



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Book Vending Machine a Hit!



Westernport Elementary School now has a book vending machine! Classroom teachers award two book tokens each month. Book tokens are given to students who have achieved excellence, made great progress and/or been a hard worker in the subject of English Language

Arts (ELA). Students may also receive a book token by participating in a monthly drawing held in the school library. Students who return their library books "most of the time" are eligible to have their names placed in the drawing. 39 students earned book tokens for the month of September, 39 students earned book tokens for the month of October and 39 students earned book tokens for the month of November. Thanks to Fred Powell, of Main Street Books in Frostburg, for helping to stock the machine, which holds multiple copies of 19 titles selected to appeal to students of all ages. Devin McGregor, community grant coordinator, and Deborah Hendrickson, library media specialist, co-chair the project. The Maryland Community Grant Program provided funding for the book vending machine and the paperback books.

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

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 a special thank you to everyone who takes part in the success of our children, such as community members, parents, teachers, instructional assistants, custodians,

food service staff, school nurses, bus drivers, and our school secretary. Hopefully, each of you realize that you make a difference in the lives of our children. **THANK YOU!!!!** Please take a few moments this holiday break to enjoy some quality time such as taking a ride to look at the lights, reading a good book, looking at old pictures, celebrating a family tradition, or playing a game together. So

hopefully, years from now, you and your child will remember these wonderful times spent together. On behalf of the Westernport Elementary 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.

Grade K-Lukas Robinson & Brienne Figueroa

Grade 1-Dominik Steiding, Kaden Mayhew & Karlee Rivera Constable

Grade 2-Caroline Hughes & Brittan Thierry

Grade 3-Aliyah Shingler & Kaiden Wilt

Grade 4-Jacob Mayhew & Devyn Pritts

Grade 5-Madalynn Lantz & Lily Dennis



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

Grade K-Lilah Haines & Brooklyn DeHaven

Grade 1-Natalie Brashear, Caysen Lafferty & Noah Wegman

September-November

Grade 2-Reid Richards & Paisley Edwards

Grade 3-Kylaha Heavener & Kenzie Weiss

Grade 4-Laydon Dobbs & Lennon Metz

Grade 5-Jayden LaRue & Jade Greenwald



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-Myles Eversole & Noah Huff

Grade 1-Ava Bruce, Jaclynn Taylor & Roland Householder

Grade 2-Ember Redman & Braxton Lafferty

Grade 3-Easton Guinn and Trinitee Hummer

Grade 4-Anastasia Roe & Kyia Chojar

Grade 5-Atalie Wilson & Willow Guinn



WES School Calendar

- ♦ Dec. 19 (Tues.) Holiday Vocal Music Program (10:00 AM for parents/families of grades 3, 4, & 5 and 2:00 PM for parents/families of grades K, 1, & 2)
- ♦ Dec. 21 (Thurs.) **Three-Hour Early Dismissal**- Christmas Vacation Begins (Offices closed Dec. 22, 25, 29, 31 & Jan. 1)
- ♦ Jan. 2 (Tues.) **Three Hour Delayed Opening- SCHOOLS REOPEN**- Principal Staff Dev./Teacher Work Time
- ♦ Jan. 11 (Thurs.) End of Second Marking Period; End of First Semester
- ♦ Jan. 12 (Fri.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal/PM Teacher Work Time
- ♦ Jan. 15 (Mon.) **SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED** Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday
- ♦ Jan. 26 (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 print 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 with google. That will allow your child to check out an ebook (or two or three...) or read an interactive ebook, in addition to the book (s) that he/she borrows from the library. Interactive ebooks may be read online and do not need to be checked out.

***Explore with your child more than 7,000 interactive ebooks available in **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. Click on the "Library, Recommended and/or Search" buttons to find ebooks of interest.

***Explore the books and online materials available at any of the six branches of the **Allegany County Public System** by going to www.alleganycountylibrary.info or have your child click on the Allegany County Library System logo on the WES Home Page (Bookmarks) Your child may use his/her regular library card number or virtual STAR card number to log into, BookFlix, databases or to check out ebooks or audiobooks. Kathy Murphy, William Everett and Linda Blair, Service Specialists at the Westernport Branch, will be glad to help you in person or you may call the library 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.



"Miss Kate" Metzger, a member of the Allegany County Library Story Corps, recently shared picture books with students when she visited Kindergarten and first grade classes.

NHS Readers Visit WES

Title I Tip #2



Students from the National Honor Society at Mountain Ridge High School paid a visit to Westernport Elementary on Thursday, November 15, 2023. The juniors and seniors served as guest readers in classrooms from grades K-5. It was exciting to see some of our WES alumni reading to students in their former classrooms and stopping in to see their former teachers. Participating from Mountain Ridge NHS were Mackenzie Derham, Jacob Fazenbaker, Kadie Matthews, Layla Miller, Rylee Moran, Jessica Snyder and Lindsey Stafford, WES Alumni and NHS members, as well as Anna Delaney, Brylee Gray and Erin Worgan, NHS members. MR students are invited to become NHS members if they exhibit scholarship, service, leadership and character.

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

Mrs. Laura Biser is the new Title I Family Engagement Coordinator at WES. Prior to taking this position in 2016, she was a substitute teacher for the ACPS and spent many days at WES filling in where needed. She was also very active in the PTA at WES. Laura lives in Westernport with her husband Jamie. They have 2 daughters, Bethany and Alyvia, who attended WES. She also has two sons-in-law, Colby and Jared. Laura became a grandma this summer to a beautiful baby boy named Callahan James whom she absolutely adores. She also has a spoiled grandpuppy named

Peeve. Laura is excited to be at back at Westernport Elementary and looks forward to helping families be an active part of our school.

Mr. Ben Benson is the new third grade teacher at WES. He is a native of Midland, MD. Mr. Benson is a graduate of Mountain Ridge High School and Allegany College of Maryland. He then graduated from FSU in 2020, at the beginning of the global pandemic. Mr. Benson worked as a server at Cracker Barrel until 2022, starting at the time of its opening in 2016. He also did a lot of substitute teaching, including two se-

mesters as a long-term substitute position in fourth grade at WES. He will be celebrating his 26th birthday in January. Mr. Benson cannot participate in many hobbies at the moment since he is focused on recovery from major injuries due to a car accident this past year. Once Mr. Benson is back in perfect health, he plans to go back to practicing yoga, and also working on his goals of travelling the world, and meeting lots of new people. Mr. Benson enjoys music, theatre, reading, and hanging out with friends and family. He has two fluffy cats, Daisy and Jaspurr.

The Winners

Participants in the **2023 ACPS Summer Reading Challenge** will soon be receiving a Chick-fil-A gift card and a beautiful certificate, courtesy of the Allegany County Public Schools. Participating students from WES included Ava Bruce, Serenity Clark-Kuhn, Roland Householder, Ryder Morgan, Oakley Ray, Bentley Shillingburg, Cyrix Whiteman and Taylor Windle.

Winner of the **PTA 50-50 drawing** was Olivia Bateson. She won \$565.00 dollars.

More (New) Faculty

Mrs. Sydney Baker is a new cafeteria worker at WES. She is a graduate of Mountain Ridge High School and of the CCTE, where she studied cosmetology. Mrs. Baker and her husband of five years have two young sons, as well as two dogs, a cat, two guinea pigs and two hermit crabs. She loves the color, blue, and her favorite place to go on vacation is the Outer Banks, in North Carolina. You may also see Mrs. Baker at the Westernport McDonald's, where she works part-time. We welcome all new faculty and staff members and hope to learn more about them in upcoming newsletters!



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.

Fall/Winter Activities @WES



Third grade students recently learned how Mrs. Sarah Hale used the power of the pen to urge that Thanksgiving be celebrated on the same day nationwide. It took her 38 years, but in 1863, then President Abraham Lincoln agreed to her request. Shown at left is student, Cella Crites, with her feather pencil. Thank you, Sarah!



Santa Claus visited Westernport Elementary on Tuesday, December 12th. Students had their pictures taken with Santa, thanks to photographer and grandparent volunteer, Mrs. Tina Blubaugh. Students also received a candy cane. Shown with Santa is Mrs. Beth Chapman, second grade teacher. We are sure that Mrs. Chapman has been good this year and will receive lots of presents from Santa!

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



Trick or Trunk was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 in the parking lot at WES. Over 400 children and their families participated in the event. Staff and community members decorated the trunks and students voted on their favorite trunk. First place winner was Mrs. Laura Wilson and Miss Tessa Lutton. Their theme was "Inside Out". Second Place winner was Nurse Karalee Martz. Her theme was "Chick-Fil-A Drive Through." Many community partners were present during the evening. They included the Allegany County Library System (Westernport), Bruce Outreach Center, Church of the Brethren (Westernport), MD Rural Health, Mountain Laurel Medical Center, Parents' Place of Maryland, Potomac Fire Company No. 2 (Westernport), SNAP-ED, St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, Sam's Sweets, Westernport PTA and Westmar Judy Center. Community Coordinator, Mr. Devin McGregor, organized the third annual event.



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.

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



Veterans Day 2023



On November 8, 2023, 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 and shared the service flags for each branch. They also told students of their own experiences while serving our country. Students sang several songs, including "This Land is Our Land" and presented cards and notes to the veterans who visited.

Shown at right is a wall of photos of grandparents, parents, and other relatives of WES students and staff who have served our country. The Missing Man Table in the picture commemorates fallen comrades.





Counselor's Corner



October and November guidance and social skills lessons focused on bullying prevention and recognizing the signs of bullying. To further help our school be a safe and respectful place, we utilize the Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit. In this unit, your child learns specific skills to help stop bullying. Students learned how to:

- Recognize when bullying is happening, report bullying to a caring adult, and how to refuse to let bullying happen;
- Be a bystander who helps stop bullying (another term is "upstander...");
- Support someone being bullied by standing up for that person and being kind and inclusive; and
- Recognize, report, and refuse cyber bullying when they see or know about it happening.

Get involved in making our school a safe and respectful place by letting us know if you hear about bullying at our school. Make sure your child knows to tell you or someone at school if he or she is being bullied, or if he or she knows about someone else being bullied. For more information on our school's anti-bullying policy and specific procedures, check our school website or contact the school office. Thank you for helping us make our school a safe, respectful place where everyone can learn!

Ms. Tessa and Mrs. Wilson also started supporting students through small group instruction during the past month. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to work collaboratively with others on subjects such as social skills, self control, and anxiety. Small group instruction takes place during extra library media/social skills classes or during students' lunch times. During the month of December, students will learn the character trait of the month, "Integrity", and continue to practice and review their TOOLBOX tools - ask your student to teach you about the breathing tool!

Happy, Healthy Kids TIP: Children thrive on consistency, structure, and predictability. Develop a morning routine that looks the same each day to help get you and your kids out the door with a smile!

Band/Orchestra Holiday Concert 2023



Fourth and fifth grade band and orchestra members performed for students, parents and community members during their annual holiday concert. The concert was held in the school gym on Friday, December 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM for students and at 2:00 PM for parents.

The band, directed by Mr. Harold McClay, played a variety of instrumental music and featured songs including "Hot Cross Buns," "Rolling Along," "Country Walk," "Ode to Joy," "Jolly Old St. Nick," "Up On the Housetop," "Good King Wenceslas" and "Jingle Bells."

FOURTH GRADE BAND members include: Aveona Durst, Brooklyn Edwards and Maci Iliff (Flute); Eligah Keaton, Camden Shaffer and Taylor Windle (Clarinet); Nathan Wade (Saxophone); Porter Beard, Connor Coffman, Lennon Metz and Bentlee Vinci (Trumpet); Aryan Webster (French Horn); Jace Lytle (Trombone); and Brennan Whetzel (Drums).

FIFTH GRADE BAND members include Lily Dennis, Jade Greenwald, Addison Hensley and Isabella Reed (Flute); Addison Lafferty (Clarinet); Izaiah Clark, Elijah Craze and Willow Guinn (Saxophone); Madelynn Lantz (Trumpet); and Silas Beeman, Charlotte Haggerty, Jayden LaRue, Aden Powell, Taylor Schramm and Atalie Wilson (Drums).

The orchestra, directed by Mr. Jacob Blank, played a variety of music arranged for strings, including the songs: "D String Boogie," "A String Rock," "The D and A Switch," "First Finger Blues," "Second Finger Climb," "Hot Cross Buns," "Pepperoni Pizza Eaters" and "D Major Scale."

FOURTH GRADE ORCHESTRA members include Addalye Bennett, Kiya Chojar and Brantlee Lavelle (Cello); Justin Claycomb (Viola); and Ella Aronhalt, Chaney Butler, Serenity Clark-Kuhn, Colton Dawson, Laydon Dobbs, Kasadie Durst, Elaynah Hartman, Jace Lytle, Katalina McGeedy, Devyn Pritts, Anastasia Roe, Aaliyah Spiker and Kambre Wright (Violins)

FIFTH GRADE ORCHESTRA members include Landon Alkire (Cello); and Cayde Crites, Hayden Doman, Johnathan Fasching, Jamyson Hanlin, Addison Hensley, James Johnson, Jaselynn Ravenscroft, Makena Sgaggero and Krystyle Washington (Violins).

