OCTOBER
15  Rescheduled PTA Planning Meeting - 6:30 - Library
    Please note that this meeting is in place of the October 8, postponed meeting.
19-31  Whittle Equipment - Gymnasium
23  Field Trip - Grade 5 - Bio Blitz Field Trip
    Hearing and Vision Retesting Begins
25  Fall Picture Day
28  Pumpkin Run - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - Outside Fields
29  Pumpkin Run Rain Date - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Outside Fields
    Field Trip - Grade 2 - Carroll County Farm Museum
31  Halloween

A LOOK AHEAD TO NOVEMBER
1-8  Whittle Equipment - Gymnasium
4  Volunteer Training 4:00 p.m. - Please call the school if you will be attending to
    ensure that a computer is available.
8  1st Marking Period Ends - School Close 3 Hours Early for Students
    Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold or Westy Spirit Wear
11  Veteran’s Day
11-15  Grade 5 - Ballroom Dancing - 9:35 AM - 10:25 AM
12  PTA Meeting
14  Go West Newsletter Distributed
18-21  American Education Week
19  Field Trip Grade 3 - Goucher College
21  Report Cards Distributed
22  Conference Day - School Closed for Students
27  Generation Day Program - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
28-29  Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

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

This year our Generations Day Celebration will be held on Wednesday, November 27.
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 focused upon learning. The teachers and staff are providing the students with a comprehensive instructional program to help them make strong progress.

As we pass the midpoint of the first quarter, it is important that families remain informed of their children’s class work, homework, test performance, and attendance. 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 21, 2019.

American Education Week is just around the corner, November 18-21, 2019. Celebrate your children’s learning with them by marking your calendars with visitation dates now! 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 created a visitation schedule. The schedule is included in this newsletter to provide parents with time to arrange schedules to include this important event. For your convenience, you may preregister for American Education Week and for Generations Day.

Thank you to all who have completed the volunteer application and training process. Please remember that volunteer training must be completed before parents 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

LIBRARY NEWS FROM MRS. GLEITSMANN

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 into Destiny to access the ebooks. Students can also access Baltimore County Digital Content, such as the Databases by logging in to their BCPSOne accounts and clicking on the Digital Content Section. The databases are great tools for research and extending learning through books, videos, and other digital resources.
The library is 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!

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 (Chlorox 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 book. (Please notify me of the purchase.)

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

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.

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.

SCHOOL PICTURES
Irvin Simon will be at West Towson Elementary School on Friday, October 25. 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.

NEWS FROM THE CHARACTER CREW
The students and teachers really liked the new glitter bottles that “The Crew” made for classroom calming corners. We are now looking for balloons, dry rice, orbeez, and dry beans. If you have any of these items around your house or in your craft area at home, PLEASE send them in to school to be donated! They can be delivered to Mrs. Ruocco or Miss Berlinger. Thanks again for all your help with donating supplies!
SHOW YOUR WESTY PRIDE DURING WEST TOWSON’S MONTHLY SPIRIT DAYS

Spirit Day is celebrated every month at West Towson Elementary School. Do you need some updated gear? Westy Merchandise is available at the following link, https://westyswalk.com/shop/. Quantities are limited and are being sold on a first come first serve basis. If you have any questions, please contact Todd Unger at Todd@WestysWalk.com.

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.

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 back 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 meets the students, and works 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 21, 2019. 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 2020-2021 school year will end on Friday, November 16, 2019. Paper applications postmarked or received without a legible postmark after the November 15, 2019 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).

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](http://www.bcps.org) under the “Parents” tab and then [http://bcpsvolunteers.md.safeschools.com/login](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.

- November 4, at 4:00 PM
- December 3, at 1:00 PM
- 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 our 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 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.
“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

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 20</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 11:00 AM</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 20</td>
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<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Thursday, November 21</td>
<td>9:40 AM - 11:30 PM</td>
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<td>Thursday, November 21</td>
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<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 19</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 19</td>
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<td>Grade 3</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>
<td>1:15 PM - 3:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Monday, November 18</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 12:20 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday, November 18</td>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:30 PM</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.
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 18-21, 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 18-21. 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.

If you are planning to pre-register, we ask that you do so by Monday, November 11, 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 Monday, November 11, may not be processed in time for American Education Week.

Again, to have a pre-printed badge ready for you during your American Education Week 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 11.

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.
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.

<table>
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<th>American Education Week Visitation</th>
<th>November 18 – 21</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full legal name of each visitor(s)</td>
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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 Visitation
Wednesday, November 27
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<th>Full legal name of each visitor(s)</th>
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The deadline has been extended.
All orders will be delivered to the school by November 15th
QUESTIONS? Please contact Todd Unger at Todd@WestysWalk.com
All proceeds benefit the Education Foundation for Baltimore County Public Schools / West Towson Elementary School
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

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!