

# ♥ Westchester News 2019 ♥

## ♥ February ♥

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| ♥ Tuesday, February 5 <sup>th</sup>                          | PTA Meeting 7:00 pm                         |
| ♥ Thursday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>                         | Report Cards go Home                        |
| ♥ Saturday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>                         | PTA Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's 8:00 am |
| ♥ Thurs., Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Wed., Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup> | MAP Assessments                             |
| ♥ Thursday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>                        | Happy Valentine's Day                       |
| ♥ Monday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>                          | Presidents Day- School Closed               |
| ♥ Thursday, February 21 <sup>st</sup>                        | PTA BINGO Night                             |



## Principal's Message



### Distribution of Report Cards

Report Cards will be distributed on Thursday February 7, 2019. As always, if you desire a conference with your child's teacher, please contact the school at 410.887.1088.

### School Attendance

We appreciate the effort that Westchester families are making in getting their children to school on time. It is very important that children start their day at school in a calm and relaxed manner so that they can gain maximum benefit from the instructional program. Thanks for your continued cooperation as we work toward making certain that all students arrive to school on time.

### It's almost time for the 2018-2019 BCPS Stakeholder Survey!

Last year, BCPS heard from thousands of parents, community members, and staff. While we're happy to hear from so many of you, we're still missing some voices.

Your voice matters! Your feedback has helped guide school improvement, staff training, office safety, and reorganization planning.

The survey is an easy way to help us improve further.

- It takes about five minutes on a phone, tablet, or computer.
- The survey is now available in 16 languages for students, parents, and community members.

There are different (but related) questions for school-based staff, parents, students, community members, and central office staff. If you are both a BCPS parent and staff member, or if you have children in more than one County school, you are encouraged to take the survey more than once to reflect your different experiences in those different roles or schools.

Please take the survey online from Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org), and encourage others to share their voices.

**Congratulations to Ms. Hebb  
Our 2018-2019 BCPS Teacher of the Year Candidate**

We would like to thank Rachel Hebb (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) for her outstanding contributions every day creating a truly wonderful learning environment for our first graders. She will represent Westchester Elementary extremely well at the County Teacher of the Year Ceremony held this Spring at Carver High School. Great Job Ms. Hebb!!!

# Message to Parents

## Westchester Winter MAP

During the first two weeks of February, Westchester will be conducting our Winter MAP testing in the subjects of Math and Reading. MAP is a computer adaptive tested that students in kindergarten take once a year, students in first and second grade take three times a year and students in third through fifth take two times per year. This assessment measures student growth over time as well as academic knowledge, skills and abilities as compared to grade level standards. MAP testing sessions do not have a time limit and typically last an average of 40 minutes with approximately 40 to 50 questions. Question types vary but can include multimedia presentation, multiple choice, and drag-and-drop, fill in the blank and various others.

At Westchester, we feel it is important for students to set both short term and long term goals. Every student, in grades 1-5, has an individualized growth target that considers their current academic standing as well as projected proficiency. We are encouraging students to use this growth target as a short term goal. In some grades, when appropriate, teachers and students will conference to discuss individual weakness and strengths to support students as they strive to reach their goal. While not every child will meet their individual growth target, it is important that we set these goals and work together to support our students and their efforts.

All students at Westchester work hard and we want to ensure that all success and achievement is celebrated. While MAP is only one assessment, we want to celebrate and encourage students to do their best so students will be able to earn STARS. Students at every grade level will have the opportunity to earn STARS on their testing days. STARS can be earned for reviewing work, taking their time or meeting growth targets to name a few examples. At the end of MAP, students will have the opportunity to redeem their STARS for pencils, erasers, pens etc.

## **Dismissal Changes**

This is a gentle reminder that students should have the same dismissal plan each day. We understand that life requires changes so please follow the steps below if your child will need to change their normal dismissal plan. Send in a note indicating the normal plan, the change and reason. Your child should give the note to his/her teacher. Changes to the bus must be approved to ensure that there are enough seats on the bus. If you are concerned that the note will not find its way to the teacher, please email office staff ([jbaldwin3@bcps.org](mailto:jbaldwin3@bcps.org) and [lfoster3@bcps.org](mailto:lfoster3@bcps.org)) and your child's teacher.

**If a change needs to be made after the school day has started, call the office at 410.887.1088 or email the office only ([jbaldwin3@bcps.org](mailto:jbaldwin3@bcps.org) and [lfoster3@bcps.org](mailto:lfoster3@bcps.org)), we will make sure the message is given to the teacher before dismissal. Please indicate in the email the student's teacher.**

# Counselor's Message

Counselor's Corner Racheal Jones 410-887-1088/ [rjones14@bcps.org](mailto:rjones14@bcps.org)

## **After school talks with your child:**

Instead of asking, "How was your day?" here are questions that may help you learn more about your child's day.

- What made you smile today?
- What made your teacher smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/ showed?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?

## A Message from the Office

- Kindergarten Registration will take place in early March. To be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year a child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2019.

## Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, please listen to local radio or television stations for information about delayed openings or closings. We rely on the media to get this type of information as well. Please do not call the school to find out if we are closed because it may tie up the lines for other calls. Be certain that your child knows where to go in case of an early closing due to bad weather. Information may also be obtained from the Baltimore County Public Schools' website at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org). The status of the system is located immediately above the title bar. It is also possible to receive an email at home or work that will let you know if schools are going to close early due to inclement weather. Go to <http://www.schoolsout.com> then choose the state of MD, go to Baltimore County Public Schools under the "Category: Public Schools" section, and sign up there. We hope this will help you to stay connected to what is happening.

# Where to find Information

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

PTA Website: [www.westchesterespta.org](http://www.westchesterespta.org)

BCPS School Status Information Line - 443-809-5555