in which Kierra is involved. When she has down time, she loves to go camping.

**Mr. Jacob Blank** is the new orchestra teacher at Westernport Elementary School. He grew up in Frostburg and is a graduate from Mountain Ridge High School. His degree in music education is from West Virginia University. Mr. Blank is a traveling teacher and also works at George's Creek, Beall Elementary, Mount Savage Elementary, Westmar Middle, and Mount Savage Middle. He enjoys golfing, making music, and cooking.

**Mrs. Courtney Vinci** is the new Mental Health Specialist at both Westernport Elementary and Georges Creek Elementary School. Prior to taking a job at the Allegany County Public Schools, she worked at Mountain Laurel Medical Center as an Outpatient Mental Health Specialist. She has an Associate's Degree in Human Services from Allegany College, and has a Bachelor's Degree from Frostburg State University and a Master's Degree from Salisbury State University, both in Social Work. Mrs. Vinci was born and raised in Lonaconing and still resides there with her husband, Robby, who is a WES alumni, and their three children: Gaige, age five, and twin girls Emmalyn and Braelyn, age three. She enjoys being outside and exploring nature. In her spare time, she spends time with her family/children and loves to cheer for them at the baseball/soccer field, at karate practice and at dance classes.

## From the Principal, Mr. Horne (continued)

(Continued from Page 1) the last marking period, let us remember that 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. 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](mailto:Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org).



## WES Calendar

### UPCOMING MARCH-APRIL EVENTS

- ☺ March 27-31 (Mon.-Fri.) Book Fair
- ☺ March 31 (Fri.) Grade 5 Field Trip to FSU
- ☺ 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
- ☺ April 18 (Tues.) Spring pictures will be taken.
- ☺ April 28 (Friday) Field trip to Westernport branch of Allegany County Library System (grades 3, 4 & 5); time varies.
- ☺ May 1-4 (Mon.-Thurs.) MCAP ELA Testing (Grades 3, 4 & 5)
- ☺ May 8-11 Mon.-Thurs.) MCAP Math Testing (Grades 3, 4 & 5)



## Hooley Plunge 2023



In its nineteenth year, the Hooley Plunge has become the largest single-day fundraising event in Allegany County. On Saturday, March 4, hundreds of brave souls ran into the cold waters of Lake Habeeb at Rocky Gap State Park to raise money for local programs supporting the developmentally disabled, including the Special Olympics of Allegany County, Friends Aware, programs based in both the public and private schools, Boy Scout Troop #89 and more. The Hooley Plunge is coordinated by the Alhambra Wamba Caravan #89 and co-chaired by Alhambra member Rob Adams and Northrop Grumman Material Program Manager Stephen Gray. Since its inception, nearly 1.8 million dollars have been raised. (Thanks to the Hooley website for this information.)



This year, the team that represented WES included (from left) Aaron Fitzgerald, Tessa Lutton, Brittany McMahon, Shelly Fitzgerald, Derek Horne, Kaelin Collage, Karalee Collage and Laura Wilson. \$515.00 was raised by staff and students to support this worthwhile event.

## Mission & Vision

- \*\*\*\*\*
- OUR MOTTO:** Building the Future- One Child at a Time
- 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.





## Our After School Program Celebrates "Read Across America!"



The After School Program at WES, supported by grants from the Allegany County Public Schools, began in this year in October. Participating students have been busy with reading and math, completing homework, preparing for MCAP testing, and a variety of other activities. The program is held on Mondays through Thursdays from 3:45-5:45 PM and dinner, prepared by HRDC, is provided to the 30 students in grades one through five. This year Ms. Chelsea Carr and Mrs. Amy Smith are serving as co-directors of the WES After School Program and many WES staff members work to make this evening program both fun and educational. Our students have had a great year, so far, and expect to finish strong in the spring.

The staff for the After School Program has been excited to invite parents and families to collaborate and join us on several occasions this year. In January, parents and families were invited to attend an event hosted by the Evergreen Heritage Center, in which students learned about the local watershed in Allegany County. After completing a few water experiments, students and families enjoyed pizza together. In February, parents and families were invited to attend an event hosted by the Maryland SNAP-Ed Program, in which students and families learned to make fajitas together using healthy food choices from the My Plate healthy eating plan. In March, students and families 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, and 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 pizza with their families. We would like to thank Jeff Blank, Superintendent of the Allegany County Public Schools; Judy Hamilton, Mayor of Westernport; and Samantha Dixon, Forest Ranger at Rocky Gap State Park, for spending the evening with us!

## SNAP-Ed @ WES #2

Snap-Ed...University of Maryland Extension presents...

### COOK & TASTE TOGETHER

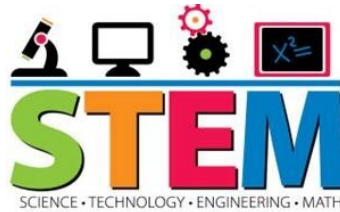
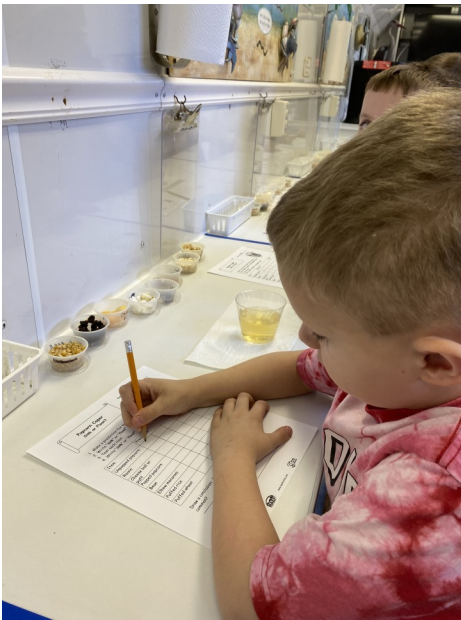
Hello Parents & Families!

Teaching healthy habits is a team effort! One fun way to continue the nutrition education messaging at home is to cook and taste with your child. Children are more willing to try new foods they help to prepare! Helping in the kitchen will develop self-confidence and creativity. You can spend quality time with your child while they learn important skills. There are a wide variety of tasks your child can help with in the kitchen. Get Them Involved! Your child can do a lot to help in the kitchen.

Children can:

- Read the recipe out loud.
- Wash fruits and veggies.
- Tear lettuce for salads and sandwiches.
- Snap green beans and asparagus.
- Measure and add ingredients.
- Set the table.
- Pour milk and water to drink with the meal.

# The Aquatic Mobile Science Lab Experience



Westernport students recently participated in Maryland Agriculture in the Classroom. Students were given a series of 25-minute mini-lessons by retired elementary school teacher, Mr. McMahan, who spent the week at Westernport Elementary. This year, students in grades K-5 attended classes in the Mobile Science Aquatic 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 "The Gulf Oil Spill", "Popcorn Capers", "Crabby & Nabby", "Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay", "Wetlands in a Pan", Bug Out and "Clear or Cloudy." Shown (at left) is a first grade student participating in the "Popcorn Capers" activity. In the activity, a big book experience was followed by a mini-experiment to determine what causes certain objects to sink or float. Students had to make a prediction before doing the experiments. Shown (at right) is a "Clear or Cloudy" water filtration experiment in grade three. The students tested materials to see which was most effective in filtering components out of water. The Aquatic Mobile Lab Experience is supported by grant funds provided through the Allegany County Public Schools.

## Title I Tips # 1

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.



## Citizens of the Month



The character trait for **February** was **Kindness**. Being kind means saying something positive to someone or doing something positive for someone. Students selected received a trip to our local McDonald's.

**February** "citizens" of the month included Kindergarten-Maverick Guinn & Karlee Rivera Constable; Grade 1-Stella Metz, Caroline Hughes & Payton Lattanzia; Grade 2-Easton Guinn & Ryder Hanlin; Grade 3-Lennon Metz & Jacob Whetstone; Grade 4-Krystyle Washington & Johnathan Fasching; and Grade 5-Maci McDougal and Briley Musick.

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

## 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.



## Winter Art in the Showcase

Beautiful snowy scenes were recently displayed in the showcase opposite the office. Mr. John Seibert, art teacher at WES, instructed students about techniques to use when creating winter art. This beautiful picture was created by Santana Kuhn in grade five.





## All County Junior Orchestra and All County Fifth Grade Honor Band



Students at Westernport Elementary School participated in the All County Junior Orchestra and All County Fifth Grade Honor Band this winter. It is a great privilege for students to be selected to play with their peers across Allegany County.

The All County Junior Orchestra rehearsed weekly at Washington Middle School throughout the winter months and had their concert at Fort Hill High School on March 9, 2023. Conducting the orchestra were orchestra instructors from the ACPS, including WES orchestra teacher, Jacob Blank. Selections which were played included "First Finger Pachelbel", "The Happy Robin", "A French Folk Song" and "Dinosaur Damage." WES students selected for the orchestra were Kahlan Chojar, Viola; Khloe Douglass, Violin; Landon Iliff, Violin; Santana Kuhn, Violin; Braydon Lytle, Violin; and Dustlyn Rebar, Violin.

The All County Fifth Grade Honor Band also rehearsed throughout the winter months, but at Braddock Middle School. They performed their concert on March 15, 2023 at Braddock Middle. Conducting the concert were band instructors from the ACPS, including WES Band teacher, Harold McClay. The selections which were played were "Just Add Music", "Starfire March", "Defender of Time" and "Boot Scootin' Barn Dance." WES fifth grade students who were selected for the band were Mathew Alt, Saxophone; Nancy Cook, Flute; Adrianna Escobar Molina, Clarinet; Tayler Getson, Flute; Brayden Iliff, Trumpet; Klarissa Paitzel, Trumpet; and Bentlee Slaubaugh, Saxophone.

## Emerging Artists

The Allegany Arts Council presented the artwork of Allegany County Public School students in the Emerging Artists exhibition from March 4-25, 2023. It took place in the Saville and Schwab Galleries. The exhibition featured selections from elementary, middle and high school students who, under the instruction of talented arts educators, presented work in a variety of mediums. Representing Westernport Elementary were students Maci McDougal, grade five, and Jade Greenwald, grade four. Maci used tempera paint and crayon to create a picture that represented a moonlit winter sky in silhouette. Jade used watercolor paint and crayon to create a picture of autumn leaves. Great job, students!

## Grades 3, 4 and 5: Field Trip to FSU



Students in grades three and four recently took a field trip to Frostburg State University. Some of the activities in which they participated included viewing the stars at the planetarium, going to the Natural History display, doing a chemistry experiment and going to the aeronautics lab. A great time was had by all and it was an excellent learning experience! (Grade five students will take the same field trip on March 31st.) The same three grade levels will be taking a walking field trip to the Westernport Branch of the Allegany County Library System in late April!