

Westchester News 2018

November



Sunday, November 4 th	Daylight Savings Time end (Fall Back)
Tuesday, November 6 th	Election Day- School Closed
Wednesday, November 7 th	PTA Meeting at 7:00 pm 4 th Grade Trip to Genesee Valley 1 st Grade Trip to Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
Thursday, November 8 th	4 th Grade Trip to Genesee Valley
Friday, November 9 th	1 st Quarter Ends- School Closes at 12:45 pm
Mon., Nov. 12 th - Fri., Nov. 16 th	American Education Week PTA Book Fair- all week
Tuesday, November 13 th	Family Literacy Night 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, November 14 th	1 st Grade Concert 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm
Thursday, November 15 th	2 nd Grade Concert 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm Grandparents Breakfast (A-L) 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Friday, November 16 th	Grandparents Breakfast (M-Z) 8:00 am- 9:00 am
Thurs., Nov. 22 nd - Fri., Nov. 23 rd	Thanksgiving Break
Monday, November 26 th	Report Cards Go Home
Thursday, November 29 th	Pre-Kindergarten Conference Day
Friday, November 30 th	Conference Day- School Closed for Students

Principal's Message:

The first quarter of school is coming to a close and we are now preparing for an outstanding second quarter. Parents can assist their children in a number of small ways (see attachments) to help them meet with success in school. I would like to invite our families to come out to our Literacy Night on November 13th. We welcome our parent partners to continue to be an active part of the educational process here at Westchester Elementary!

Where to find Information:

School Website: <http://westchesteres.bcps.org>

PTA Website: www.westchesterespta.org

BCPS School Status Information Line - 443-809-5555

American Education Week

We will celebrate American Education Week this year from November 12th - 16th. Parents and grandparents are invited and encouraged to visit from Monday - Thursday following the appointed day so that we can provide chairs in classrooms. Of course if you cannot come on your appointed day, feel free to visit when you can.

Visitation Schedule

All Week	Kindergarten	
Monday	4 th and 5 th Grade	
Tuesday	3 rd Grade	
Wednesday	1 st Grade	Concert at 2:45 - 3:15
Thursday	2 nd Grade	Concert at 2:45 - 3:15

Like last year, **Grandparents Breakfast** will take place on 2 different days. Students with last names beginning with the letters **A-L** **celebrate on Thursday, November 15th at 8:00 am** and students with last names beginning with the letters **M-Z** will **celebrate on Friday, November 16th at 8:00 am**. Our grandparents will not need to get Visitor badges in advance. All sign-in will take place at multiple places leading into the school. All they need to do is present a license and sign in on the clipboard. We will have lots of Westchester staff to make this sign in process quick and efficient.

Assistant Principal's Message

We wanted to provide an update to all families about transportation. While we have been experiencing inconsistencies with regards to student bus pick-up and drop-off times, we appreciate your patience as we work towards a more consistent routine. As many are aware, transportation is handled by The Office of Transportation and we have been working with our Baltimore County Southwest Senior Operations Manager, Brandon George, to ensure a quick resolution. Please know that we will continue to communicate any updates or insights as we work to get on a regular schedule. We are all working together for resolution please continue to alert WES Office Staff to your concerns it may also be helpful to contact bgeorge3@bcps.org and the SW Transportation Office, there phone number which is (410) 887-1435.

Counselor's Message

Racheal Jones 410-887-1088 rjones14@bcps.org

REMINDER ALL Pre- K & 5TH GRADE PARENTS!!
Magnet application deadline is: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018

Apply online at www.bcps.org/offices/omp

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has completed and turned in their volunteer paperwork! If you are interested in going into a classroom, please email that teacher directly. If you would like to help in the cafeteria or other area of the building, please contact me.

Mentor Program:

We will be continuing our Cross Peer Mentoring Program with Catonsville Middle School. Select 4th and 5th graders work with select Middle School students once a week. The overarching goal of the program is to develop leadership skills in students and build positive relationships among elementary and middle school students. The students were selected by our staff and identified through needing an increase in overall self-confidence and an increase in the overall school experience.

Quarter 2 Virtues:

- Understanding
- Responsibility
- Consideration
- Forgiveness
- Honesty

Organization Advice for Parents

Developing good organizational skills is a key ingredient for success in school and in life. Here's a list of strategies that you can use to help your child:

1. Use Checklists
2. Organize homework assignments

3. Designate a study space & time
4. Conduct a weekly clean-up
5. Create a household schedule
6. Prepare for the day ahead
7. Provide needed support while your child is learning to become more organized.

In October we celebrated bullying prevention month and had conversations about what bullying is, how to stop bullying as well as defining and differentiating bullying from peer conflict. Bullying doesn't just occur face-to-face but also can include cyberbullying. We encourage and appreciate your ongoing feedback with regards to conversations you have with your children at home about bullying and/or cyberbullying. This vital communication with parents allows us to follow-up with students and provide strategies to and awareness to our community. This month we received parent concerns/awareness about internet use and social media.

We encourage families to have conversations with children about appropriate websites, internet safety as well as cyberbullying. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for all that you do!

Safety

The front parking lot will be open to visitors daily from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. However during inclement or cold weather, we may block off the front parking lot in order to provide the students another area for their recess. The side parking is still available for parking and there is also parking available in front of the school on Old Frederick Road. If you need assistance getting into the building during the day, please contact the front office at 410-887-1088. Thank you for understanding our need for to safely accommodate our students.

Parent Visitation and Volunteerism

Your child's safety is extremely important to all of us. To ensure the safety of everyone, all visitors coming into the school building must report to the front office to sign-in and obtain a visitor's or volunteer badge, which must be visibly worn throughout the duration of the visit.

Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom at any time. To ensure there is minimal disruption, we ask that parents have a specific room number and staff member to whom they will be reporting. The office staff will check with the identified teacher prior to any visitor or volunteer going to a scheduled appointment. We ask that all visitors and volunteers please wait in the office until the office staff indicates that the staff member is ready for the scheduled appointment. Visitors and volunteers should not walk throughout the school building to "visit" other classes or staff without a prior arranged, specific appointment. At the conclusion of your visit, please report back to the office to sign out. Additionally if you are dropping off a forgotten snack, lunch, assignment, etc. please leave these items in the office. The office staff will get these items to the teacher to give to your child. Thank you again for adhering to this policy and putting instruction and safety first!