



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Welcome Back to Westernport Elementary!

We want to again welcome our WES school family to the 2023-2024 school year. We know it is going to be a great one! Our school building looks beautiful, thanks to the hard work done this summer by head custodian, Tim Martin, and custodians Tara Smith and Renee Taylor. (Welcome to WES, Renee!) We are very excited to see smiling faces in our hallways. We also wish to welcome students who are new to WES.

The new school year has brought changes to our staff. We are fortunate to have these new staff members at our school. Mr. Ben Benson is a new third grade teacher. Mrs. Shayne Musick is a new instructional assistant. Mrs. Sydney Baker and Mrs. Barbara Carter have joined our cafeteria staff. Mrs. Laura Biser is the new Parent Engagement Coordinator. She was formerly an active PTA member and substitute at WES. Mrs. Cheriann Menges is now our school social worker since she serves the Mountain Ridge region, as well. We also welcome back Miss Timmie! We send best wishes to all who have retired, transferred or moved on to new positions. Mrs. Delsie Fazenbaker, former PEC, is now full-time at Georges Creek School. Mrs. Melissa Kealy is now teaching grade two at Georges Creek School. Mr. Mark Sprouse has retired from his position as a ACPS behavior

specialist. Mrs. Kim Aikman, who moved with our PreK to Westmar Middle last fall and later retired, is now working in a new church PreK program near her beach home in NC. We will miss having "Miss Kim" visit or substitute at WES and wish her the best. Finally, we wish to congratulate Nurse Karalee (Collage) Martz on her recent marriage to Randy Martz and Mrs. Brittany (McMahon) Morgan on her recent marriage to TJ Morgan.

Back to School Night, which was held on Thursday, August 16, 2023 was a great success. Thanks to all of the staff members and business partners who came out to support this annual event. Winners of the drawings were so excited! Tacy Lewis won a scooter and Russell Hans, Deven Durst, Elijah Craze, Brody Ray, McKenna Sgaggero and Kameron Cage won new bicycles.



PTA Officers for 2023-2024

Nikki Greenwald, President
Brittany Chojar, First Vice-President
Vacant, Second Vice-President
Vacant, Third Vice-President
Michelle Paitsel, Secretary
Emily Metz, Treasurer



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A Title I School
Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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COMING SOON

The Reading for Education Fundraiser, co-sponsored by the PTA, is coming soon!

Envelopes will be sent home in early or mid-October.

From the Principal...Mr. Horne



I hope you and your family are doing well and are enjoying the beginning of this beautiful fall weather. It is hard to believe that we are into our sixth week of school and our fifth grade is having fun as well as learning about nature at Outdoor School. The end of Marking Period 1 (MP1) will be coming soon so if you need help using ASPEN to check grades or

look at your child's report card, please ask. During my classroom visits, I have been able to see first-hand the amazing activities and instruction in which your children are participating and the connections which your children are making during the school day. I am looking forward to visiting each classroom many times throughout the

school year and learning about how we can better support our students. **Please read the calendar on page two** to find out about important dates in October and November. Keep in mind that more information will be posted on our WES Facebook, Schoology and Class Dojo pages, too. Please also reach out to any member of the staff if there is

anything that we can do to support you or your child or if you have any questions. Feel free to call the school office at 301-359-0511 for information or email using Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org In closing, I want to thank you again for your support and partnership with WES. I wish you and your family a healthy and safe fall season.



Fire Prevention=Every Week

No one wants to hear the sound of sirens as fire trucks scream through the streets. But fires are a reality. **Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2023** and The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) always uses this as an opportunity to educate students and parents about fire safety. This year's theme is "Cooking Safety Starts With You" The NFPA website reminds us, "**Did you know?** Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. **What can you do?** The good news is you can prevent most cooking fires and burns. Help keep your family safer with some simple but effective tips." This may be found at <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>

Once a fire starts in your home, you may have as little as two minutes to escape. Advance planning and a practiced fire escape route can save lives. NFPA suggests the following when making an escape plan for your family:

- **Look** for places that a fire may start
- **Listen** for the sound of the smoke alarm
- **Learn** two ways out of each room

NFPA, which has sponsored Fire Prevention Week since 1922, also stresses general fire prevention and lists a series of checks to be made in the home to lessen the chances for a fire. To obtain a variety of home safety tips, visit <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw>

COMING SOON... We are excited to announce that Westernport Elementary School now has a book vending machine. Students may earn a chance to choose a book from the machine in a variety of ways, all connected to English Language Arts (ELA) activities. Tentatively, three students per class will receive a special token to spend at the end of each month.

Picture books and chapter books will be available for students. Books will have variety of reading levels and will allow students to find a book of personal interest. More information will be coming after the machine is in operation.

WES School Calendar

- ⊙ Oct. 2 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-Parent Conference Day (Elementary: 10:00-11:00 AM Teacher Planning; 11:00-2:00 PM and 3:00-5:30 PM Parent Conferences)
- ⊙ Oct. 11 (Wed.) Parent and Principal Café (Coffee w/Mr. Horne)
- ⊙ Oct. 24 (Tues.) Fall Picture Day
- ⊙ Oct. 26 (Thurs.) End of Marking Period 1 (MP1)
- ⊙ Oct. 27 (Fri.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-AM-Principal Staff Development; PM-Teacher Work Time
- ⊙ Nov. 3 (Fri.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-AM-Supervisor Staff Development, PM-Teacher Work Time
- ⊙ Nov. 5 (Sun.) Daylight Savings Ends (Turn your clocks back on Saturday night!)
- ⊙ Nov. 7 (Tues.) Math Game Night @ 5:30-7:15 PM
- ⊙ Nov. 9 (Thurs.) Report Cards Released
- ⊙ Nov. 22 (Wed.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal- Thanksgiving Vacation Begins (Offices Closed November 23 & 24)
- ⊙ Nov. 27 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED
- ⊙ Nov. 28 (Tues.) Three Hour Delayed Opening- SCHOOLS REOPEN-Teacher Work Time



Schoolwide Title I-What's That?



Westernport Elementary School is one of nine schools in Allegany County which have been identified to receive Title I funds and to operate a schoolwide Title I program.

Criteria

- At least 40% of the student population is eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS)
- Title I funds are used to upgrade the educational program so that the education for ALL children is improved
- All children are eligible for Title I services

Program Components

- Comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school which focuses on the achievement of students on the state academic content and achievement standards

- Schoolwide reform strategies that are evidence based and are designed to address the needs of all students and especially the low achieving students
- Strategies to increase parent/family/stakeholder engagement
- Plans to assist preschool children in their transition from early childhood programs to elementary school
- Coordination and integration of federal, state, and local services and programs including violence prevention, nutrition, housing, Head Start, adult education, vocational and technical education, and job training

Each Title I school develops a schoolwide plan which includes all of the school wide Title I components and

which may be reviewed on each school's website. Title I plans are available in each school office for parent/community review and comment. Annually, principals review the Title I schoolwide program with parents.



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.

Hooray for Grandparents' Day !



In the Classroom...



Westernport Elementary students participate daily in activities to help them to expand their knowledge of English Language Arts (ELA), math, and science/social studies.

Student learning is also enriched by experiences in Art, Band/Orchestra, Library Media, Music, and Physical Education during time with resource teachers.

Shown are Kindergarten students, Elizabeth Paitsel (photo right) and Orrie Zais and Madelynn Sweitzer (photo left) who are using Play-Doh to create self-portraits. Art Class at Westernport Elementary is taught by Mr. John Seibert.

