OCTOBER
8
PTA Planning Meeting is Cancelled
11
Spirit Day – Wear Your Blue and Gold or Westy Spirit
14
Field Trip
19
Columbus Day (Observed)

NOVEMBER
8
School Closed for Students
18-21
American Education Week
19
Field Trip Grade 3 - Goucher College
21
Report Cards Distributed
22
Conference Day - School Closed for Students
26
In School Assembly
27
Generation Day Program - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
28-29
Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

A LOOK AHEAD TO DECEMBER
3
Volunteer Training - 1:00 PM (Please call the school to ensure that a computer is available)
5
Fifth Grade Orientation - Dumbarton
6
FT 2nd Grade - Towson University
10
PTA Meeting - 6:30 PM - Library
12
Winter Concert Day - 2:00 PM
Winter Concert Evening - 7:00 PM - Multipurpose Room (4th & 5th Grade Vocal and Instrumental Music)
13
Spirit Day
Interims Distributed
20
Winter Break begins at of the School Day
21-31
School Closed - Winter Break

A LOOK AHEAD TO JANUARY
2
School Reopens - Students and Staff Return
The school year is flying by with the first quarter behind us and Thanksgiving right around the corner! American Education is upon us, and I hope all parents will be able to visit classrooms next week to watch their children learn. Wednesday, November 27, is Generations’ Day, a morning filled with activities for the students and their special guests.

Students in grades one through five will receive their first report cards of the school year on Thursday, November 21. The report cards are carefully aligned with the content and standards that your children are learning. The report cards for students in grades one through five will identify your children’s instruction reading levels as above grade level, on grade level, or below grade level. A child’s guided reading level will be noted directly on the report card when he or she is reading below grade level. All West Towson families will receive letters attached to the report cards explaining their children’s guided reading levels regardless of whether the children are reading above, on, or below grade level. These letters will be sent home three times this year for families to monitor their children’s growth. Additional information about the BCPS report cards and kindergarten progress reports can be found on the school system’s website at http://www.bcps.org/academics/grading.

West Towson celebrated BCPS Kindness Matters Week in October. Each day during the week, students and staff wore the color of the day and discussed the target word of the day. West Towson promotes kindness throughout the year, and I am proud of the many examples of kindness that I see as students and adults interact with one another.

- Monday - blue, civility
- Tuesday - green, empathy
- Wednesday - orange, unity
- Thursday - red, respect
- Friday - purple, positivity

All students benefit from a strong home-school connection. Now that the end of the first quarter is behind us and the first set of report cards will soon be distributed, it is an important time for parents and teachers to discuss student progress. Conference Day, scheduled for Friday, November 22, provides an opportunity for parents to come to school to meet with their children’s teachers in a one to one setting. If parents are unable to participate in a parent/teacher conference on Conference Day, they should contact their children’s homeroom teachers to schedule other times to meet. Conferences are an effective way to discuss the children’s progress, strengths, and needs. Conferences also provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to work together to develop plans to help students improve their performance in school. Following the conferences, parents are encouraged to stay in touch with the teachers to discuss the children’s progress and growth throughout the year.

Mr. Carter and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. This holiday gives families an opportunity to be together and to give thanks for their many blessings.
A REQUEST FROM THE OFFICE
When parents send a note to school in their child’s gold as an absence, change in dismissal, or early dismissal no office is requesting that the child’s first and last name, the homeroom teachers name, be written in the corresp The office also requests that this be done on emails that Mrs. Sidou and Mrs. Ford, since parents and students last names are sometimes not the same. The office is receiving a number of notes from families whose children have the same first name. This procedure will allow the office staff to correctly identify the child in question.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

FOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY THE WEST TOWSON STUDENT COUNCIL
Please help support your local community by donating non-perishable food items to the West Towson Elementary School food drive. The drive will be held from Monday, November 18, through Friday, November 22.

The WTES Student Government Association encourages students and visitors to bring their gifts of food with them when they come to visit during American Education Week. Items can be dropped off in the boxes located in the school rotunda. Friday, November 22, elementary conference day, would also be a great opportunity to donate.

Some suggestions would be, canned soup, instant mashed potatoes, canned vegetables, fruits, peanut butter, etc.

Thank you for your assistance.

LIBRARY WISH LIST REQUEST FROM MS. GLEITSMANN
I see 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, which 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 !
(Please notify me of the purchase.)


NEWS FROM THE WTES CHARACTER CREW
If you can donate, the Character Crew needs art supplies, to make items for the classroom’s calm down areas. We are looking for balloons, sand, beads, glitter, etc. Anything that you might have laying around that you would like to get rid of would be appreciated. The Character Crew wants to provide each classroom with calm down materials, that they will make each month.

The Character Crew would like to thank you for your support, as they continue to help all the students at West Towson.
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.

THAT UNPLEASANT SUBJECT, HEAD LICE FROM NURSE VANDERWAL
Even though we are coming into winter, head lice may still be present. It is recommended that you check your child’s hair periodically.

The most common sign of lice is itching of the head. If your child is complaining that his/her head is itching, please examine their head. You should be looking for small white nits that are attached to the shaft of the hair, generally near the scalp. If they don’t flick off, it is most likely a nit. The live lice will run and hide when exposed to light.

The most common way of transmission of head lice is through head to head contact. Please encourage your child to avoid putting their head up against another person’s head, on the bus, at home, or in school. Lice don’t jump or fly, they pass from head to head contact only. Sleepovers, summer camp, and selfies with others are a great way to spread head lice.

If you find either nits or live lice on your child’s head, please look at this website through the CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/. There are several sites on the web that have pictures, treatment advice, and what you can do in the home.

If you do find lice, please contact me so that I may check your child each day for approximately 2 weeks. Your child must be treated prior to returning to school. Baltimore County Public Schools allows children back in to school, if there are only a few nits present. Your child must be seen by the nurse before returning to the classroom or riding the bus.

Combing your child’s hair daily for several weeks after identifying the initial lice infestation is highly recommended. Removal of the nits is the only way to avoid another infestation. I may be contacted at 410-887-8037 or by e-mail at lvanderwal@bcps.org. Thank you for your assistance.

WESTY WALK FUNDS
Some of the funds from the 2019 Westy Walk, have been used to purchase items to enhance the classroom curriculum and staff development for our staff. In addition, items to create safety kits for each room have been purchased. Thank you for your continued support of the annual Westy Walk.

Please save the date as this year’s Westy Walk will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2020.
WEATHER INFORMATION PHONE LINE
With the arrival of cooler weather and the potential for inclement weather, parents may find the weather information phone line helpful. This important resource is provided through Baltimore County Public Schools. To hear the latest information about weather related closing, call 4443-809-5555. Please do not call the school office with questions related to weather or school closings. Parents are also encouraged to sign up for weather relation closing information.

PARKING FOR WEST TOWSON EVENTS
Parking for school events at West Towson can be challenging, especially when events take place during the school day. To support the need for additional parking, Baltimore County Public Schools provides a school bus, at no cost to the school, to transport visitors to and from the Greenwood campus. This service is provided only in the morning as all buses are needed for secondary school routes in the afternoon. This bus delivers visitors directly from the parking lot to the front door of the school. For the return trip, visitors will meet the bus at the front door and return to the designated parking area at Greenwood. To locate the parking lot reserved for West Towson visitors, turn onto Greenwood Road from Charles Street. If you are traveling north on Charles Street, the turn will be on the right. If you are headed south, the turn will be on the left. Once on Greenwood Road, take the first right onto the Greenwood campus and make an immediate left onto the parking lot. This is the parking lot adjacent to Building E. A large blue sign with a banner that reads West Towson Event Parking will indicate the area in which our visitors should park. This is the area where the bus will meet the visitors. Please park in the area near the sign.

SAVE THE DATE for GENERATIONS DAY
This year our Generations Day Celebration will be held on Wednesday, November 27, from 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM. 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.

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.
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.

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, 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.

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.

“Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility”
Please join us for
American Education Week
at West Towson Elementary School
November 18-21, 2019
Classroom Visitation Schedule

<p>| Kindergarten | Wednesday, November 20 | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM |
|              | Wednesday, November 20 | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM |
| Grade 1      | Thursday, November 21  | 9:40 AM - 11:30 PM |
|              | Thursday, November 21  | 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM |
| Grade 2      | Tuesday, November 19   | 9:30 AM - 11:30 PM |
|              | Tuesday, November 19   | 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Morning Session</th>
<th>Afternoon Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 20</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>1:00 PM - 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 20</td>
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<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 19</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 12:15 PM</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Monday, November 18</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 12:20 PM</td>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Monday, November 18</td>
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- 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.

Generations Day
Wednesday, November 27
2019-2020 - Visitor Pre-Registration Procedures
Please RSVP by Friday, November 22, 2019

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 Wednesday, November 27, 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 Wednesday, November 27. Visitors who do not pre-register will be required to go through the screening process in the office which often involves long lines and lengthy waits. 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 Friday, November 22, 2019, 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 Friday, November 22, may not be processed in time for 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 22.

If you should have any questions, please call the school office at 410-887-3869. We look forward to your visit during Generations Day.
Generations Day
Wednesday, November 27
2019-2020 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.

### Generations Day Visitation
Wednesday, November 27

(Please print)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full legal name of each visitor(s)</th>
<th>Student(s) name(s)</th>
<th>Grade(s)</th>
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November 2019 Calendar of Events

Teens
Eclectic Soul Teen Yoga and Meditation
Teen
Yoga and meditation introduces and helps with mindfulness, emotion placement and calmness. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).
Nov 19 Tue 8:00 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.
Nov 19 Tue 7:00 PM

MD Stem Festival: Towson Space Odyssey Adventure
Teen
Uncover the mysteries of space science through fun activities using VR equipment, mini drones, snap circuits and more! Fun for the entire family.
Nov 21 Fri 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).
Nov 6 Wed 7:00 PM

Microsoft PowerPoint for Beginners
Adult
Learn how to create, edit, and present a slideshow containing text and images using Microsoft PowerPoint. Familiarity with keyboard and mouse required: experiment with computers strongly encouraged. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).
Nov 7 Thu 11:00 AM

Internet for Beginners
Adult
Learn about the internet and how to use it. Familiarity with keyboard and mouse required. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).
Nov 13 Wed 2:00 PM

Creative Mandalas
Adult
Join Robin Williams from Inner Harbor Wellness to learn how to create a mandala, a symbol of wholeness and healing used throughout the world as an expressive tool for centering the emotions, mind and body. Create without judgment or expectation as you inspire your inner artist with music, poetry, guided mindfulness practices, nature, and a variety of art materials.
For the curious beginner and experienced explorer. Image by Joan Pingeratore. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).
Nov 14 Thu 2:00 PM

History Book Club
Adult
Join us as we discuss The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West by David McCullough.
Nov 20 Wed 7:00 PM

Book Buzz
Adult
Looking for the next buzzworthy title? Librarians share and discuss the must-read books of the season that you don’t want to miss.
Nov 21 Thu 6:30 PM

Towson Book Club
Adult
Join us as we discuss The Wolves at the Door: the True Story of America’s Greatest Female Spy by Judith L. Pearson.
Nov 21 Thu 7:00 PM

Sleeping Beauty
All ages
Towson University Community Dance weaves storytelling and dance in this interactive dance performance of Sleeping Beauty. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Nov 23 Sat 2:00 PM

LGBTQ+ Book Club
Adult
Join us for a lively discussion of Tin Man by Sarah Winman.
Nov 26 Tue 7:00 PM

Native Storytelling with Dovie Thomason
All ages
Grounded in the oral traditions of her ancestors and sparkling with sly wit and humor, Dovie Thomason inspires delight in the spoken word and respect for traditional Native values. Stories promote courage in the face of adversity, the power of choices and the enduring spirit of inquiry. The asking "Why?" that drives humans to better understand their world. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Nov 30 Sat 2:00 PM

All branches will be closed on Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving
November 2019 Calendar of Events

Children & Families

**Baby Story Time**
Birth to 23 months with adult
Connect with your baby through stories, bounces and songs, followed by a play time. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).
Wed<br>9:30 AM<br>Thu<br>9:30 AM & 10:30 AM<br>Nov 9 & 23 Sat<br>10:30 AM

**Toddler Story Time**
2 to 3 years old with adult
Engage your toddler through stories, rhymes, songs and movement activities, followed by a play time. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).
Fri<br>9:30 AM

**Preschool Story Time**
2 to 5 years old with adult
Interact with your preschooler by enjoying fun stories and songs together.
Fri<br>10:30 AM<br>Nov 2 Sat<br>10:30 AM

**Pajama Story Time**
2 to 5 years old with adult
Put on your PJs and bring your bedtime pal for stories and songs.
Nov 20 Wed<br>6:30 PM

**Sleeping Beauty**
All ages
(See other sides for details)
Nov 23 Sat<br>2:00 PM

**Story Time with Mr. Bob**
2 to 5 years old with adult
Mr. Bob tells stories, sings songs and does various activities based on a special theme.
Nov 12 Tue<br>10:30 AM

**Native Storytelling with Doovie Thomason**
All ages
(See other side for details)
Nov 30 Sat<br>2:00 PM

**Songs and Silliness with Mr. Jon**
Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Join multiple Parents’ Choice Award winners, Mr. Jon, and his silly friend George the Monkey for dancing and a fun interactive musical performance for the entire family.
Nov 16 Sat<br>2 PM

**Bilingual Preschool Story Time/Hora del cuento bilingüe para preescolares**
2 to 5 years old with adult
Enjoy stories and songs with your preschooler in Spanish and English. Relacionese con su preescolar al disfrutar juntos historias y canciones en español y inglés.
Wed<br>10:30 AM

**Saturday Crafternoon**
All ages
Make a craft in our children’s area. Materials provided. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Nov 2: Make a Corn Husk Doll
Nov 16: Make a Crown of Leaves

**Tutor Meet & Greet!**
Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Meet local tutors, learn about library tutoring resources and hear from BCPS Parent University. Tutors cover grades K to 12 in subjects including math, reading, sciences, languages, college prep and more.
Tutors must register by Nov 7 at the Towson Branch, or email towson@bcpl.net. No registration required for all other attendees. Baltimore County Public Library does not endorse or recommend specific tutors.
Nov 14 Thu<br>6:30PM

All branches will be closed on Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving.

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