




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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## Welcome Back to Westernport Elementary!

We want to welcome our WES family to the 2024-2025 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. We are very excited to see smiling faces in our hallways. We also wish to again 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. Ms. Allison Zimmerman is the new third grade teacher. Mr. Robert Wallace is the new orchestra teacher. Ms. Samantha Eckhart and Ms. Aura Trejo-Cisneros Bean are new instructional assistants. Ms. Amber Squires works with students who need occupational therapy. Mrs. Carrie Wade is a new cafeteria worker. Ms. Wisha Ahern has joined our custodial staff. We send best wishes to all who have retired, transferred or moved on to new positions. Ms. Chelsea Carr is now teaching grade four at Northeast School. Mrs. Barbra Carter left her job as a cafeteria worker in April. We wish to congratulate Ms. Allison Zimmerman (now Rodriguez) upon her marriage to Jaime Rodriguez on September 28th. We also send best wishes to Ms. Tessa Lutton (now Fitzgerald) upon her October 5th marriage to Aaron Fitzgerald.

**Back to School Night**, which was held on Thursday, August 20, 2024, 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! Devyn Pritts won a scooter and Eli Cary, Jacob Mayhew and Donnie Trexler (shown below) won new bicycles. 



**Fall Back One Hour**  
**Sunday, November 3, 2024.**



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

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**September-October 2024**

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### COMING SOON

The Reading for Education Fundraiser, is coming soon! Envelopes will be sent home on October 14, 2024.



## From the Principal...Mr. Horne



As I walk through the classrooms and hallways, I am proud of how our children have grown over the first month of school with the support of staff and families. I have observed the kindness and caring through many actions and words that reflect the culture and climate of the community. The Community Back to School night was a huge success. Our Grandparents/Grandfriends dinner consisted of over 350 participants.

WOW!!!! I want to thank all of our community partners and staff for working together for our children. A special thank you to Emily Lewis, our cafeteria manager and her helpers who prepared the meal for the event. It was a nice evening for our children and their special adults. Our next family event will be Trunk or Treat on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 from 5:00-6:30 PM. School-wide expectations of being responsible, respectful,

safe, and kind are being practiced by all students. It is always important to remember that character and positive relationships with others are part of becoming a successful contributor at school and in the community. We continue to become a WES family where the community, students, and staff are excited to visit, learn, and grow. Families and school staff want to achieve the same overall goal - a safe, secure environment where

students have the support and resources needed to be successful. We welcome you as part of the WES family and look forward to a great school year full of learning and fun! Please watch for a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Together we can make a difference in our children's lives. If you have any questions or need anything please give me a call at 301-359-0511.



## 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 6-12, 2024** 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 "Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you!" The NFPA website reminds us to **Install** smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home. **Test** smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button. **Replace** all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or stop responding when tested.

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 the NFPA website by going to <https://www.nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week>

**BOOK VENDING...** We would like to remind parents that WES has a book vending machine. Students may earn a chance to choose a free book from the machine in a variety of ways, all connected to English Language Arts (ELA) activities. 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. We hope that your child will be bringing a special book home soon. Shown (at left) are Roland Householder and Isla Delilo, two September winners, with the books that they chose.

## WES School Calendar

- ⊙ Oct. 31 (Thurs.) End of Marking Period 1 (MP1)
- ⊙ Nov. 1 (Fri.) THREE-HOUR EARLY DISMISAL-; PM-Teacher Work Time
- ⊙ Nov. 3 (Sun.) Daylight Savings Ends (Turn your clocks back on Saturday night!)
- ⊙ Nov. 5 (Tues.) SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED-General Election Day
- ⊙ Nov. 14 (Thurs.) Report Cards Released
- ⊙ Nov. 15 (Fri.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-Supervisor Staff Development
- ⊙ Nov. 27 (Wed.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-Thanksgiving Vacation Begins (Offices Closed November 28 & 29) Schools reopen Dec. 3rd.



## \*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.



## In an Emergency...Take Action

# IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



### HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

#### STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced  
Do business as usual

#### ADULTS

Close and lock the door  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



### SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

#### STUDENTS

Return to inside of building  
Do business as usual

#### ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors  
Lock outside doors  
Increase situational awareness  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



### LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

#### STUDENTS

Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door

#### ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible  
Lock the classroom door  
Turn out the lights  
Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door  
Prepare to evade or defend



### EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

#### STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to  
If possible, bring your phone  
Follow instructions

#### ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



### SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

#### STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

#### Hazard

Tornado  
Hazard  
Earthquake  
Tsunami

#### Safety Strategy

Evacuate to shelter area  
Seal the room  
Drop, cover and hold  
Get to high ground

#### ADULTS

Lead safety strategy  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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## 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 is first grade student, Brienne Figueroa (photo right) doing a painting activity. Art Class at Westernport Elementary is taught by Mr. John Seibert. Shown (at left) is fourth grade student, Ava Morgan, who used her Chromebook to search for a book that her teacher requested and then found the book on the shelf. Library Media classes at Westernport Elementary are taught by Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson

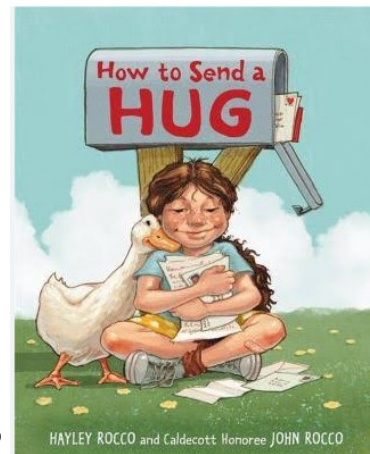




## Hayley and John Rocco, Author & Illustrator, Visit WES



Author Hayley Rocco and illustrator, John Rocco, visited Westernport Elementary School on Friday, October 4, 2024 to talk to students in grades K-3 about their first book together, which is called How to Send a Hug! This presentation was brought to WES due to a two-year partnership between Westernport Elementary and the Frostburg State University Children's Literature Centre. Ms. Rocco told students that she got the idea of writing the book after thinking about the many letters that she had written to and received from her grandparents when she was a child. She and Mr. Rocco used slides as they read the book to the students and then explained about the parts of a letter, as well as how to address an envelope and where to place a stamp. Ms. Rocco told students that sending a hug by writing a letter is something that the person who received the "hug" will always treasure.



The couple had time at the end of their presentation to show students a new book that they are working on now. It will be called Hello, I'm a Pangolin. The book, part of a new series about unusual animals, tells about the pangolin, an animal that Ms. Rocco actually held in her arms while visiting sub-Saharan Africa, where these so-called "scaly anteaters" live. They also answered questions from students.

Ms. Rocco was in Frostburg to receive the 2024 CLC Children's Book Award from Frostburg State University Children's Literature Centre. This annual award is given to the author of a children's picture book which most embodies the attributes of compassion, love, or courage. The aim of the CLC is to encourage and support an author/illustrator in the early years of their career, and one who has published in the United States within the past three years.

## i-Ready, Set, Goal!



i-Ready is an online math curriculum that provides students of all ages with differentiated instruction and supports them on their individual paths to success.

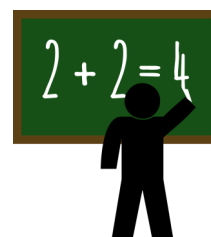
Fourth and fifth grade classes each passed over 400 i-Ready lessons (as of October 4th) and have earned a prize from the Math/Tech team. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Kate Pratt, ACPS math specialist.

Representing grade 5, Aveona Durst punched through the cover of the 400 level cup to reveal a prize that will be enjoyed by all fifth grade students. Aveona has personally passed 53 lessons so far.

Representing grade 4, Kaiden Wilt punched through the foil of the 400 level fourth grade cup to reveal a prize for all fourth grade students. Kaiden has personally passed 36 lessons in i-Ready.

What grade level will be next? What will be the next prize? (As the number of total lessons passed increase, so do the size of the prizes for each student!)

Stay tuned to find out!





## Fire Prevention Week: Local Firefighters Visit WES



Members of Potomac Fire Company No. 2 spent the day at Westernport Elementary School on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 and talked with students about fire prevention. Deputy Chief Bill Kight and fire company members Schelotta Kight, Michelle Kight, Shane Fazenbaker and Jennifer Sears (all former WES students) as well as Shane Elliott (a WES Parent) provided a variety of activities for each grade level of students.

Deputy Chief Kight explained that Kindergarten visits to the fire station began after a home fire in 1977 tragically took the lives of three WES students. Mrs. Judy Fogle, Kindergarten teacher, felt that students needed to know more about fire prevention and arranged for her class to visit the fire station. An October visit by Kindergarten has continued ever since. Fire prevention programs at the school were later added and now are yearly events. In fact, Mr. Kight told his audience that a WES student who was in the audience during a fire prevention presentation was able to rescue his brother in 2005 when their house caught fire and no lives were lost.

Students were quizzed on various fire safety measures and did a great job answering the questions. They knew how important it is to

have an outdoor family meeting place, to plan to have two ways out of a room, when to call 911 and how to "stop, drop and roll" if their clothing catches fire. The firefighters also presented videos about fire trucks and interesting firefighter facts. An interview with Lauren Tarshis, author of *I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871* was enjoyed by fourth grade students. Students went outside to see a fire truck and received prizes, as well as an invitation to come to the fire station Open House on Sunday, October 13th.



## Resource Managers Available at Local Public Libraries

### Resource Managers in the Library



- Food Access (SNAP Benefits)
- Emergency Services
- Community Services Referrals
- Senior Resources
- Health Care & Insurance
- and more...

Provided by Allegany County  
Department of Social Services



I need help finding...  
Where can I find...  
A friend is looking for....



**ALLEGANY**  
COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

301-784-7000

### Get the answers you need



- ON-SITE Advice
- Information
- Referrals
- No appointment necessary

#alleganylibraries  
#ourlibraryourstory



[bit.ly/ACLSResourceManager](http://bit.ly/ACLSResourceManager)

Frostburg Library: 1st Wednesdays,  
11 AM – 2 PM

Westernport Library 1st and 3rd Tuesdays,  
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM