



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Together-Through It All



"Courage, it would seem, is nothing less than the power to overcome danger, misfortune, fear, injustice, while continuing to affirm inwardly that life with all its sorrows is good; that everything is meaningful, even in a sense beyond our understanding and that there is always a tomorrow."—Dorothy Thompson, in *The Courage to Be Happy*

Students and staff of Westernport Elementary showed courage and resilience during the unexpected May 13, 2025 storm that caused the parking lot and first floor of the school to flood and forced

those who were in the building to be moved to the second floor and then be evacuated by boats to the former Lutheran Church on Westernport Hill. Students and staff who could not return from a field trip but who were diverted Mountain Ridge High School showed courage and resilience as they spent seven or more hours waiting for family members to pick them up. Students and staff who lost personal possessions in the flood showed courage and resilience as they picked up the pieces of their lives in the aftermath of the event which brought much uncertainty to all.

After things settled down, students and staff were off to Frostburg State University (Great idea, Ms. Ellie Bolton!) at the invitation of the Children's Literature Centre which was gladly endorsed by the university administration. Students were welcomed by FSU staff and mascot, Bob E. Bobcat, as they arrived by school bus. The students recited the pledge of allegiance before entering the Education and Health Sciences Center to go to what would be their classrooms for their 7-day sojourn at FSU. Activities for the week (Day 1) included a presentation by Rick Rando from Kick Masters, mindfulness lessons led by CLC staff and school guidance counselors, and a play based on the *Elephant and Piggie* books; (Day 2) consisted of CLC children's literature activities and time spent in classrooms; (Day 3) included a school-wide trip to the Cumberland YMCA; (Day 4) featured CLC Storytime followed by the traditional Fifth Grade Farewell, Ms. Katie's Karaoke, then a walk to Beall Elementary to view a BMX Performance; On (Day 5) students viewed third, fourth and fifth grade projects displayed at the AEP Showcase; clapped for recent graduates/WES Alumni who returned in caps and gowns to make the Annual Senior Walk and competed in CLC mini-Pirates Ahoy event in the FSU gym; On (Day 5) there was a group picture with students in "Future Bobcat" t-shirts followed by the annual WES Field Day, a Mountain City Center for the Arts presentation and Father's Day craft. Finally, (Day 7) held the annual Tie Dye craft, Dunk Tank splash and a community-led event "The Magic of Libraries" event, which featured Mr. Toad's Pottery.

We wish to thank all who helped during the whirlwind of well done art, music, physical education activities, project displays, and social-emotional activities as well as those who made great effort to make sure that the traditional year-end activities were able to go on. It was a true blessing to be able to finish the school year at Frostburg State University with our school community spirit intact.



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

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May-June 2025

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From the Principal...Mr. Horne



Dear Westernport Families, Wow!! We will all remember May 13, 2025 for the rest of our lives but because of our staff, students, families, and emergency responders, we can remember how we all came together to get through a natural disaster safely and without injury! My heart is full with the love that our community has shown to us during this time. We continue to need your thoughts, support, and prayers while we continue to

regroup! Our goal is to be back in our building at the beginning of next year! Please have a safe and fun summer to get ready for a successful 2025-2026 school year:) If you have any questions, suggestions, or positive comments to share, please feel free to contact me at 301-359-0511 or derek.horne@acpsmd.org



Tokyo Disney



Mrs. Kaylin Cadwallader recently visited Tokyo Disney. Mrs. C. worked at the Magic Kingdom in Walt Disney World from 2013-2014. (She worked at Enchanted Tales with Belle as well as some other Fantasyland attractions.)

So her goal became trying to see as many Disney properties as possible! Mrs. Cadwallader has also visited Disneyland in California and Disneyland Paris. It is on her bucket list to visit Hong Kong Disneyland and Shanghai Disneyland to complete all the parks. Then when the newest park opens in Abu Dhabi, she will add that to her list.



Many Thanks

Westernport Faculty and Staff would like to express their appreciation to Mr. Derek Horne, the Westernport Elementary PTO, as well as students and parents who made the recent Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week so wonderful. We enjoyed the Farmer's Market, lunchtime food and other special treats. Thanks so much! We feel so very fortunate to be part of such a great school community. Thanks once again for making us feel so special.

More Thanks

We would like to thank Frostburg State University for hosting our school for seven days in June. We would especially like to thank the Dr. Sarah O'Neal and the graduate assistants and volunteers from the Children's Literature Centre for their hospitality, great programming, flexibility and friendship during a very difficult time in our school's history. We could not have ended the school year in a positive way without your help. Thanks also to the campus police and food service employees and to all FSU staff who helped us in any way.

WES School Calendar

- June 13 (Wed.) Report Cards Released
- August (Time/Date to be Determined) Back to School Night
- August 27 (Wed.) SCHOOLS OPEN; Three-Hour Early Dismissal—Teacher Work Time
- Sept 1 (Mon.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED—Labor Day
- Sept. 2 (Tues.) Pre-K and K (Last Name A-L)
- Sept. 3 (Wed.) PreK and K (M-Z)
- Sept 4. (Thurs.) All Pre-K and Kindergarten start school

Summer Cleaning

Our custodians, Tim Martin, Tara Smith, Renee Taylor and Wishah Ahern will soon be busy with summer cleaning at WES so that the school will be ready in August. Our custodians literally empty every room of desks, tables, computers, books and other materials. Often teachers call the school to ask, "Are you done with my room yet?" so that they can come in to get a head start on organizing their rooms to help them to get ready for a successful year. We want to thank our custodians for their work during the summer and throughout the year. We also want them to know that we appreciated their help during the relocation to FSU and wish them well as they navigate an especially difficult summer.

OUR MOTTO: Building the Future—One Child at a Time.

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.

Library News



Congratulations to Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, who won the 2025 Betty Roemmelmeyer Advocate Award from the Children's Literature Center at Frostburg State University at the Children's Literature Festival, which was held on April 25-26, 2025. This award is given annually to a

teacher, librarian, or other advocate who exhibits a love of children's literature and strives to share it with others. Needless to say, Mrs. Hendrickson was

very surprised and honored by this award. She was nominated by former colleagues, Chelsea Carr and Alexa Fazzenbaker and was chosen by a selection committee from the CLC who review the nominations. The staff of WES then surprised Mrs. Hendrickson with a cake to celebrate.



Mrs. Hendrickson would like to thank her fourth grade library helpers who faithfully gave up some of their play periods each Friday to shelve library books. They were Kierra Bateson, Aurora Cifuentes, Cella Crites, Khaleesia Green, Ava Morgan and Andrew Perez.

Yearbook Cover



Congratulations to Aaliyah Spiker, whose art work was used for the cover of the 2024-2025 Westernport Elementary School Yearbook.

Runners up in the annual yearbook contest were Jackson Lease, Kiya Chojar, Ella Aronhalt and Brooklyn Edwards.

Author, Caron Levis, Visits WES



Author Caron Levis visited Westernport Elementary on April 25, 2025. She told students about how she writes her books and how she got the idea for her first book when she was 22 years old. 25 years later, Ms. Levis has written many, many books. She told the students that she takes an idea from real life and just adds her imagination!

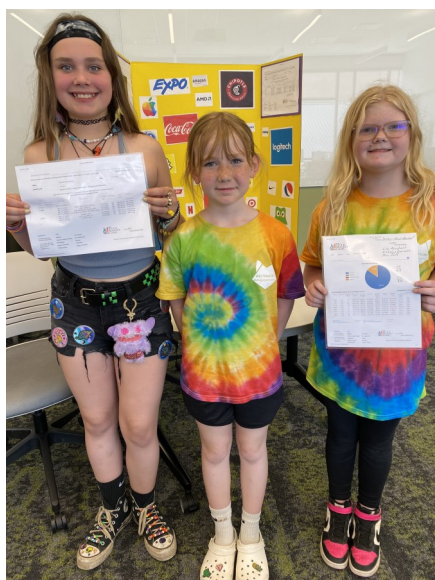
Ms. Levis has wanted to be a writer since she was in elementary school because she was reader and reading a book was like going on an adventure. She loved the *Ramona* books, by Beverly Cleary. She also enjoyed books that made her feel like there was someone else who understood her life. So she started writing seriously in middle school and later went to college to learn more.

Ms. Levis's most popular book is called *Ida, Always*, and it was the first book that she wrote. Two other titles that she mentioned were also inspired by nature; *Feathers Together* and *Mighty, Muddy Us*. Sometimes Ms. Levis travels from New York City to distant countries to see the animals that she wants to write about. That, she said, is another fun part of her life as an author.

The Stock Market Game



AEP Showcase 2025



Congratulations to fifth grade students, Addalye Bennett, Ella Aronhalt and Maci Iliff (at left) whose Stock Market Game team called "Taco Belles-Most Wanted" finished 89th out of 309 teams in the North Region and 216th of 886 teams at all grade levels in the state of Maryland. Close behind were "The Snakes", which placed 179th of the 309 teams in the North Region and 482nd of 886 teams at all grade levels in the state. Fourth grade students, Kaiden Wilt and Harper Hensley, were the members of that team.

WES had six teams participate in the year-long Stock Market Game, which is sponsored by the Maryland Council on Economic Education. Students receive a hypothetical \$100,000 to spend on their stock purchases, which grew in value over 5 months. Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson was the SMG advisor. Mr. Josh Blowe also played the yearly game, playing against Mrs. Hendrickson in the Adult Division, but Mr. Blowe beat her again. Great job, Mr. Blowe!



The AEP Showcase was held at Frostburg State this year, due to not being able to be viewed at WES. We were sorry that parents were not able to attend this year, but the K-5 students enjoyed walking through the display and seeing the many projects and inventions created by their classmates. Great job, everyone!

Fifth Grade Farewell

On Tuesday, June 3, 2025 the Fifth Grade farewell program was held in the Alice Manicur Assembly Hall of the Lane Center at Frostburg State University to present completion awards and several special awards to the outgoing fifth grade. The entire school was there to enjoy a slide show as well as remarks by Mr. Derek Horne, principal and Deputy Edwards, DARE officer. Mr. Horne remarked on the resilience and community spirit shown by the fifth grade students after the May 13th flood. Memories of elementary school, written by fifth grade students, were also shared. Two special songs, "The Best Day of My Life" and "Count on Me" were performed by the fifth grade, including one with ukulele accompaniment. The lyrics "we'll find out what we're made of" really rung true. Awards were also given during the program:

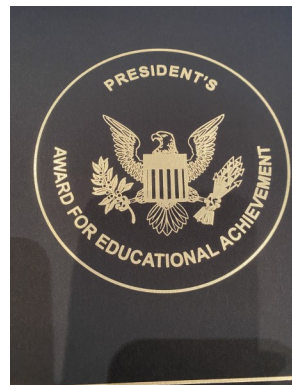
The winners of the **President's Award for Educational Excellence** which noted outstanding academic excellence were Ella Aronhalt, Devyn Pritts, Nathan Wade and Taylor Windle

The winners of the **President's Award for Educational Achievement** which noted growth, improvement commitment and development were Kiya Chojar, Colton Dawson, Brooklyn Edwards, Maci Iliff, Jackson Lease and Lennon Metz

The winners of the **Citizenship Award** were Porter Beard and Eligah Keaton.

Students and parents attending received a treat after the program.

"When becoming part of tradition, we leave behind our example and take with us our memories."



WES @ FSU (May 29-June 6, 2025)

Westernport Elementary @ FSU

May 28-30
June 2-6

Contact us @ 301-359-0511

Parent Drop-off Pick-Up Times:
9:30 AM - 3:45 PM

Located in the Education & Health Sciences Center

Please check out transportation info on ACPSMD.ORG

ACTIVITIES
JTF Games
Field Trips
Motivational Speakers
Career Day
Field Day
5th Grade Farewell
AEP Showcase
YMCA Trip
MCCA Performances
CLC Activities
& MANY MORE!!!!

Breakfast/Lunch Provided by FSU





In the Arts...



Students from Westernport Elementary had artwork displayed at the annual "**Allegany County Student Art Showcase**" which was held at the City Place in Frostburg from April 23-27, 2025. Students who had work on display were:
Grade 5: Kiya Chojar, Colton Dawson, Kasadie Durst and Brooklyn Edwards
Grade 4: Aurora Cifuentes, Jacob Hull, Amiya Martin, Danica Miller, Weston Reed and William Wade.
Grade 3: Charlotte Delilo, Stella Metz and Hudson Placka.
Grade 2: Cecilia Delilo
Grade 1: Christian Burns, Brienne Figueroa and Elizabeth Paitzel
Kindergarten: Adrian Casteel, Bristol Guinn and Ryley Spiker



Although the Westernport Band and Orchestra concert had to be cancelled due to the May 13th flood, the show went on. Mr. Harold McClay, band teacher, and Mr. Rob Wallace, orchestra teacher, invited their students to perform with the George's Creek Band and Orchestra and many did. Westernport staff also attended the May 22nd concert at 10:00 AM or 2:00 PM (or both times) to cheer for our fourth and fifth grade musicians. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to play with George's Creek students who will become their friends and fellow musicians when they attend middle school together.

Thanks to Mrs. Shannon Green and the GC staff for this opportunity and their many kindnesses during the past few weeks.

Drew Daywalt Visits WES



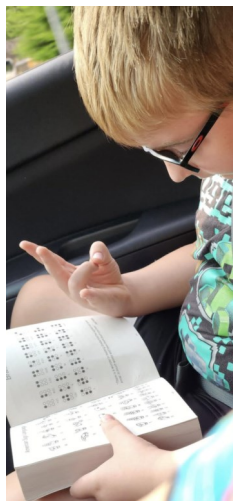
On April 23, 2025, author Drew Daywalt spoke to WES students about the process of being an author. He also read his book Little Freddie Two Pants to the entire school. Students enjoyed this very funny book!!
Mr. Daywalt wanted to write books since he was seven years old, but instead he wrote for movies, for TV shows and for Disney cartoons until he was 33 years old. Then Mr. Daywalt published his first book, The Day the Crayons Quit when he was 34 years old. He got the idea from a box of crayons that was sitting on his desk!
Mr. Daywalt now works from home, which is his favorite part about being an author. He has written 30 books, but he told students it is definitely not easy. A book takes one to two years to finish. First he needs a good idea, then he writes the words and sends them to New York City with the hope that a publisher will buy the book. Finally the words move on to an editor and then onto an illustrator, which might take another six months or more. So an author needs to have patience.
Mr. Daywalt visited classrooms throughout the building and had lunch with several students. He also signed his name in books as he went from classroom to classroom. Students in Kindergarten and first grade received a copy of The Day the Crayons Quit. Students in grades two and three received a copy of Rock, Paper, Scissors. Students in grades four and five received a copy of No, Sam, which is Mr. Daywalt's latest book. Mr. Daywalt lives in California with his wife and dogs so it was a long trip to come to see students at Westernport Elementary. But we are glad that he did!

Dictionaries Donated to WES Students

A Child is...



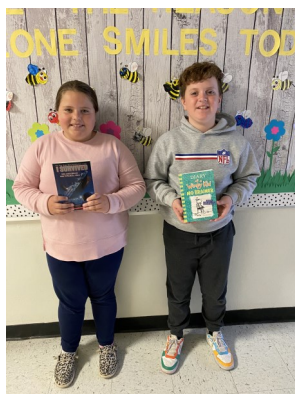
Copies of A Student's Dictionary were donated to all students at Westernport Elementary School. They were presented by members of the Mt. Airy Rotary Club. Show here are Riley and Dominik Steiding, enjoying their dictionaries. According to their grandmother, Miss T., both children spent several hours just pouring over the words and pictures. Dominik even started using several pages in the dictionary to teach himself sign language.



A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He or she is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him or her. They will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. They are going to move in to take control of your churches, schools, universities and corporations. All your books are going to be judged, praised, or condemned by them. The fate of humanity is in their hands.

—Attributed to Abraham Lincoln

Thanks, Reeves Private Foundation



Westernport Elementary School was recently awarded a **\$1,900.00 grant** from the J. Norman and Margaret J. Reeves Private Foundation, which is administrated by First United Trust & Investments. The grant money was used to support the One Student/One Book program that was held in conjunction with the April 2025 Book Fair.

Each of our 216 students was allowed to choose one book of personal interest from the book fair, which was a huge event held in our school gym.

Thanks again to the Reeves Private Foundation for the grant funds. Shown are third grade students Maleah Trantum and Mack Brashear with their new books from the I Survived and Diary of a Wimpy Kid series.,



Citizens of the Month 2025

Students selected as "**Citizens of the Month**" exemplify the character trait for the month. They took a trip to McDonald's to recognize their achievement.

The character trait for **March** was having a **Positive Attitude**, which means **trying to find the best in any situation**. Those students who showed a positive attitude included Grade K-Kendall Hanlin and Kingston Bowman; Grade One-Rhoman Rains, Eli Dolly & Madelyn Sweitzer; Grade Two-Mylo Zacari & Maverick Guinn; Grade Three-Ezra Clark-Kuhn & Paisley Edwards; Grade Four-Jace Fitzgerald & William Wade; and Grade Five-Camden Shafer & Taylor Windle.

The character trait for **April** was **Self-Control**, which means having **control of one's actions and emotions and being aware of thoughts and feelings, then making an appropriate choice on how to behave**.

This character trait was not able to be celebrated.

The character trait for **May/June** was **Perseverance**, which means **never giving up, even when things get difficult**. All staff and students showed perseverance as from the day of the flood, May 13, 2025, and beyond.

Thanks again to McDonald's for their support of the Citizens of the Month program in 2024-2025.

