



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## Helping Others: The Ghouley Hooley



Westernport Elementary School students and staff collected donations of over \$600.00 in coins prior to the Ghouley Hooley Plunge, which was held at Rocky Gap State Park on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Students brought in the coins to fill classroom buckets. The money raised will be used to benefit the Special Olympics of Allegany County and other local programs for the developmentally disabled. Over \$100,000 was raised locally through the annual event, which was moved from March to October. The Ghouley Hooley was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Sean McCagh, one of the original organizers of the Hooley Plunge..

Ghouley Hooley participants from WES that day included Ms. Natalie Orange, Mrs. Kim Aikman, Mrs. Shelly Fitzgerald and Mrs. Sue Records. Mrs. Victoria O'Neal, who has just joined the WES staff, also participated as a representative of her former workplace, School Therapy Services.

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A Title I School  
Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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## From the Principal...Mr. Horne



What a great time of the year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of elementary school students during the holiday season. Due to the busy nature of the season, sometimes schedules and added responsibilities can cause stress. Sports, school events, parties, family visits and so many other events seem to be packed into a limited amount of time. Scheduling becomes an issue and we always seem to be looking for ways to complete our to-do lists. As the holiday season approaches, please give your child the gift of extra time. Put

an I.O.U. for a special event or activity in his/her stocking. When students are asked to write about a memorable event in their lives, it isn't a special gift they usually choose to write about, but an experience they have had with someone special. 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 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!

## Citizens (November)

Student "Citizens of the Month" were chosen recently. **The character trait for November was responsibility.** i.e., the student chosen can be depended upon, makes good choices and is accountable for his/her actions.

Grade PreK4-Elizabeth Johnson

Grade K-Braxten Lafferty, Peyton Davis & Ember Redman

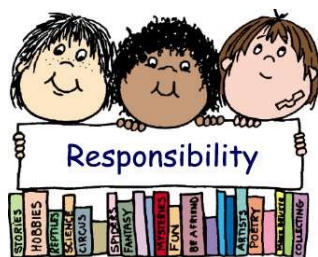
Grade 1-Amiya Martin & Danica Miller

Grade 2-Brooklyn Edwards, Addalye Bennett & Aaliyah Spiker

Grade 3-Charlotte Haggerty & Mya Kolberg

Grade 4-Brayden Lytle & Tayler Getson

Grade 5-Aaliyah Davis & Declan McGeady



## Peace Days Winners

A drawing is held each Monday to award a small prize to seven students who have had a peaceful week. These are students who have followed the rules for the previous week and have no yellow or red behaviors. Our recent Peace Days winners include:

**Week of November 8-12:** Elizabeth Johnson, Luke Richards, Gabe Lepley, Mariah Wade, Brayden Lytle & Haylee O'Haver

**Week of November 15-19:** Dominik Steiding, Caroline Hughes, Demmie Alt, Jacob Mayhew, Addison Lafferty, Kahlan Chojar and Emrick Johnson

### BOOK FAIR NEWS

The WES book fair, which is usually held in November, has been postponed until spring 2022. If it is not possible to have an in-person book fair, an eBook Fair will be held as an alternative. Either way, each student will again receive a "free" book courtesy of local grant money provided by the Tri-Towns Reeves Private Foundation.

## WES School Calendar

- ♦ Nov. 23 (Tues.) Schoolwide Virtual STEAM Event (6:30 PM)
- ♦ Nov. 24 (Wed.) **Three Hour Early Dismissal**-Thanksgiving Vacation Begins (Offices closed November 25 & 26)
- ♦ Nov. 29 (Mon.) **SCHOOLS CLOSED**
- ♦ Nov. 30 (Tues.) **Three Hour Delayed Opening-SCHOOLS REOPEN**-Principal Staff Dev./Teacher Work Time
- ♦ Dec. 8 (Wed.) Schoolwide Virtual Books Before Bedtime (6:30 PM)
- ♦ Dec. 23 (Thurs.) **SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED** Christmas Vacation Begins (Offices closed December 23, 24, 31 & January 3)
- ♦ Jan. 4 (Tues.) **Three Hour Delayed Opening-SCHOOLS REOPEN**- Principal Staff Dev./Teacher Work Time
- ♦ Jan. 14 (Fri.) End of Second Marking Period; End of First Semester
- ♦ Jan. 17 (Mon.) **SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED** Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday
- ♦ Jan. 18 (Tues.) **SCHOOLS CLOSED**- Supervisor Staff Dev./Teacher Work Time

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.

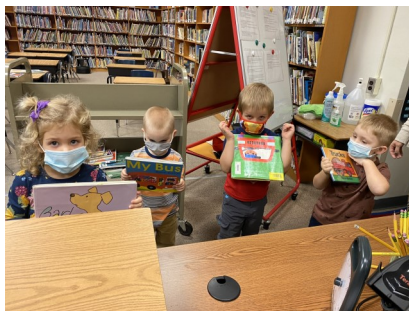
\*\*\*Encourage your child to borrow physical books as well as eBooks from **the Westernport Elementary School Library**. Go to the WES Home Page (Bookmarks).

<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 read an interactive eBook, in addition to the book (s) that he/she borrows from the library each week.

\*\*\*Explore **myON (My Online Library)**! Go to the WES Home Page (Bookmarks). <https://www.acpsmd.org/domain/515>  
Have your child click on Clever, then click on myON. Show your child how to use the Library, Recommended and Search buttons to find books. (Your child may need to do the 20+ question quiz independently before the 6,500+ 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 Laura Shelton, 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-Thursdays from 11:00 AM-6:00 PM.  
[www.alleganycountylibrary.info](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info)



## 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](http://www.acpsmd.org)

**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.



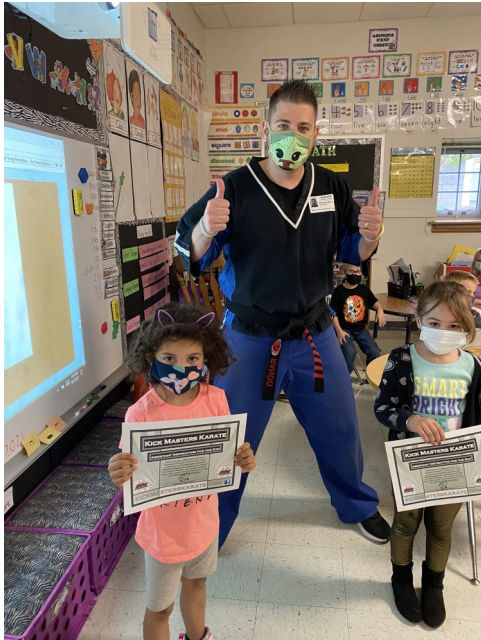
## Master Rick Rando Visits Kindergarten

## 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



Master Rick Rando, a local empowerment speaker, visited the Kindergarten classes of Mrs. Julie Durrence, Ms. Natalie Orange and Mrs. Candice Smith on Friday, October 18, 2021. Master Rando, 7th degree black belt and master instructor/owner of Kick Master's Karate, worked with the students to teach them about how important it is to focus, respect, discipline and have the ability to concentrate. He told students that they should remember to

1. Pay attention.
2. Don't be lazy.
3. Never give up.
4. That manners matter.
5. Be under control.

(Thank you, Master Rando. Kindergarten students were glad to see you visit them again on November 19th!)



## Meet the (New) Faculty and Staff

Our new guidance counselor, **Mrs. Laura Wilson**, has loved getting to know the wonderful students and staff at WES. Mrs. Wilson is a graduate of FSU, with a Bachelor's Degree in psychology and a Master's Degree in Education/School Counseling. Mrs. Wilson worked for two years as a library media technician at Braddock Middle while completing her degree. Her first counseling position was at Southern Middle School in Garrett County. Born and raised in Frostburg, Mrs. Wilson still lives there with her new husband, Jordan, and her best puppy friend, Ace.

**Mrs. Kate Pratt** is the new math specialist at WES and also works at Northeast and Flintstone Schools. She previously taught fourth grade at George's Creek Elementary. Mrs. Pratt is a graduate of FSU with a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Administration. She enjoys spending time at camp (or traveling in her camper) with husband, Scotty, and dog, Zeke. She loves to eat Maryland Blue Crabs and to watch the Pittsburgh Penguins play. She especially loves being a bonus mama to two young adults. Fall is her favorite season.

**Mrs. Sue Records** is a new special education teacher at WES. She worked with adults with disabilities long ago, then went back to school to become a certified teacher when the youngest of her seven children went to middle school. Mrs. Records graduated from the FSU MAT-E program in 2014 and later gained certification in Special Education. She began her employment as a full-time sub at Flintstone School on March 16, 2020 and spent the 2020-2021 school year at South Penn School. Mrs. Records is now thrilled to be a part of the WES school community.

## Looking back (2001)...The Calico Cat

## Safety is #1



The Calico Cat is our school mascot. Why is the calico cat so important?

The Calico Cat project began in spring 2000 (or so) when then fourth grade students Lexi Gentry, January Mullen, Molly Nelson, Abigail Rawlings and Emily Weber started wondering

why the state of Maryland had an official state dog, but no state cat. They thought that a calico cat would be a great state symbol due to its color patterns.

With the help of their fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Willeda Mosser and Mrs. Julie Laf-

fey; principal, Steve Wilson, their parents, and local Delegate Kevin Kelly, they pursued this idea into the fall and winter of fifth grade. The girls wrote to the state legislature, testified in Annapolis and promoted the project every way and everywhere that they could.

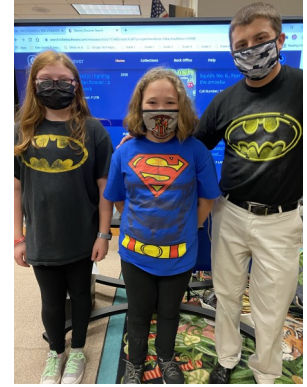
House Bill 157 was adopted on February 23, 2001 and "Effective October 1, 2001, the calico cat became the official cat of Maryland. Its colors of orange, black, and white are shared with the Baltimore oriole (State bird) and the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly (State insect)." The calico cat immediately became the mascot of WES.

Let's Go, Calico! (The quote and picture above are courtesy of the Maryland Manual Online.)

Please have your children in the appropriate child restraint when bringing your children to school in your vehicle for any reason, including lunch pickup. The current 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.



## Red Ribbon Week...Neon, Socks, Superheroes (and more...)



## Truck or Treat (and the winner was Nurse Karalee!)



## Vaccine Clinic@ WES and Fourth Grade Medieval Times

