



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Marvelous Math Day



Math Day was held at Westernport Elementary on Friday, November 22, 2024. Parents visited K-5 classrooms to participate in math related games and activities with their children. The games were given to parents to keep and to play again at home. Extra games were provided to classroom teachers and will be used to create additional math centers. A variety of math related games were purchased by the school and were prepared for each classroom by Mrs.



Laura Biser, parent engagement coordinator. Some of the games were Cover and Roll, Addition War card game, Multiplication War card game and Box Cars and One Eyed Jacks.

The Math Day events, planned by Mrs. Kate Pratt, math specialist, and members of the school Math/Tech team, were held along with the Thanksgiving meal distribution, organized by Mr. Devin McGregor, community coordinator. A total of 65 parents attended the day's events.

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

'Tis the season....to depart from regular schedules. Please make your best attempt to keep your children eating healthy foods, sleeping adequate hours, and coming to school dressed to battle the cold weather. We do send children outside if it is 32 degrees or above, so be sure your children are prepared. As the holidays approach it is easy to get caught in the additional hustle and bustle and neglect our health. Thank you also for being mindful of this and sending healthy, rested children to school.

During winter break, please encourage your child read for 20 minutes or more each day. (See tips on page 2.) Reading is a powerful tool for building your child's mind. We want our families and community to help us achieve our high expectations for each student.

Facts on Attendance
-2 Absences Per Month X 9 Months of School = Less Likely to Graduate from High School
-Did you know? People with a high school diploma make more than \$1,000,000 in a lifetime over those without a diploma.

-A child who is 10 minutes late misses 32 hours of instruction, per year.
-Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade. Being in school every day means your child will not miss out on learning. Please try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. We want to help remove any barriers to school attendance. Please reach out if we can help with: mental health services, bus schedules, alarm clocks, or housing status. 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. Many years from now, you and your child will remember these 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 or 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-Allison Russell & Mona Durst

Grade 1-Aryanna Sperling, Rhyanna Sperling & Isaiah Warnick

Grade 2-Priscilla Mborogo and Isla Delilo

Grade 3-Willow Ward & Charlotte Delilo

Grade 4-Demmie Alt & Trinitee Hummer

Grade 5-Serenity Clark-Kuhn & Brooklyn Edwards



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-Azariyah Michael & Adrian Casteel

Grade 1-Brooklyn DeHaven, Christian Burns & Harold Delauter-Jones

September-November



Grade 2-Bennett Dobbs & Roland Householder

Grade 3-Emmett Hanlin & Lillian Robinson

Grade 4-Harper Hensley & Karaliah Griffin

Grade 5-Aveona Durst & Nathan Wade

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-Emberleigh Lafferty & Layla Atkinson

Grade 1-Elizabeth Paitsel, Devenair Durst & Laurel Mayhew

Grade 2-Rylin Ruff & Tacy Lewis

Grade 3-Stella Metz & Braxten Lafferty

Grade 4-Kaiden Wilt & Aurora Cifuentes

Grade 5-Jackson Lease & Kasadie Durst



WES School Calendar

- ♦ Dec. 17 (Tues.) Holiday Vocal Music Program (9:30 AM for parents/families of grades 3, 4, & 5 and 1:30 PM for parents/families of grades K, 1, & 2)
- ♦ Dec. 18 (Wed) Books Before Bedtime @ 6:00 PM
- ♦ Dec. 20 (Fri.) **Three-Hour Early Dismissal**- Christmas Vacation Begins (Offices are closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 & Jan. 1.)
- ♦ Jan. 2 (Thurs.) **SCHOOLS REOPEN**
- ♦ Jan. 16 (Thurs.) End of Second Marking Period; End of First Semester
- ♦ Jan 17 (Fri.) AM-Principal Staff Development/PM Teacher Work Time
- ♦ Jan. 20 (Mon.) **SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED** Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday
- ♦ Jan. 24 (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, library databases or to check out ebooks or audiobooks. **(A flyer will be sent home this week with directions to show you how to request your child's STAR card number.)** Kathy Murphy, William Everett and Linda Edwards, 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 and Tuesdays from 1:00-8:00 PM and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM.



This year, "Miss Kate" Metzger, a member of the Allegany County Library Story Corps, will continue to share picture books with students in grades Kindergarten and first grade.

Student Book Reviews

Students in grades 4 and 5 had an assignment to write book reviews to include in Follett Destiny, the school library online circulation program. The students logged into Destiny Discover, clicked on "My Stuff" and then chose a book that they had previously checked out. Then the students wrote a brief review of the book. Although only a 1-5 Star rating and two sentences were required for the students to give their opinion and/or recommendation, some students took the time to write even more.

Demmie Alt reviewed the story, Pete the Cat and the Bad Banana, by James Dean. Demmie wrote: "I like this book because I like bananas (and it is a really good book.)" **Jace Lytle** reviewed the book, The Sea of Monsters, by Rick Riordan. Jace wrote: "This is one of my top seven favorite books of all time. I EXTREMELY recommend this book for kids my age or for younger readers to read with an adult.. It is slightly different from the movie and show, but still over all amazing! For example, there is the part when Tyson is literally blown up with heat equal to a couple thousand degrees and is supposedly gone for good but shows up FIREPROOF with the golden fleece in his hand. He made it out unscathed. This adventure is golden, perfect and so beautifully made. I've read this book a gazillion times over; and would love everyone else to read it, too. I'd give anything to read it again for the first time ever!" **Carter Blacka** used his book review skills from the previous year and his review popped up on the circulation program dashboard for approval before the assignment was even given! He wrote about Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder and said that it was a very good book and that he highly recommended it.

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



Mrs. Carrie Wade is a new Cafeteria Worker at WES. Mrs. Wade grew up in Westernport and attended WES as a child and is a graduate of Bruce High School. She now lives in Luke, MD with her husband, Kenny Wade. Together they have six children and four grandchildren. Mrs. Wade enjoys vacationing as a big family on the Outer Banks. She is excited to be at back at WES.

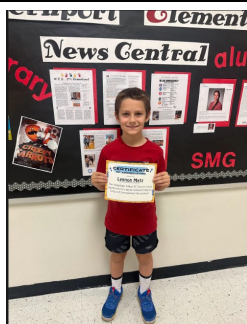
Mrs. Allison (Zimmerman) Rodriguez is the new third grade teacher at WES. She has a bachelor's degree in education from Salisbury University. Mrs. Rodriguez is a native of Carroll County,

MD. and was a 5th grade teacher in Manchester, MD for two years. She moved to Cumberland, MD due to her husband Jaime's job with the Marine Corps. Mrs. Rodriguez is slowly adding members to her family. This summer she bought a black lab puppy named Dak whom she loves to spend time with after school. This coming May, Mrs. Rodriguez and her husband are expecting their first child, a baby boy to be named Brody. In her free time, Mrs. Rodriguez enjoys playing field hockey and lacrosse, watching football, and spending time with friends and family.

Mrs. Rodriguez is excited to be a part of the WES community!

Mr. Robert Wallace is the new orchestra teacher at WES. He is a native of Bedford and spent seven years as a music teacher in Paw Paw, WV, before joining the ACPS. Mr. Wallace is a graduate of Allegany College, FSU and has a master's degree from Shenandoah University. His major instrument is the guitar. Mr. Wallace teaches string instruments at several schools in the Mountain Ridge District, including Westmar Middle School. He enjoys teaching students at WES.

Congratulations



Fifth grade student, Lennon Metz, was recognized by the Mountain Ridge Junior Varsity Boys soccer team for his assistance with ball running during the fall soccer season!

More (New) Faculty



Mrs. Jenn May Blank is the new behavior specialist for the Mountain Ridge District. She comes to the Allegany County Public Schools with many years of experience as a behavioral healthcare provider in West Virginia. She is a graduate of Beall High School, Allegany College, Point Park University and Argosy University.

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



On October 29, the annual Trick or Trunk was held in the school parking lot.

On October 15, Buster the Bus (along with Todd Snyder, Assistant Supervisor, ACPs Transportation) came to demonstrate school bus safety to first grade and Kindergarten. Students got to "practice" riding a bus with Mrs. Candice Smith at the wheel.

On November 6, all students enjoyed a musical play called Blueberries for Sal, based on the award-winning book by Robert McCloskey. Students in the Frostburg State University Theatre & Dance Department presented this musical to local elementary schools and donated a copy of the book to the school library.

On November 13, third grade students participated in an Arts in the School activity presented by the Evergreen Heritage Center

On, December 10, students in grades 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed a student performance of *Shrek, the Musical*, which was held at Mount Savage Middle School.



Thank Our Veterans Everyday!



On November 8, 2024, American Legion Post 189 of Barton, MD, participated in a Veterans Day program in the gym of WES. American Legion members Brandy Adams (Army), James Marchinke (Marines and Army), Andy Winters (Navy) Marshall Winters (Air Force) and Paul "Mickey" Johnson (Navy) told students about the jobs done by those branches of the military and shared the service flags for each branch, including the Coast Guard. They also told students of their own experiences while serving our country. Students sang songs, directed by music teacher, Ms. Katie Hendrix, which included "The Star Spangled Banner", "Home on the Range", "This Land is Our Land" and My County 'Tis of Thee as well as a medley of service songs. 24 family members of WES students who were veterans were honored with certificates and posed for family photos. (Shown are the Brashear and Taylor children with family members who are veterans.)



Shown (left) 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, missing or imprisoned U.S. Military Service members.

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

Children's Author, Beth Ferry, Visits WES



On December 6, 2024, author Beth Ferry visited WES as part of the school's partnership with the Children's Literature Centre at FSU. Ms. Ferry dreamed of being a children's author when she was a stay at home mom. Now she has written over 40 books!

Ms. Ferry talked to students in grades K-5 about how she gets ideas for writing her books. She told students that 10% of writing a book is by using her imagination to come up with an idea, 20% is writing the first (often messy) draft of the story and then 70% of the process is to revise the story over (and over and over...) She also told students that it takes several years, at times, to make the words in her books satisfy her. (Sometimes when she gets stuck, she rereads her favorite childhood books, such as *Harry*, *the Dirty Dog*, for inspiration!)

When Ms. Ferry finishes the words for her book, someone else picks the illustrator, who can be from anywhere in the world. Ms. Ferry and the illustrator talk via Zoom to put the words and illustrations together.

At the end of her presentation Ms. Ferry read her book, *The Christmassy Cactus* to the students. (She told them that this particular book took her 163 revisions over a period of more than two years!) Ms. Ferry always hopes that her books bring smiles to children's faces. Her books definitely do!

(Shown at left are Beth Ferry, author, and aspiring author, fifth grade student Aveona Durst!)



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!

Mrs. Laura Wilson and "Mrs. Tessa" Fitzgerald 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 2024



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 6, 2024 at 10:30 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," "March

Steps," "Song of the Fjords," "O, Come Little Children," "Jolly Old St. Nick," "Up on the Housetop", and "Jingle Bells."

FOURTH GRADE BAND members include: Kierra Bateson, Karaliah Griffin and Riley Kindle (Flute); Ryder Hanlin, Kylaha Heavener and Kaiden Wilt (Clarinet); William Wade (Trumpet); Andrew Perez (Trombone); Jacob Hull (Baritone) and Easton Guinn, Kenzie Weiss and Ryler Wilson (Drums).

FIFTH GRADE BAND members include Chaney Butler, Aveona Durst and Maci Iliff (Flute); Elijah Keaton and Taylor Windle (Clarinet); Colton Dawson and Nathan Wade (Saxophone); Porter Beard, Carter Blacka and Aryan Webster (Trumpet); Elijah Cary, Connor Coffman, Laydon Dobbs, Kerelyne Rivera Constable (Trombone); Brooklyn Edwards, Lennon Metz, Camden Shaffer and Brendan Whetzel (Drums).



The orchestra, directed by Mr. Robert Wallace, played a variety of music arranged for strings, including the songs "Jingle Bells," "Dreidel, Dreidel," "Good King Wenceslas," and "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas."

FOURTH GRADE ORCHESTRA members include Aurora Cifuentes and Ava Morgan (Cello); Cella Crites and Amiya Martin (Viola); and Trinitee Hummer, Danica Miller, Noah Sanford and Aliyah Shingler (Violin)

FIFTH GRADE ORCHESTRA members include Ella Aronhalt, Addalye Bennett, Kiya Chojar, Brantlee Lavelle and Aaliyah Spiker (Cello); Serenity Clark-Kuhn, Arieannah Hannum, Noah Michael and Devyn Pritts (Viola); and Kasadie Durst, Jace Lytle, Katalina McGeady and Aubrie Zimmerman (Violins); and Landon Alkire (Bass).

