

Westchester News

December 2018

Tuesday, December 4 th	PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 6 th	PTA Adult Maker Night
Thursday, December 13 th	Interim Reports go Home
Friday, December 21 st	Winter Solstice
Mon., Dec. 24 th – Tues., Jan 1 st	Winter Break
Wednesday, January 2 nd	School Reopens

Principal's Message

It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents visit during American Education Week. Your feedback is invaluable in our efforts to provide the best possible education for your children. I encourage you to call, email, or stop by to speak with myself or Mrs. Crabb whenever you have a question or concern.

Visiting Classrooms

We are extremely fortunate here at Westchester to have so many volunteers give their time to assist. We also welcome parents to come in and observe their children at work anytime. Please keep in mind when visiting that our teachers have very little time during the instructional day to prepare and have the responsibility of caring for 20 some students at all times. Please be aware that teachers are not able to meet with parents during the day unless prior arrangements have been made (even for a just a few minutes). Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

Reading Specialist Message

Thank you so much to everyone who attended Family Literacy Night...and a SPECIAL thank you to our PTA who donated Scholastic Bucks to ten lucky families! Our students enjoyed the interactions between their parents and their teachers! We hope you've had time to play some of the games with your kids at home 😊

As the year comes to a close, I encourage each of you to sit down and set reading goals with your children. Talk to your children about what it is that they think will help them to foster a love of literacy. Is it reading a certain number of books each month? Is it creating a scrapbook of fun holiday activities? Is it to become a fluent reader? Is it taking time to read a book with/to you? Or is it spending time documenting all of the fun you're having as a family? Whatever it is, set a goal and stick to it!

Have a safe, relaxing and happy holiday! I'm looking forward to hearing all about your fun time together!

Change of Dismissal Plans

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 ljoster3@bcps.org

Counselor's Corner

Racheal Jones

410-887-1088 / rjones14@bcps.org

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.

Quarter 2 Virtues:

- Understanding
- Responsibility
- Consideration
- Forgiveness
- Honesty

Ask your child:

How can you show these virtues?

Who is someone you know that practices this virtue? How do they show this virtue?

Social Media:

We appreciate the parent concerns/awareness about internet use and social media. By bringing this to our attention, we can further our conversations with students about appropriate internet use and cyberbullying. We continue to encourage families to have conversations with children about social media use and internet safety.

December Lesson:

Please see the attached letter regarding December's counseling lesson.

From the Health Suite...

It's not too late to get a flu shot. Flu season will be in full swing soon, and vaccines are fully effective after about two weeks.

Great ways to keep your kids (and family!) healthy this fall and winter:

- *Wash your hands frequently*
- *Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing*
- *Get a good night's sleep*
- *Eat healthy foods to fuel your body and fight off viruses*

A reminder about BCPS policies:

- *Children should be kept home for 24 hours after vomiting or diarrhea.*
- *Children should be fever free (<100.0 F) and not taking fever-reducing medications like ibuprofen or acetaminophen.*

Un recordatorio sobre las políticas de BCPS:

- *Los niños deben quedarse en casa durante 24 horas después de vomitar o tener diarrea.*
- *Los niños deben estar sin fiebre (<100.0 F) y no tomar medicamentos para reducirla como el ibuprofeno o el paracetamol.*

The Health Suite would greatly appreciate donations of the following:

- *girl's long pants, size M-XL.*
- *boy's pants, from S-XL. Sweatpants are great for boys.*

*Angela Herman, RN * School Nurse * [410-887-1091](tel:410-887-1091) * ahorman@bcps.org*

Early Closing Routine

The following information pertains to early closing of school due to inclement weather- both hot and cold. Please retain this information for future reference.

One Hour Early Closing

Student Dismissal- Students, grades Pre K – 12, in all schools will be dismissed one hour earlier than normal. Afternoon Pre K and Kindergarten students will be dismissed with students in grades 1-5 and will travel home on the same buses with these students.

Lunches- Lunches will be served to students as usual

Media Announcements- The following message will be given to Television and Radio Stations: “All Baltimore County Public Schools will close one hour earlier than normal closing time”.

Two Hour Early Closing

Student Dismissal- Students, grades K-12, will be dismissed two hours earlier than normal. There will be no afternoon Pre K.

Lunches- Every effort will be made to serve lunches to all students who would normally eat at school; thus; some adjustment to lunch shift schedules will be necessary.

Media Announcements- The following message will be given to Television and Radio Stations: “All Baltimore County Public Schools will close two hours earlier than normal closing time. There will be no afternoon Pre K.

Three Hour Early Closing

Student Dismissal- Students, grades K-12, in all schools will be dismissed three hours earlier than normal. There will be no afternoon Pre K.

Lunches- Every effort will be made to serve lunches to all students who would normally eat at school; thus; adjustment to lunch shift schedules will be necessary.

Media Announcements- The following message will be given to Television and Radio Stations: “All Baltimore County Public Schools will close two hours earlier than normal closing time. There will be no afternoon Pre K.

Where to Find Information

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

PTA Website: www.westchesterespta.org

Follow us on 

You are invited to follow what is going on here at school by connecting with
Twitter.com/westchesterelem

BCPS School Status Information Line - 443-809-5555