



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Celebrating 100 Years of Education



Westernport Elementary School students and staff celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the school building on November 9, 2022, exactly 100 years after the original ceremony. A short program was held, which included The Pledge of Allegiance, The Star-Spangled Banner, a historical timeline read by fifth grade students, as well as official proclamations by the Mayors of Westernport and Luke. The program was concluded by the singing of the school song, *We're the Calico Cats*, written in 2006 by former music teacher, Patty Zimmerman. Special guests were Jeff Blank, Superintendent of Schools and Florence (Tinsley) Welsh and Tara (Hanna) Fazenbaker, daughter and granddaughter of Pearl

(Lambert) Tinsley, who was a member of the first (1923) Bruce High School class to graduate in the gym of the school. They also represented one of several "five-generation" families whose members have attended the school as either a high school or an elementary school.

To celebrate the event, all students and staff members received black and white hooded sweatshirts specially designed for the occasion and a homemade calico cat cookie. A group picture was taken, both in black and white and in color, to try to replicate the picture of the 1922 dedication.

The cornerstone of the school was laid on November 9, 1922. The building was originally named Bruce High School in memory of Oliver Bruce, an educator in the community for 45 years, then in 1958 became Westernport Elementary School. (See more "Historical Notes" on page 5.)

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

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Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Gratitude Pumpkins	2
Citizens of the Month	2
Reading Gives Us...	2
Title I Tips #2	2
Title I Tips #3	3
Meet the (New) Faculty and Staff	3
Safety is #1	
The Winners	
NHS Readers Visit	
WES News (in pictures)	4
Historical Notes	5



From the Principal...Mr. Horne



This Thanksgiving, there was so much to be thankful for, and I am sure you agree that the list was endless. From our families and staff to all of our students, we could not do this wonderful but sometimes difficult work without you. We hope that the PBIS gratitude project brought a little joy to your Thanksgiving table. Our children and staff continue to amaze me through the variety of activities and programs that are occurring. It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of elementary school students during the holiday season.

During this season of the year I would like to say thanks to:
-Parents and guardians who diligently check their children's homework; who are seated beside them as they complete their homework; and who spend quality time with their children.
-Community members and parents who organize fundraisers, help families, and provide extra food or clothing for families.
-All the people in the ACPS who are committed to giving their best to your children every day. For example: custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, school

nurses, instructional assistants, secretaries, teachers, district leaders at the central office and members of the school board.
-All of you who are doing your very best to send your child ready to learn every day. I am also proud of how much this community gives during this time of the year.
We always welcome and appreciate your support in all of the endeavors we take on. Hopefully, years from now, you and your child will remember many wonderful times spent together. On behalf of the WES staff, have a

joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

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 via email, Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org



Citizens of the Month

Student "Citizens of the Month" were recently selected. **The character trait for September was safety**, i.e., that the student chosen has a calm body, follows directions quickly and follows the school rules. Students demonstrating this trait were

Grade K-Alianna Murray & Dominik Steiding

Grade 1-Ezra Clark-Kuhn, Rosalie Brashear & Mack Brashear

Grade 2-Cella Crites & Aurora Cifuentes

Grade 3-Nathan Wade & Kiya Chojar

Grade 4-Willow Guinn & Arianna Adkins

Grade 5-Lacey Custer & Klarissa Paitzel



The character trait for October was confidence, i.e., that the student has belief in himself or herself and his/her powers and abilities. Students demonstrating this trait included:

Grade K-Oakley Ray & Tacy Lewis

Grade 1-Jayme Greenwald, Hudson Placka & Adalee Murray

Grade 2-Bennet Twigg & Kaiden Wilt

September-November

Grade 3-Owen Brashear & Porter Beard

Grade 4-Hayden Doman & Jayden Larue

Grade 5-Aaliyah Redman & Lacey Custer

Confidence

The character trait for November was responsibility, i.e., that the student chosen is dependable, makes good choices and is accountable for his/her actions.

Grade K-Caysen Lafferty & Bennett Dobbs

Grade 1-Braxton Lafferty, Luke Richards & Emmett Hanlin

Grade 2-Aubrie Lambert & Demmie Alt

Grade 3-Jacob Mayhew & Jackson Lease

Grade 4-Taylor Schramm & Addison Lafferty

Grade 5-Bailey Cavey & Tayler Getson



WES School Calendar

- ◆ Dec. 7 (Wed.) Books Before Bedtime (6:00-7:00 PM)
- ◆ Dec. 9 (Fri.) Band and Orchestra Concert (2:00 PM for parents/families)
- ◆ Dec. 12-14 (Mon.-Wed.) Penguin Patch Holiday Shop
- ◆ Dec. 20 (Tues.) Holiday Vocal Music Program @ Westmar Middle (6:00 PM)
- ◆ Dec. 22 (Thurs.) **SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED** Christmas Vacation Begins (Offices closed Dec. 23, 26, 31 & Jan. 2)
- ◆ Jan. 3 (Tues.) **Three Hour Delayed Opening- SCHOOLS REOPEN-** Principal Staff Dev./Teacher Work Time
- ◆ Jan. 13 (Fri.) End of Second Marking Period; End of First Semester
- ◆ Jan. 16 (Mon.) **SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED** Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday
- ◆ Jan. 17 (Tues.) **SCHOOLS CLOSED-** Supervisor Staff Dev./Teacher Work Time
- ◆ Jan. 27 (Fri.) Report Cards released

HAPPY*NEW*YEAR



Reading Gives Us a Place to Go...

"Gotta keep reading, cause this book's gonna be a good book."
---Black-Eyed Peas (parody)

There are many ways to provide reading opportunities for your child.

***Encourage your child to borrow physical books as well as eBooks from **the Westernport Elementary School Library**. Go to the WES Home Page (Bookmarks).

<https://www.acpsmd.org/domain/515>
Click on Follett Destiny (tree icon). Have your child log in using his/her google login, i.e., lastname.firstname@acpsmd.org & PIN. That will allow your child to check out an eBook (or two) or read an interactive eBook, in addition to the book (s) that he/she borrows from the library.

***Explore **myON (My Online Library)**! Go to the WES Home Page (Bookmarks). <https://www.acpsmd.org/domain/515>
Have your child click on Clever, log in with google, then click on myON. Explore with your child the "Library, Recommended and Search" buttons to find books of interest. (Your child may need to do the 20+ question quiz independently before the 7,000+

books will be available to read online.)
***Explore the books and online materials available at the **Allegany County Public Library**: Have your child use his/her regular library card number or STAR card number to check out library books. Kathy Murphy and Michael Shumaker, Service Specialists at the Westernport Branch, will be glad to help you in person or you may call them at 301-359-0455. The Westernport Branch is open Mondays-Tuesdays from 1:00-8:00 PM and Wednesdays-Thursdays from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM.



Gratitude Pumpkins were made by students during the week of November 14-18, 2022 as part of the PBIS program at WES.

Title I Tip #3



Parent/family engagement is an important factor in the academic success of students. The Title I Parent/Family Engagement Plan describes how the Allegany County Public Schools will plan and support programs, activities and procedures for involving parents/families in all schools with a Title I program. The policy is also posted in our school and is on the website of the Allegany County Public Schools' at www.acpsmd.org

OUR MISSION: Westernport Elementary School will empower our students to successfully meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, by nurturing the whole child: intellectually, physically and emotionally.

OUR VISION: We will partner with family and community to build a better world - one child at a time.

NHS Readers Visit WES



Students from the National Honor Society at Mountain Ridge High School paid a visit to Westernport Elementary School on Thursday, November 17, 2022. The juniors and seniors served as guest readers in classrooms from grades K-5. It was exciting to see WES alumni reading to students in their former classrooms. Shown above are NHS members Riley Moran, Morgan Steckman and fourth grade students of Mr. Ben Benson.

Title I Tip #2

PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW

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. Glenn Rice,
Supervisor of Human Resources
108 Washington Street
P. O. Box 1724
Cumberland, MD 21501-1724



Meet the (New) Faculty and Staff

New (to WES) fifth grade teacher, **Mrs. Kaylin Cadwallader**, previously taught for five years in Mineral County, most recently as a first grade teacher at New Creek Primary School. Mrs. C. graduated from Frostburg State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and received her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction: Reading and Literacy from Louisiana State University, Shreveport. She loves all things Disney and Star Wars, traveling, and spending time with her new husband and her fur babies. Mrs. Cadwallader is a proud alumni of Westernport Elementary School and is excited to be back at "her school" as a fifth grade teacher!

New third grade teacher, **Miss Ellie Bolton**, has only ever wanted to be a teacher since she was a young girl. Having the opportunity to work at WES has been an absolute delight to her! Miss Bolton graduated from Frostburg State University with her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and her Master's Degree in Special Education. Miss Bolton was also a Graduate Assistant in the Children's Literature Centre at FSU participating in many events like Storybook Holiday, Harry Potter Book Night, and Pirates Ahoy! Miss Bolton is originally from Cecil County, MD, but has made herself a home away from home within Allegany County, MD. Miss Bolton loves dogs, candles, Go Noodle, and Christmas.

Mrs. Kara Zufall is a new (to WES) first grade teacher at Westernport Elementary School. She is a graduate of Frostburg State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education/Elementary Education. She previously taught third and first grade at Hope for Hyndman Charter School. She has also traveled twice to teach Pre-K/K at the Ikanktown Learning Camp in Marty, South Dakota. Mrs. Zufall is a native of Hyndman, PA. She and her husband have two children. She loves spending time with her family, volunteering at church, hunting, fishing, and reading. She is excited to be teaching at WES. Welcome to all of our new staff members!

The Winners

Participants in the **Summer Reading Challenge** won a \$10.00 Chick-fil-A gift card and a beautiful certificate, courtesy of the Allegany County Public Schools. Participating students from WES included Kierra Bateson, Kahlan Chojar, Kiya Chojar, Jace Fitzgerald, Maci McDougal, Ryder Morgan, Aaliyah Redman, Anastasia Roe, Bentley Shillingburg, Landon Shimer and Taylor Windle.

Winner of the **PTA 50-50 drawing** was Maci Guinn. The drawing was held on November 2nd. Maci won \$327.00.

More (New) Faculty

New (to WES) teacher, **Mrs. Tiffany Clark**, graduated from Frostburg State University. She worked for the WV Birth to Three Program for 25 years as a Developmental Specialist. Mrs. Clark then taught kindergarten at Mount Savage School for one year. Last year, she taught first grade through the Blended Virtual Program. Mrs. Clark is excited to be teaching Reading Intervention at Westernport Elementary this year. She has been married for 31 years and has twin boys who are 28 years old. She has a four year-old grandson, a two-year-old grandson, and a seven-month old grandson who she absolutely adores. Mrs. Clark also has a very spoiled dog, Sadie, who thinks she is human.

Safety is #1

Please have your children in the appropriate child restraint when bringing your children to school in your vehicle for any reason. Maryland's Child Passenger Safety Law requires that children under eight years old or 80 pounds in weight are to be in a child restraint unless the child is 4'9" or taller. Every child from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt, in every sitting position in the vehicle. The fine for not having a child secured is \$83.00, which includes court costs. Thanks for helping to keep kids safe.

100th Anniversary Celebration: Thanks so much!



THANKS to all the staff members who served on the 100th Anniversary Committee: Deb Hendrickson, chairperson; Kaylin Cadwallader, Shelly Fitzgerald, Katelyn Hendrix, Derek Horne, Jennifer Hughes, Tim Martin, Devin McGregor, Brittany McMahon and Amy Smith.

Thanks also to members of the Westernport Historical Society, to community members who shared memories of attending school here, to the Mayors of Westernport and Luke, Maryland and to those past principals, retired staff members and community members from the Bruce High Alumni Association who attended this very special celebration.



Trick or Trunk (and the winner was...)



Trick or Trunk was held on Wednesday, November 26, 2022 in the parking lot at WES. Over 400 children and their families participated in the event. Staff and community members decorated 21 trunks and students voted on their favorite trunk. First place winner was Miss Tessa Lutton and Mrs. Laura Wilson. Their theme was "Jurassic Park". Second Place winner was Mrs. Kaylin Cadwallader, with help from her mother, Mrs. Jeannie Gentry. Her theme was "Swim at Your Own Risk." The third place winners (a tie) were the team of Ms. Ellie Bolton and Mr. Ben Benson and the team of Mrs. Tiffany Clark and Mrs. Kara Zufall. Community Coordinator, Mr. Devin McGregor, organized the second annual event. Many community partners

were present during the evening. They included the Allegany County Library System (Westernport Branch), Bruce Outreach Center, Church of the Brethren (Westernport), M & T Bank, Mountain Ridge Diamonds, Potomac Fire Company No. 2 (Westernport), SNAP-ED, St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, UPMC Western Maryland (Community Health), Westernport PTA and Westmar Judy Center.

Buster the Bus Visits Kindergarten (and first grade...)

Mr. H.B. Martz, Supervisor of Transportation, brought "Buster the Bus" to the gym of Westernport Elementary. He used Buster to show students how to be safe on and around a school bus. He told students to watch for the flashing lights on a school bus. He told students that they should never walk in front of a bus. Finally, Mr. Martz reminded students of rules that they should follow to be safe when riding a bus.



Veterans Day 2022



On November, 11, 2022, members of American Legion Post 189 in Barton, Maryland, presented a Veterans Day program for students in the gym of Westernport Elementary. American Legion Commander, Ed Campbell, and other members told students about the different branches of the military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. They also told students of their own experiences while serving our country. Students sang "This Land is Our Land" and presented cards and notes to the veterans.

Lest we forget...

HISTORICAL NOTES about Westernport Elementary School

- 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 the **late 1930s**, an addition was made to the left of the original building. The cafeteria kitchen area was also added at about 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 was renamed Westernport Elementary School.
- The building was renovated during the **1991-1992 school year**. An elevator and rear entrance was added. Students returned to the school in **August 1992**. In October of 1992, a program was held in the gymnasium to rededicate the school. A banner proclaiming "We Believe the Children Are Our Future" was placed above the stage that day and remained there during the school year.
- On **September 6, 1996**, the first floor of the school was flooded due to rain from Hurricane Fran. The students whose classrooms were on that floor (and their teachers) relocated to Barton Elementary School for about six weeks until their classrooms were cleaned and repaired.
- The calico cat was adopted as the mascot of Westernport Elementary in late 2001 due to the effort of a group of students and teachers and the school principal. They lobbied for a year to designate the calico cat as a state symbol. **Effective October 1, 2001** the calico became the official cat of Maryland.
- All schools in Maryland, including Westernport Elementary, closed on **Friday, March 13, 2020** due to the COVID pandemic. WES students met with their teachers and received assignments through virtual platforms such as Google Classroom and Class Dojo, then Schoology as the pandemic continued. Then WES students were taught in their classrooms (socially distanced) as the pandemic waned.
- The 2022-2023 school year began on **August 26, 2022**. Westernport Elementary School students and staff are enjoying their first truly "normal" school year since the pandemic began.
- On **November 9, 2022**, Westernport Elementary students and staff celebrated 100 years in our community. We are grateful.

