

# ☆☆☆☆ Westchester News 2020 ☆☆☆☆

2300 Old Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228 \* 410-887-1088 \* Phillip Byers, Principal \* Amanda Crabb, Assistant Principal



Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

Students Return to School  
PTA Meeting 7:00 pm in Library  
Advanced Academics Parent Meeting  
at Hillcrest Elementary 7:00 pm  
Winter Concert  
Martin Luther King Day- School Closed  
2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period ends  
School Close at 12:45 pm



## Principal's Message:



As the New Year begins, parents often wonder how they can best help their children to be successful in school. We find that parents partnering with teachers is critical to the success of our students. An easy way to be involved is through monitoring nightly homework as well as ensuring your child has a book at home to read for fun. Classroom teachers would welcome any specific request for a mid-year Parent/Teacher meeting to discuss how we can do our very best to meet the needs of each of our children here at Westchester.



## Message to Parents



### **Cold Weather Reminders**

As the weather turns colder, please remember to have your child wear hats and gloves as students will continue to have outdoor recess whenever possible as we like to make sure students continue to have lots of physical activity during our winter months. **If you are missing any hats, gloves or coats, please encourage your child to check the lost and found as there are many items already there.**



# Assistant Principal Message

Challenging every child is what Westchester strives for each day. Below are the numerous opportunities provided to children in their elementary school experience that allow for demonstration of multiple skills in multiple settings.

- **Grades K – 5 English Language Arts**

The English Language Arts curriculum allows all students in Grades K-5 access to advanced academic learning experiences through a responsive instruction model. This means throughout the school year, students are flexibly placed in teacher-facilitated instructional groups based upon an assessment of student readiness and need. Three instructional pathways exist for each unit: on-grade level with support, enrichment, and acceleration. The acceleration small group pathway provides advanced academic learning experiences of increased complexity, depth, and abstraction for those students who have the capability or potential to embrace a rigorous learning experience in English Language Arts.

- **Grades K – 3 Mathematics**

Students in BCPS K-3 mathematics are provided with regular opportunities for challenge and build deeper understanding of content through enrichment tasks. All students have access to these enrichment tasks based on teacher assessment of student needs.

- **Grade 4 Mathematics**

The Grade 4 Advanced mathematics curriculum is extended into the Grade 5 learning standards where appropriate. Advanced and high-potential students learn all of the Grade 4 and part of the Grade 5 mathematics standards.

- **Grade 5 Mathematics**

The Grade 5 Advanced mathematics curriculum addresses content aligned with Grade 6 mathematics standards.

However, we do realize there are times when even individualized and enrichment activities are not enough, and we need to dig deeper. As a result, BCPS has a process for identifying students that may qualify for subject or grade level acceleration. The attached flowchart helps explain the process that is used followed by the criteria by which the school-based team basis their recommendation. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mrs. Crabb at [acrabb@bcps.org](mailto:acrabb@bcps.org).



## From our School Nurse...



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



# Counselor's Message



## Counselor's Corner

Racheal Kolstrom & Kelsey Mayfield  
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410-887-1088

## Thank You!

We would like to send a very special THANK YOU to all the families, community members, Trinity United Methodist Church, The Hayden Team, Ten Oaks Home and Westchester staff that helped support **many** our WES families during the holidays.

*Westchester is extremely grateful for your support to our school and community!*

### **Personal Safety Lesson Follow up:**

Personal safety can be an important conversation to have with your child. Discussing the responsibilities of caregivers and the caregiver rules can be beneficial. Caregivers are to keep children **safe** and **healthy** at all time. Caregivers can include parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, coaches, and any other adults that is taking care of them. It can be a great opportunity to talk to your child about who their specific caregivers are and safety plans that are in place.

### **Quarter 2 Virtues:**

With the start of quarter 2, we have added two more virtues to the list:

### **Peacefulness & Responsibility**

*Ask your child:* How can you show these virtues?

### **Parent University:**

Parents & Guardians – be sure to check out BCPS' Parent University through [bcps.org](http://bcps.org) for a myriad of resources, tips and tricks to work with your student in regard to academics and social-emotional topics.



# 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.



## A Message from the Office



- Kindergarten Registration will take place in early April. **To be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year a child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2020.** More information will be provided on the procedures and documents needed in the February newsletter.
- 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](mailto:jbaldwin3@bcps.org) and [lfoster3@bcps.org](mailto:lfoster3@bcps.org)