

Westchester News 2018

March

Thursday, March 1 st	Kindergarten Registration begins (see flier for details)
Tuesday, March 6 th	PTA Meeting 7:00 pm in the Library
Saturday, March 10 th	Destination Imagination Competition WES Black Saga Team competes at Carver High
Sunday, March 11 ^h	Daylight Savings Time begins (Spring Forward)
Sunday, March 14 th	PI Day
Friday, March 16 th	Zoo Mobile visits Pre-Kindergarten
Saturday, March 17 th	St. Patrick's Day
Saturday, March 24 th	BCPS Job Fair at New Town High 10 am – 2 pm
Thursday, March 29 th	3 rd Marking Period ends/ School Close 3 hrs. Early PTA Beach Dress Up Day
Friday, March 30 th	School Closed
Tuesday, April 3 rd	School Reopens



Principal's Message



Congratulations to Mrs. Maria Buker for being nominated as Westchester Elementary's BCPS Teacher of the Year!

Mrs. Buker is a teacher who is always refining her craft to meet the needs of our children every day. The climate in her room is positive and accepting of all students. Mrs. Buker's words and actions demonstrate her respect for all learners and she has created an environment that is conducive to learning.

Mrs. Buker is an excellent example of how a teacher can make a difference in our students' lives. She is a role model, teacher leader, and a friend to so many here at Westchester Elementary.



Assistant Principal's Message



Thank you for such a warm welcome! From hugs to cards, cookies and flowers I can't thank everyone for the support, encouragement and well wishes as I start a new chapter in my professional career. I am looking forward to a thriving, fun and educational second half of the 2017-2018 school year. As your Assistant Principal, I look forward to working with each and every family we serve. I value your feedback and partnership and encourage you to reach out at any time with questions or concerns.

MISA Testing 2017-2018

All 5th grade students in the Maryland Public School System take a Science test called the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment or MISA which is aligned to the new Next Generation Science Standards. As explained at <https://marylandassessments.org> ,

"The test is made up of four "units." In each of the first three units, students will read information about three separate phenomena and answer questions about each. One of those questions will be a constructed response question, and the other questions will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and other technology-enabled item types."

- Units 1–3
 - 3 tasks in each, which are based on scientific phenomena
 - 1 constructed response question for each task
 - 5 other types of questions for each task
- Unit 4
 - 1 task similar to those in units 1–3
 - 1 extended task that may include a simulation

Our 5th grade students at Westchester will be participating in this state wide assessment on March 12th and 13th. On each day, students will complete one unit in the morning and one unit in the afternoon. This computer based science assessment was piloted during the 2016-2017 school year and replaces the former Maryland School Assessment or MSA.

Reading Corner

March is National Reading Month!

SPRING INTO A GOOD BOOK!

With the weather warming up and the days getting longer, why not take your reading outside? This month, I challenge you (and your child☺) to grab a good book, find a relaxing spot outdoors, soak up some fresh air, and GET READING!

While you're at it, how about if you take a "Text Feature Walk"? As a family, look through nonfiction text (newspapers, magazine articles, etc.) to identify text features and explain how the text features contribute to your overall understanding of the text.

Need some conversation starters? Try one of these:

- What caption would you write for this photograph?
- Tell me all of the text features you found on this page?
- Why did the author choose to add this text feature?
- Write/Tell an appropriate heading for this paragraph?

Happy Reading!



A Message from the Office



- Kindergarten Registration Packets are now available in the office. To be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year a child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2018.
- Occasionally, a student's dismissal plan needs to be changed. If this should occur for your child, we ask that you e-mail the teacher and the office of the change **and call the office as a back-up**. Teachers are busy with instruction and sometimes the teacher is absent, therefore, the e-mail is not always read prior to dismissal and the school is then not be aware of the change. The office e-mails are: jbaldwin3@bcps.org and lfoster3@bcps.org

Counselor's Corner

Racheal Jones

410-887-1088/ rjones14@bcps.org

March Virtue of the Month: Respect

Respect is shown by speaking and acting with good manners. We treat others kindly and follow rules.

You are practicing respect when you:

- Speak courteously to everyone
- Take care of others belongings
- Follow rules from school, home and community

Ask your child how they can show respect to others.

Pennies for Patients

Westchester will be participating in the Pennies for Patients Campaign again this year **starting on March 1st**. The organization is a fun and rewarding way for students to work hard and contribute to a great cause! Each child will receive a donation box and each classroom will have a large donation box that students can add their donations to. The classroom donations will be collected at the end of each week and the campaign will finish up on Thursday, March 29th.



make
change,
beat
cancer.

Follow up conversations at home:

5th grade students received classroom guidance lessons on the difference between equity and equality.

Equality is everyone getting the same thing. This only works if everyone starts out in the same place.

Equity is getting what you need in order to be most successful.

Ask your child if they can tell you the difference and give examples of each.



Where to find Information



School Website:

<http://westchesteres.bcps.org>

PTA Website:

www.westchesterespta.org

BCPS School Status Information Line - 443-809-5555