OCTOBER
8  PTA Planning Meeting is Cancelled
11  Spirit Day – Wear Your Blue and Gold or Westy Spirit Wear
14  Field Trip – KG-Farmer St.
16  Columbus Day (Observed)
18  Schools Closed for Students

JANUARY
8-31  Access for ELLs Testing Window
16  Go West Newsletter Distributed (this replaces the January 9, date)
16  Volunteer Training Opportunity - 9:30 AM - Please contact the school to ensure that a computer is available.
17  2nd Grade Field Trip – Walter’s Art Museum
20  School Closed - DR. MLK Jr. Birthday
24  Second Marking Period Ends – Schools Dismissed 3 Hours Early.
   WTES dismisses at 12:40 PM.

A LOOK AHEAD TO FEBRUARY
3-28  Winter MAP Testing
4  All BCPS Schools Closed for the Special 7th Congressional District Election
   (Please note that this is a change to the 2019-2020 BCPS Calendar)
6  Report Cards Distributed
7  Spirit Day - Wear Your Westy Spirit Wear of Blue and Gold
11  PTA Planning Meeting - 6:30 PM - Library
13  Go West Newsletter Distributed
17  All BCPS Schools Will Be Open
   (Please note that this is a change to the 2019-2020 BCPS Calendar)
20  Volunteer Training Opportunity - 9:30 AM - Please contact the school to ensure that a computer is available.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
CHANGES ANNOUNCED TO BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CALENDAR FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR
SCHOOLS AND OFFICES TO BE CLOSED ON FEBRUARY 4,
AND OPEN ON PRESIDENTS’ DAY, FEBRUARY 17.

TOWSON, MD. - All Baltimore County public schools and offices will be closed on Tuesday, February 4, for the special 7th congressional district election to fill the remainder of the term in the United States House of Representatives, created by the death of Elijah Cummings, the incumbent representative. This closure will shift the last day of classes for students from Friday, June 19 to Monday, June 22.

In addition, pending Maryland State Board of Education approval, Baltimore County public schools and offices will be open on Presidents’ Day, Monday, February 17, to make up for the school system’s emergency closure of schools on December 16, 2019. This change is in accordance with the 2019-2020 school calendar and the planned use of emergency closure make-up days.

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and winter break, enjoying the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Many thanks to our school community for the many acts of kindness provided to the teachers and staff before the Christmas break. These good wishes were appreciated.

As you face the next several months of cold weather and the possibility of winter storms, please talk with your children about your plans for them in the event of an early school closing. West Towson will follow the dismissal plans that you provided on the Emergency Closing form when schools need to close early for weather-related issues. The children should know how they are getting home and who will be there to receive them. When schools close early, Play Centers, our after-school program, closes as well. Students participating in Play Centers should also be clear about their alternate dismissal plans.

The midpoint of the 2019-2020 school year is quickly approaching, as January 24, marks the end of the second marking period. All students will receive their second quarter report cards on February 6. The months between winter break and spring break provide the longest uninterrupted time for instruction during the school year. Please continue to monitor your children’s attendance, check their homework, review their classroom performance, assist them to study for tests, and reinforce their positive behavior. BCPS One is available 24/7 for you to monitor your children’s progress in school. The faculty, staff, and administration are working together to ensure that your children progress and grow to reach rigorous goals.

Every year, families are asked to take the BCPS Stakeholder Survey. Last year, BCPS used your responses to shape the budget, staffing, and programs. West Towson used your responses to identify specific areas of need and draft key actions for our School Progress Plan. Once again, we need your voice. The survey only takes about five minutes or less, is anonymous, and is available in 16 languages for students, parents,
and community members. The survey is available at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org) from January 27, through March 1. Your voice matters!

**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.

**GIVING BACK AT WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY**

This fall students at West Towson Elementary have been giving back to their community in many ways. After Halloween, the WTES Character Crew sponsored a candy-drive to collect candy for “Operation Gratitude”. Students at West Towson collected over 400 pounds of candy to send to our Troops! Students in Mrs. De Felice’s 5th grade class collected the most candy and won a $300 scholarship as a prize.

The students brainstormed many ways they wanted to spend their scholarship money and ideas to give back were at the top of the list. The students ultimately decided to participate in Loyola Blakefield’s “Adopt-a-Family” program. The students thoughtfully picked out gifts and they carefully wrapped each gift. We are so proud of these Westies for using their prize money to brighten the holidays of others!

**WEATHER RELATED INFORMATION**

Winter is just around the corner! As the weather turns cold we face the possibility of early closings or delayed school openings due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Families may not realize that West Towson’s administration does not have the authority to delay the school’s opening or to close the school early. These decisions are made by Baltimore County Public School officials. In fact, the school may not hear the official decision to close schools early until after the message has been announced through the media.

To ensure that you and your children are well prepared for the possibility of early closings, it is important that you plan carefully and keep the school informed of any changes in contact information. Discuss your emergency plans with your children so they clearly understand where they will go and
how they will get there when schools closes early. This year, we hope to use email to communicate early closing information with parents. As a result, it is important that you ensure that the school office has a current email address.

West Towson has only two phone lines to use during emergency closings which limit the number of families we are able to reach by school phones. Please avoid calling the school while we are preparing for an early dismissal, unless you are facing an emergency. Information regarding early closures and delayed openings can be found on the Baltimore County Public Schools website, www.bcps.org, or by calling 410-887-5555. In addition, parents may register at www.wbal.com or www.schoolsout.com to receive an email or a text message when schools close early. Just a reminder that when school closes early, all after school activities are cancelled. This includes special activities and Parks and Recreation programs. In addition, Play Centers does not accept students when school closes early. Please be sure that your emergency plans do not include having your children report to Play Centers. Below are West Towson adjusted opening and closing times.

1 Hour Late - WTES Opens at 10:05 A.M.
2 Hours Late - WTES Opens at 11:05 A.M.
1 Hour Early - WTES Closes at 2:50 P.M.
2 Hour Early - WTES Closes at 1:50 P.M.
3 Hour Early - WTES Closes at 12:50 P.M.

**WINTER WEATHER & RECESS**

At West Towson, the administration and teachers believe that it is important that children have time to play outside whenever possible, even when the weather turns cold. Please dress your children for the weather, sending them to school with coats, hats, gloves, and scarves during the cold, winter months.

**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.

**FROM THE FRONT OFFICE**

Just a reminder - If any of your contact information should happen to change during the school year such as cell phone, home address, etc., please call the front office at 410-887-3869 so our records can be updated. It is very important that we be able to contact you in case of an emergency. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS**

During the 2019 - 2020 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 2019-2020 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, School Counselor, 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.

January 16, at 9:30 AM  
February 20, at 1:00 PM  
March 18, at 9:30 AM  
April 17, at 2:30 PM

Thank you for your support and cooperation in keeping Westies safe!

**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.

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.
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Martinez Outeda, Ruben
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Millis, Frederick
Mills, Grace
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Montcalmo, Juliet
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Morris, Avery
Mroz, Sophia
Neupane, Anwesh
Nolan-Anderson, Kennedy
Olapeju, Oluwaseun
Olson, Anita
Orendorff, Kelsey
Oster, Caroline
Oster, Madeline
Oswianny, Luke
Oswianny, Peter
Ozsoy, Asiye
Ozsoy, Mesut
Pack, Royale
Parks, Oskar
Pazourek, Ethan
Peck, Sawyer
Pelatti, Arabella
Phillips, Kaiton
Phillips-Coons, Rhys
Pierson, Caroline
Pilsbury, Owen
Pittman, Nicholas
Powell, Alexandra
Powell, Elijah
Powell, Emilia
Prendeville, Jack
Prendeville, Patricia
Puyana, Martin
Quinn, Collins
Ramsey, Alek
Rand, Eleanor
# January 2020 Calendar of Events

## Teens

**3D Printer Training**  
**All ages**  
Let’s build things together! During this librarian-guided training, learn the basics of how 3D printing works and become certified to use a branch 3D printer independently. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).  
Jan 13  
Mon  
6:00 PM

## Adults

**Zentangle®**  
**Adult**  
Learn a new way to relax by creating works of art using the Zentangle® Method. Zentangle® uses structured doodling called “tangling.” This can calm and reduce stress, improve focus and build self-confidence. Becky Boynton, a certified Zentangle® teacher, demonstrates step-by-step how to use simple patterns and shapes like lines and circles to create your own work. No art experience necessary. All supplies provided.  
Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.  
Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).  
Jan 8  
Wed  
7:00 PM

**Social Media Primer**  
**Adult**  
Learn about Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest and Goodreads and the differences between them. Familiarity with keyboard and mouse required. Experience with computers strongly encouraged. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).  
Jan 23  
Thu  
2:00 PM

**LGBTQ+ Teen Meet-Up**  
**Teen**  
Middle school- and high school-aged members of the LGBTQ+ community are welcome to join us for discussion, socializing and engaging DIY activities. Snacks provided.  
Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.  
Jan 21  
Tue  
7:00 PM

**E-Reader Primer**  
**Adult**  
Start reading, listening or watching instantly with e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and streaming movies! An e-reader app is required for downloading to your personal device. Please bring your personal device to the class. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).  
Jan 9  
Thu  
2:00 PM

**3D Printer Training**  
**All ages**  
Let’s build things together! During this librarian-guided training, learn the basics of how 3D printing works and become certified to use a branch 3D printer independently. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).  
Jan 13  
Mon  
6:00 PM

## Towson Book Club

**Roady, Set, Go! The Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business**  
**Adult**  
A workshop designed for small businesses in the planning phase of building a company. Featured topics include registering a business name, filing your business as a legal entity, marketing and advertising strategies, charging and reporting retail sales tax, creating a business plan, zoning guidelines and business licensing.  
Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).  
Jan 14  
Tue  
6:00 PM

**Veterans Book Group**  
**All ages**  
Join us as we discuss A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith. Led by independent scholar Dr. Karen Arnold, this book group is open to current service members and veterans from all eras. Participants should plan to attend all five sessions. Dinner provided. Required registration begins on December 9, 2019 and ends February 24, 2020. Veterans Book Group is coordinated statewide by Maryland Humanities and presented locally in partnership with Baltimore County Public Library, supported in part by the citizens of Baltimore County, via a grant received from the Baltimore County Commission on the Arts & Sciences. Contact the branch at 410-887-9140 to register.  
Jan 27  
Mon  
6:00 PM

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**Towson Branch**  
**320 York Road**  
**410-887-6166**

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All branches will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for New Year’s Day.
For students in Grades 3-12, and all parents, staff, and community members

Your feedback guides our budget, staffing, and programs

Take the survey at www.bcps.org

- Only takes 5 minutes
- Use any computer, device, or phone
- 16 languages available for students, parents, and community