OCTOBER
12  Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold or Westy Spirit Wear
      1st Grade Field Trip - Irvine Nature Center - Mrs. Robitaille & Mrs. Sirkis
15  Hearing & Vision Retesting
18  Great Shakedown Severe Weather Drill
      1st Grade Field Trip Irvine Nature Center - Mrs. Conklin & Mrs. Ford
      Superintendents Learning and Listening Tour
      West Towson Elementary 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
19  Schools Closed for Students - Systemwide Professional Development Day
22  4th and 5th Grade Pumpkin Run
26  Fall Picture Day
27  PTA Fall Clothes Donation Truck (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
29  KG Field Trip - Farmer Stan
31  2nd Grade Field Trip - Carroll County Farm Museum

A LOOK AHEAD TO NOVEMBER
6   School Closed - Election Day
8   Go West Newsletter Distributed
     Volunteer Training 4:00 p.m. - Please call the school if you will be attending to
     ensure that a computer is available.
9   1st Marking Period Ends - School Close 3 Hours Early
      Spirit Day
12-15 American Education Week
13   PTA Meeting
16   Generations Day
22-23 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

Save the date .... Save the date .... Save the date ....

This year our Generations Day Celebration will be held on Friday, November 16.
Happy fall! As the weather turns cooler and we move through the second month of the school year, the students have adjusted well to their classroom procedures and are working hard to meet their teachers’ high expectations. The teachers and staff have worked hard to become familiar with the children and their learning profiles.

As we pass the midpoint of the first quarter, it is important that families remain informed about their children’s class work, homework, and test performance. I strongly recommend that all families access their children’s gradebooks on BCPS One. This is an effective way to carefully monitor the children’s progress in school. As we head toward the end of the first quarter, it is important that students are completing assignments and handing them in a timely manner. This year, all students in grades one through five will receive a first quarter report card on Thursday, November 26, 2018.

American Education Week is just around the corner, November 12-16, 2018. Celebrate your children’s learning with them by marking your calendars with visitation dates! Please plan to visit your children’s classrooms to observe the many exciting instructional activities in which they are participating. To accommodate our many visitors during the week, we have designated a visitation schedule. The schedule is included in this newsletter to provide parents with time to arrange schedules to include this important event. This year’s Generations Day event has been scheduled for the Friday of American Education Week. For your convenience, you may preregister for American Education Week and for Generations Day. Please see the preregistration form included in this newsletter.

PARCC scores from the May 2018 assessment have been released and the school’s scores are available for review on the Maryland Report Card website, http://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/. The students’ Home Reports were sent to families in September.

Thank you to all who have completed the volunteer application and training process. Please remember that volunteer training must be completed before you can perform any volunteer activity at school, including chaperoning field trips. In addition, thank you to all the families who have joined the West Towson Elementary PTA and participated in this year’s donation fundraiser. A portion of the PTA membership dues and the funds collected through their fundraising efforts help to enrich our students’ academic program and elementary school experience.

### SPECIAL AREA UPDATES

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Our fall season is off to a great start! We recently finished units on Fundamental Movement, Cooperation, and Field games. Currently, we are working on our Flying Disc unit with grades 4th and 5th and Soccer with grades K-3rd. Students in the 4th and 5th grades are learning the basic skills required to play the game Ultimate Frisbee. Primary students and 3rd graders are learning about the most popular sport in the world and the essential skills needed to participate in that sport.

**Race News for 4th and 5th grade parents**

After much consideration, we will be changing our Turkey Trot to a Pumpkin Run this year. Like last year’s Turkey Trot, this race will take place during the school day on October 22. By having it during the school day, more West Towson students have an opportunity to participate in the event. Stay tuned, more information will be delivered to 4th and 5th grade parents as the event gets closer.
NEWS FROM LIBRARY LANE
Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA’s Scholastic Book Fair by purchasing items or volunteering their time! At the end of last year, I encouraged all students to participate in the Baltimore County Public Library Summer Reading Program. Students who participated can bring in their game board to earn a Rita’s Coupons. If students did not participate, but still read at least 5 books, students can turn in a list of the books, with a parent signature to Ms. Gleitsmann to earn a prize. The last day to earn a prize for Summer Reading is October 31, 2018.

Lots of learning has been happening in the library! Check out what your child’s grade is learning:

Kindergarten - Digital Citizenship: This unit will prepare students to be good digital citizens as they use technology in their classrooms outside of the classroom setting.

1st Grade - Digital Citizenship: This unit focuses on topics in beginning digital citizenship, including staying safe, netiquette, and evaluating websites for appropriateness.

2nd Grade - Digital Citizenship: This unit will prepare students to be good digital citizens as they use technology in their classroom’s and outside of the classroom setting.

3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade - Digital Citizenship: This unit will prepare students to be good digital citizens as they use technology in their classrooms and outside of the classroom setting.

Learning does not only happen in the library as students have access to many resources and books at home! Students can access ebooks through West Towson’s Destiny account under the Follett Shelf tab. The students will just need to use their username and password to sign in to Destiny to access the ebooks. Students can also access Baltimore County’s Digital Content, such as the Databases, by logging in to their BCPSOne accounts and clicking on the Digital Content Section. The Databases are a great tool for research and extending learning through books, videos, and other digital resources.

Parents and guardians of students at our school can now get a library card to check out materials from our library! If interested, please return the Parent School Library Card Application at the end of this newsletter to Ms. Gleitsmann. More information will be sent home about library hours for parents! *Even if you completed a form and had an account during the 2017-2018 school year, a new form will need to be filled out.*

The library is always looking for volunteers! If you have time during the day and would like to volunteer in the library, please email me at egleitsmann@bcps.org. You can also sign up by using SignUp Genius and searching for my email address under “Find a Sign Up.”

Don’t forget to follow us on Twitter @WTESLibrary or Instagram @wteslibrary to see all the wonderful things that are happening in the library!

Ms. Gleitsmann teaches over 500 students weekly in the library. Check out the Library’s Amazon Wishlist for Makerspace items (Duct Tape, origami paper, etc.) and other library items (Clorox wipes, bookmarks, pencils, etc.). New this year is a wishlist for Birthday Books, that parents can donate in honor of their child’s birthday. A nameplate will be placed inside the book and your child will be the first to check out the book. (Please notify Ms. Gleitsmann of any purchase that you might for additional details)
Check out the Library’s Amazon Wishlists here:
Makerspace: http://a.co/7emysip
Library Materials/Rewards: http://a.co/6g0YURm
Birthday Books: http://a.co/3Nkzw5g

**DANCING DAYS WITH MRS. KUEBLER AND MS. PETROZIELLO**

Hello Dancing Westies! Make certain to always be aware of your kinesphere! We’ve done numerous kinesphere dances in first and second grades. Ask your children about the kinetic arm slinkies! Second graders also completed Human Spirographs and viewed dances with cyr wheels and German wheels.

Third graders continued their dancing around the world with visits to Haiti, Europe, Japan, and the Silk Road in Asia. Have you seen the fan your child brought home from the Japanese Fan Dance? Ask them about the Silk Road Dance too. We observed different formations and actions to construct our own dances. 3rd graders also danced with globes to solidify their geographical knowledge of our planet earth. This is a great family challenge too. Look at maps together and discover the locations of some new places. What languages do they speak, what songs do they sing, and what dances do they do? Time for some research!

Kindergarten students explored *Lines That Wiggle* with pool noodles and then danced an adventure with *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. Kindergarten continues to make connections with interlocking shapes and shape bags. Can you draw a triangle with your elbow? A square with your foot? Grown up challenge: Can you draw a triangle with one hand and a square with the other?

Fourth graders completed autobiographical and biographical dance phrases. We will continue to explore famous dancers and dances throughout the year. Look and listen for Josephine Baker coming up next.

Our last dancing day with Ms. Petroziello is October 18th. She has enjoyed being a Westy and now moves to Broadneck High School. We wish her well as she finishes her BFA requirements at Towson University and prepares for her final reverence in undergraduate studies.

Get ready for the Skeleton Dance at the end of October!

**SCHOOL PICTURES**

Irvin Simon will be at West Towson Elementary School on Friday, October 26. School picture information and payment envelopes were sent home with students this week. The fall pictures will be returned in time for the holidays for those individuals who wish to give them as gifts.

**SAVE THE DATE!! SAVE THE DATE!! SAVE THE DATE!! CELEBRATING AMERICA**

This year our Generations Day Celebration will be held on Friday, November 16, from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. We will have a morning session for grandparents and special friends to visit classrooms, view and participate in a dance performance for K-3 students, and enjoy spending some time with their grandchildren. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to this special day. Remember grandparents and special friends may not eat lunch with the children in the cafeteria due to space limitations. Please send in the pre-registration form attached to the newsletter so you can avoid the lines on our special day!
WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY IS A 2018 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL
October 1, 2018
Press Release from the U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Education Announces 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos today recognized 349 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2018. The recognition is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

“I’m pleased to celebrate with you as your school is named a National Blue Ribbon School,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. “We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives. Congratulations on your students’ accomplishments and for your extraordinary commitment to meeting their unique needs.”

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

Now in its 36th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed recognition on more than 8,800 schools. On November 7-8, the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with 300 public and 49 private school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

All schools are honored in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

• **Exemplary High Performing Schools** are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
• **Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools** are among their state’s highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students over the past five years.

**WATER BOTTLES**
Students are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to school each day. Water is available throughout the school, so students may easily refill their bottles. Water has many health benefits and staying hydrated is good for the brain and learning. Cone cups are available at the water coolers, but students lose instructional time when they leave the classroom for drinks. Our school is a Maryland Green School and using refillable water bottles produces less waste than using paper cups.

**OFFICER KRATZ, SRO (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER)**
West Towson welcomes Officer Kratz to our school community. A member of the Baltimore County Police Department, he is currently serving several elementary schools in the Towson area. During the first several months of the school year, Officer Kratz is learning about the school, meeting the students, and working with the administration and staff to improve the school’s safety plan and procedures. When available, he participates in the school safety drills.

**EMERGENCY/UNEXPECTED CLOSINGS (SYSTEM WIDE OR WEST TOWSON ONLY)**
When there is an unplanned system-wide or school-only early dismissal your child will follow the procedures you have provided on the *Annual Student Information Review Form*. If your children attend Play Centers they will follow the dismissal procedures you shared with the Play Centers staff. Those procedures will be shared with the school staff. Please review emergency closing procedures throughout the year with your children.
CHANGING FROM AIR CONDITIONING TO HEATING
To prepare for the winter season, the Department of Physical Facilities will be converting schools from cooling to heating beginning Monday, October 22, 2018. It is necessary for the Department of Physical Facilities to shut down the cooling system because, unlike residential systems, most school mechanical systems cannot automatically switch from cooling to heating. Every effort will be made to ensure that the semi-annual changeover takes place with as little inconvenience as possible.

IMPORTANT MESSENGER (FORMERLY CONNECT ED) PROCEDURES
In past years, as a part of BCPS Rule 5120 (Students: Enrollment and Attendance), unless the parent or guardian of an absent student notified the school by 10:00 a.m., via email, note, or phone call, of their child’s absence, an automated phone call would be sent to the parent of the absent child at 10:00 a.m. each day. As an enhancement for safety and security, **EVEN IF PARENTS NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OF THEIR CHILD’S ABSENCE, THEY STILL WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATED PHONE CALL FROM BCPS AT 10:00 AM ON THE DAY THEIR CHILD IS ABSENT.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at 410-887-3869.

MAGNET APPLICATION INFORMATION
Baltimore County Public Schools provide educational choices to parents of students with different interests, talents, and aptitudes, in an environment that enhances students’ educational success.

The application cycle for the 2019-2020 school year will end on Friday, November 16, 2018. Paper applications postmarked or received without a legible postmark after the November 16, 2018 deadline will not be processed. Magnet applications can be obtained and completed online at [www.bcps.org/offices/omp/](http://www.bcps.org/offices/omp/).

DO YOU WANT TO TWEET
Hey Westies, are you aware that West Towson has a Twitter page? Check out all the awesome things that are happening around the school by following @WestTowsonES on Twitter.

FLU SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER
Flu season will soon be upon us and it is important that we work together to keep our children healthy. Viruses spread easily among children in schools, and families with school-age children have more infections than others, with an average of one-third of these family members infected each year. By keeping our children flu-free, we benefit the community as a whole.

You can help prevent the spread of flu or help your child get better if he/she does get sick by following a few simple steps:

- If possible, you and your child should get a flu shot.
- Remind your child to cover his/her nose and mouth with a tissue, when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue immediately.
- Have your child wash his/her hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and shared items at least once a day.
- Ensure that bathrooms are stocked with soap, hand towels, and tissues.
- Teach your child not to touch his/her mouth, nose, and eyes.
- If your child is sick and has a fever, keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of illness to others.
- Before students return to school, they must be fever free for at least 24 hours.
If you are concerned about your child’s flu symptoms, call your doctor early. Call your doctor immediately if your child has a chronic disease. Common symptoms of flu include high fever, severe headache, muscle and body aches, exhaustion, and dry cough. Additionally, children often exhibit other flu symptoms that are rare in adults, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Some children might benefit from an antiviral medication, which can be prescribed by a physician and can help lessen duration of the virus and reduce the risk of complications, such as pneumonia. To be effective, antiviral medication should be taken within 12-48 hours after flu symptoms begin.

PRIVATE SCHOOL REQUEST FOR RECORDS
Occasionally, West Towson Elementary School receives requests from parents to send their child’s records to private educational institutions for consideration of placement. As per Board Rule 5230, Student Records, this request must be received in writing along with a signed copy of the BCPS Consent for Release of Records form to release any information to another school or educational institution. Transcript requests are processed on a first come, first served basis. All requests will be processed within 15 business days after receipt of the completed form and payment in the amount of $5.00. Please do not send these requests to your child’s homeroom teacher. Instead, please send all requests to the main office to be processed.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS
During the 2018 - 2019 school year, would you like to... chaperone a field trip, attend a class party, be a mystery reader, serve as a room parent, or a classroom/school volunteer? In order to interact with West Towson students during the school day (in any capacity) you MUST do the following...

- Complete the online volunteer training found at www.bcps.org under the “Parents” tab and then http://bcpsvolunteers.md.safeschools.com/login
- Print the volunteer training certificate AND the BCPS application
- Attach BOTH documents (volunteer training certificate and application) together and deliver BOTH documents (volunteer training certificate and application) to the front office (**48 hours prior to in-school volunteering and 30 days prior to chaperoning field trips)

West Towson Elementary School also offers volunteers the choice of coming to the school to be volunteer trained. If you wish to attend a volunteer training session, the 2018-2019 training dates are listed below. Each session will take approximately 30 to 40 minutes. To ensure that everyone attending has a working computer, please email Mrs. Ruocco, Volunteer Coordinator, at eruocco@bcps.org to reserve your spot. Mrs. Ruocco is also available to answer any questions that you may have concerning the volunteer process.

- November 8, at 4:00 PM
- December 4, at 1:00 PM
- January 8, at 9:30 AM
- February 14, at 1:00 PM
- March 15, at 9:30 AM
- April 8, at 1:00 PM

Thank you for your support and cooperation in keeping our Westies safe!
Please plan to visit classrooms during American Education Week. Come to see why West Towson is such a great place for children to learn.

➢ To make this day special for your school aged child, please make other arrangements for younger siblings while you visit classrooms.

➢ Parents may not join their children for lunch on the visitation days as there is no room in our cafeteria for visitors.

➢ Shuttle bus service will be available each morning beginning at 9:35 a.m. at the E building located at the lower parking lot of the Greenwood campus. Shuttle bus service will run between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. There will be no afternoon shuttle service, as Baltimore County Public School buses need to be available at 1:30 p.m. to begin picking up high school and middle school students.
As you are most likely aware, all visitors to West Towson Elementary School must follow the BCPS screening procedures. These procedures require that visitors provide the office with a government issued photo ID for scanning. To facilitate this process efficiently on November 12-15, we are offering a pre-screening process for those visitors who have previously had their photo ID scanned at West Towson and have completed and returned the pre-registration form (also enclosed). Those visitors who have pre-registered will not be required to go through the scanning process in the school office. If visitors meet both requirements, their badges will be printed and waiting for them in the school lobby on the mornings November 12-15. Visitors who do not pre-register will be required to go through the screening process in the office which often involves long lines and a lengthy wait. All visitors are encouraged to pre-register to avoid missing part of the American Education Week and Generations Day.

If you are planning to pre-register, we ask that you do so by Monday, November 5, 2018, using the name on the government issued photo identification that you previously provided to the office for screening. To ensure that the office receives the forms, it is recommended that the completed forms may be mailed to school, dropped off in the office, or faxed to West Towson Elementary School at 410-887-8036. Forms received after Monday, November 6, may not be processed in time for American Education Week and Generations Day.

Again, to have a pre-printed badge ready for you during your American Education Week and Generations Day visit you must:

1. Have had your government issued photo ID previously scanned for approval at West Towson Elementary School.
2. Have completed the pre-registration form with the name that matches the name on the above ID and ensured that the form has been received by the school office by November 5.

If you should have any questions, please call the school office at 410-887-3869. We look forward to your visit during American Education Week.
American Education Week and Generations Day
2018-2019 Visitor Pre-Registration Procedures

Please make sure that you provide the legal name that is included on the government issued photo identification that you previously provided to West Towson Elementary School. Otherwise, we will not be able to locate your name in the Raptor system and will be unable to pre-print a badge for you.

### American Education Week Visitation
**November 12 – 15**

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### Generations Day Visitation
**Friday, November 16, 2018**

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THE WTES PTA NEEDS YOU!

PTA-SPONSORED PROGRAMS:

- JA BizTown
- Spirit Wear
- Online School Directory
- Environmental Programs
- Agenda Books
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Patriots & Defenders
- 5th Grade Celebration
- Free Yearbooks for 5th Grade
- Family Socials
- Generations Day
- Assemblies
- Author Visits
- ZooMobile
- Taste-Off
- Health & Wellness

Rather than asking you to sell chocolates or wrapping paper, we'd love for you to spend that time with your child and make a monetary donation to the PTA instead. With everyone's participation, we can continue to offer these great programs to all the children in our school.

Please have every adult in your household join the PTA, and consider making a suggested donation of $40/child to the WTES PTA via our brand new website (credit card donations accepted via Paypal!). Visit us at:

www.wtespta.org

Join the PTA Today! Make a Donation!
WTES PTA Website - How to Register
www.wtespta.org

Step 1 - Click Register/Login

Step 2 - Create Account

Step 3 - Verify Email and Login

Step 4 - Add Family Information

Step 5 - Select Directory & Publish Preferences

Step 6 - Consider Joining the PTA!
BCPS Central Area Education Advisory Council
Community Meeting

Operating and Capital Pre-Budget Hearing
&
Roundtable Discussion

WHAT? The BCPS Central Area Education Advisory Council (CAEAC) serves to inform and advise the BCPS Board of Education of community concerns and issues. Information that the CAEAC provides to the Board comes directly from you—the parents and community members the CAEAC represents.

There are two agenda topics for this meeting:

1) Pre-Budget Hearing: Members of the public are given an opportunity to speak about budgetary issues that are of concern to them. You can provide written and verbal testimony that will be forwarded to the BCPS Board and appropriate school system official(s).

2) Roundtable Discussion: In addition to budgetary concerns, we also want to discuss any other issues or concerns you have. We would also like your input on future meeting topics and guest speakers you would be interested in hearing from.

WHEN? Wednesday, October 10th, 2018
7pm - 9pm

WHERE? Dumbarton Middle School (in the auditorium)
300 Dumbarton Rd, Baltimore, MD 21212

WHO? All BCPS stakeholders are invited to attend. This includes parents, teachers, students, staff, and community members.

QUESTIONS? Contact Aimee Freeman
Email: contactcaeac@gmail.com