

# WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY



Jason Barnett, Principal  
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## Go West Newsletter November 2023



### NOVEMBER

- 8 WTES Spirit Day - Favorite Color Day - Wear It from Your Head to Toe
- 6-10 Ballroom Dance Program - Grade 4 and 5
- 10 Individuals Fall Picture Day
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 13 Systemwide Professional Development Day - **School Closed for Students** - Teachers on Duty - Diwali Observed. Play Centers will operate from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- 14 Report Cards Distributed
- 14-17 American Education Week (Grade Level Schedule is Attached)
- 16 Central Area Elementary School Capacity Relief Boundary Study Public Information Session 2 - Loch Raven High School - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- 17 Generations Day  
WTES Spirit Day - Wear You Blue and Gold
- 20 Pre-Kindergarten Conference Day - **No School for Pre-Kindergarten Students**
- 21 Elementary Conference Day - **Schools Closed for all Elementary Students**  
Play Centers will operate from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM.
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday - School and Offices Closed



### A LOOK AHEAD TO DECEMBER

- 8 Fall Picture Day - Retakes
- 14 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert 2:05 PM
- 14 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert 7:05 PM
- 15 WTES Spirit Day - Wear You Blue and Gold
- 18- Jan 19 Table Tennis - During Gym Class
- 18 SGA - 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Mrs. Pfeffer's Room
- 20 Pajama Day
- 22 Christmas Holiday/Winter Break - Begins at the End of the School Day and Offices Close 3 hours Early



We are living in very difficult and challenging times, but there is always, always, always, something to be thankful for. The faculty and staff at West Towson Elementary School, is thankful for the continuing support that you provide to our school, staff, and students. Our wish is that you and your family have a magical Thanksgiving filled with abundant blessings.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

**JASON BARNETT**

November is a busy month at West Towson! Schools are closed for all students on Tuesday, November 21st for Elementary Conference Day. Students in grades 1-5 will receive their first quarter report cards on November 14th prior to conference day. Please plan to meet with your child's teacher during this month to have a strong understanding of their progress. A special thank you to all that participated in our toiletry drive! We were able to give Millbrook Elementary School over 700 items for their pantry. This was a very successful drive, and we hope to continue to partner with them throughout the year.

American Education Week is November 14th through the 17th. We are excited to welcome families in-person to join schools across the nation and celebrate our public-school communities. Baltimore County Public Schools celebrates American Education Week 2023 (November 14 - 17). This year's theme is Together for Safe, Just and Equitable Schools. Each grade level has established classroom visitation times (see the schedule in this newsletter) during the week for parents to see the amazing activities happening in our classrooms. West Towson Elementary will also host Generations Day, on Friday November 17, from 9:45 AM - 11:30 AM. This exciting day has been set aside for grandparents and or special adults, to see the top-notch instruction that takes place at West Towson Elementary School.

All students benefit from a strong home-school connection. Now that we have reached the end of quarter one, it is an important time for parents and teachers to discuss student progress. Conference Day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21. This day provides a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet with their child's teacher(s) in a one-to-one setting. If parents are unable to participate in a conference on that day, they should contact their children's homeroom teacher to schedule another time to meet. Conferences are an effective way to review children's progress, strengths, and needs. These meetings also provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to work together to develop plans to help students improve their academic performance in school. Following conferences, parents are encouraged to stay in touch with the teachers to discuss ongoing progress and growth throughout the school year.

Finally, as we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, Mr. Carter and I are reminded how thankful we are to be here at West Towson working with your children, your families, and this wonderful staff. This is a great place to work, and we thank you for sending such terrific students to us! This holiday gives families an opportunity to be together and to give thanks for their many blessings.

### 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.



### 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.

### ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

During the 2023 - 2024 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** be volunteer trained.



Each year parents are asked to complete volunteer training. Please be proactive and complete these forms as soon as possible. Volunteer training can be accessed online at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org) under the 'Community' tab and is titled 'Volunteers'. All volunteers must complete the volunteer application **AND** participate in an orientation/training session annually. You will be provided with a certificate once you successfully complete the training. **Please submit the volunteer application and the valid training certificate to West Towson's Front Office Secretary, Athena Sidou.** These may be submitted by hard copy or electronically to [asidou@bcps.org](mailto:asidou@bcps.org). Thank you for your willingness to help

### AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

American Education Week will be held at West Towson Elementary from November 14 - 17. Your child's visitation date and times are listed below. Generations Day has been set aside for our senior special adults and grandparents and will be held on Friday, November 17, from 9:45 AM - 11:30 PM. This year's theme is "Together for Safe, Just & Equitable Schools."

Pre-KG	Thursday, November 16	9:30 AM - 11:00 AM 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM
Kindergarten	Tuesday, November 14	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Grade 1	Wednesday, November 15	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Grade 2	Tuesday, November 14	12:10 PM - 3:55 PM

Grade 3 Tuesday, November 14 9:30 AM - 12:15 AM

Grade 4 Thursday, November 16 9:30 AM - 11:55 AM

Grade 5 Wednesday, November 15 12:40 PM - 3:55 PM

Generation Day  
A Day for  
Grandparents and  
Special Adults Friday, November 17 9:45 AM - 11:30 AM

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.**

Visitors who do not pre-register will be required to go through the screening process in the main office which often sometimes involves lines and lengthy waits. **If you sent in a pre-registration form but did not come to WTES to have your government ID scanned, you are not pre-registered.**

### **JUST A FEW AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK REMINDERS**

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

Observe and enjoy your children.

Pictures or videos **MAY NOT** be taken. As much as it might be tempting, it is distracting for the students and some of our students are not able to be photographed.

If you must take a call or have a conversation, please step out of the classroom and into the rotunda

Please make sure that you have your cell phone in silence mode.

Parents, grandparents, and special adults may not join their children for lunch as there is no room in our cafeteria for visitors.

There is **NO SMOKING** allowed on Baltimore County Public Schools property.

Please do not take food and drinks from the refreshment table into the classrooms.

**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. The 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.**

All visitors must follow the BCPS screening procedures to gain entrance to the school. This includes providing staff, when requested, with a form of government-issued photo identification.

If you should have any questions, please call the school office at 443-809-3869. We look forward to your visit during American Education Week.

### **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 lower parking area at Greenwood.



To locate the parking lot reserved for West Towson visitors, turn into 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.

### THANK YOU

Thank you in advance to the wonderful West Towson PTA, for providing the amazing refreshments for American Education Week. It is so nice that we can always count on you to support the school, staff, and students in whatever way is needed. We know that our Westy families will appreciate it

# American Education Week

Together for Safe, Just & Equitable Schools. #aew2023

Please join us for  
**American Education Week**  
 at West Towson Elementary School  
 November 14- 16, 2023

## Classroom Visitation Schedule

Pre-Kindergarten	Thursday, November 16	AM - 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM PM 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM
Kindergarten	Tuesday, November 14	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Grade 1	Wednesday, November 15	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Grade 2	Tuesday, November 14	12:10 PM - 3:55 PM
Grade 3	Tuesday, November 14	9:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Grade 4	Thursday, November 16	9:30 - 11:55 PM
Grade 5	Wednesday, November 15	12:40 PM - 3:55 PM
<b>Generation Day</b>		
<b>A Day for Grandparents and Special Adults</b>	<b>Friday, November 17</b>	<b>9:45 AM - 11:30 AM</b>

West Towson Elementary will host Generations Day, on Friday November 17, from 9:45 AM - 11:30 PM. This exciting day has been set aside **for grandparents and or special adults**, to see the top-notch instruction that takes place at West Towson Elementary School. More information will be forthcoming.

- 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.
- Please consider pre-registering to avoid waiting in lines.
- 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. The 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.**





HERE IS A GUIDE TO HELP YOU DECIDE  
WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL  
**I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...**



I have a Fever	I am Vomiting	I have Diarrhea	I have a Rash	I have Head Lice	I have an Eye Infection	I have been in the Hospital	I have COVID – like symptoms OR I'm waiting for a COVID test result.
Temperature of 100 or higher.	Two or more episodes within the past 24 hours.	Within the past 24 hours.	Body rash with itching or fever.	Itchy head, live head lice.	Redness, itchy, &/or crusty drainage from eye.	Hospital stay or ER visit.	Sore throat, congestion, cough, runny nose. New loss of taste / smell. Muscle pain, chills or extreme tiredness. New or severe headache.
I am ready to go back to school when I am:							
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin).	Free from vomiting or until cleared by medical provider.	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours or until cleared by medical provider.	Free from a rash, itching, fever. Or until my provider determined that the illness is not an infectious disease.	Treated with a pediculocide at home and information is provided to the school nurse.	Evaluated by my medical provider and have a note to return to school.	Released by my medical provider to return to school.	Negative COVID test and has other diagnosis from the doctor & no more symptoms.... OR free of COVID symptoms for 10 days.

**Absence Policy:** A student absent from school shall present a note immediately upon return to school. The note, signed by the parent/guardian, shall include the name of the student, the date of, and the reason for the absence no later than five days after the student's return to school. If a student is absent for an extended period of time due to illness (*greater than 3 consecutive days*), a written statement of explanation from the physician is required no later than five days after the student's return to class.