

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY



Sue Hershfeld, Principal

School Office: 410-887-3869

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West Towson Elementary School Twitter Page @WestTowsonES

<http://westtowsones@bcps.org>

Go West Newsletter
April 2019

West Towson Elementary School
2018 National Blue Ribbon School



APRIL

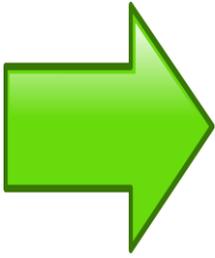
- 4-12 Spring Book Fair
- 8 - 12 National Assistant Principal's Week
- 12 School Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold
- 16 Grade 5 Defender Field Trip to Washington, DC
- 2nd & 3rd Grade Spring Concert - Day - 2:00 PM
- 2nd & 3rd Grade Spring Concert - Evening - 7:00 PM
- 17 Westy Walk Pep Rally 2:30 PM
- 19 Spring Break - Schools Closed
- Westy Wear Order Forms Due
- 23 School Reopens
- Report Cards Distributed
- 25 Grade 4 Patriot Field Trip to Annapolis
- BCPL Battle of the Books - 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM - Cafeteria
- Kindergarten Registration - **Please call the school for an appointment**
- 26 Westy Walk Permission Slips Due
- 27 Spring Clothes for Cash
- 30 5th Grade Field Trip to Philadelphia



A LOOK AHEAD TO MAY

- 3 Westy Walk Collection Envelopes Due
- 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 6 Kindergarten Conference Day - No school for Kindergarten Students
- 8 National School Nurse Day
- 9 Go West Newsletter Distributed
- 10 Volunteer Tea - School Rotunda - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
- 11 Westy Walk - Loyola Blakefield - 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- 14 PTA Meeting - 6:30 PM - Library
- 16 Spring 4th and 5th Grade Vocal and Instrumental Music Concert - Day - 2:00 PM
- Spring 4th and 5th Grade Vocal and Instrumental Music Concert - Evening - 7:00 PM
- 17 School Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold
- 23 Fifth Grade Verification - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- 24 Memorial Day Assembly - 9:30 AM
- 27 Schools & Offices Closed - Memorial Day Observed

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THE DATE



Westy Walk
Saturday, May 11, 2019 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Loyola Blakefield Track
Any questions? Please contact Todd Unger at
toddscottunger@gmail.com or 410-925-1591

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Are you planning to move your child to a different school for the 2019-2020 school year? If the answer is yes, please contact the office at 410-887-3869 as soon as possible. This information will assist with planning next year's grade level organizations.



The office also needs the names of 5th grade students who will not attend Dumbarton or Ridgely Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Happy spring! It may be hard to believe but we have begun the fourth quarter of the school year! It is at this point of the school year that I walk into classrooms and am pleasantly surprised to see how much the students have grown since September. Our boys and girls take ownership of their learning by participating in discussions, working to comprehend complex text, applying problem solving skills, and striving to complete high quality work. Third quarter report cards will come home on Tuesday, April 23. Score reports from the winter MAP assessment (Measures of Academic Progress) and information about each child's guided reading level will be included in the report card envelopes. While reviewing your children's report cards with them, you may want to ask them to tell you what they are proud of that they accomplished in the third quarter and then ask them to set a goal for the fourth quarter. During the fourth marking period, we remind all of our students to remain focused, continue to work hard and do their best. As the weather get warmer and the after-school activities increase, students' time management becomes even more important.

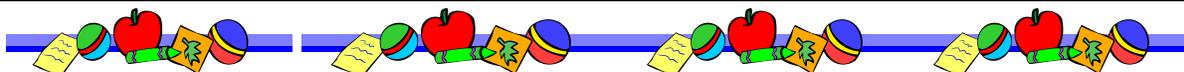
Mr. Carter and I are meeting with teachers to plan the school's organization for the 2019-2020 school year. As we begin this task, it is important for you to be aware of the process used at West Towson as we plan for and group the students for instruction. Teachers will be meeting within and among grade levels to discuss the most effective way to deliver the instructional program to your children. As we plan for the coming year, a great deal of time is spent assigning children to classes. Our goal is to create instructional groups that are designed to meet the needs of your children. When placing children in classes and various instructional groups, the decisions are based upon a number of factors. Information from standardized tests and other assessments, classroom performance, and teacher reports regarding student strengths and weaknesses are considered as we develop instructional groups and classes. We also consider a balance of genders, the needs of children who receive special services such as speech, ELL, and special education, and positive/negative student

interactions. Balancing the many and varied factors is indeed a difficult task, and families are asked not to request a teacher or class for your child.

Baltimore County Public Schools has determined the schedule for the end of the school year. The school system will need to adjust the calendar to make up for the excessive number of days when schools closed for inclement weather. As a result, the last day of school will be Monday, June 17. West Towson's fifth-grade Farewell will be held on Friday, June 14.

There are many exciting events scheduled for the final quarter of the school year. Kindergarten registration is scheduled for Thursday, April 25. West Towson's annual Westy Walk will take place on Saturday, May 11th, at Loyola Blakefield. The Memorial Day Program is scheduled for Friday, May 24. In addition, several grade levels have scheduled field trips for the end of the year.

SPECIAL AREA UPDATES



NEWS FROM LIBRARY LANE

Black Eyed Susan Books: The Black-Eyed Susan Book Award is given to authors, and/or illustrators of outstanding books chosen by Maryland students. According to the Maryland Association of School Librarians, "This award seeks to promote literacy and lifelong reading habits by encouraging chapter books for students in grades 4-6, as well as graphic novels for students in grades 4-6. A list of these books that are located in the library and can be sent home upon request. Students in grades 2-5, are encouraged to read at least 8 of the books in order to be entered for a chance to win an incentive at the end of the school year. To keep track of the 8 books, students complete a reading log, which is located in the library, for each Black-Eyed Susan Book that they read. In the spring, the Battle of the Books will be held at the Towson Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library. This is a competition based on the 10 books nominated for this year's Black-Eyed Susan Book Award, in the Grade 4-6 Chapter Book category for students in grades 4 & 5. More information will be given at a later date.



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!



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 wish list 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 Ms. Gleitsmann of the purchase.)



Check out the Library's Amazon Wishlist here:
Makerspace: <http://a.co/7emysip>
Library Materials/Rewards: <http://a.co/6g0YURm>
Birthday Books: <http://a.co/3Nkzw5g>

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

West Towson Elementary has scheduled kindergarten registration on Thursday, April 25, 2019. In order to locate students who may be entering kindergarten for the 2019- 2020 school year, please share this information with friends and neighbors in your community who may have a child entering our school in the fall. In accordance with Baltimore County Public School Policy, incoming 2019-2020 kindergarten students must be five years old by September 1, (born between 9/2/13 - 9/1/14). If you are interested or know of someone who has a child ready for kindergarten who may not receive our newsletter and lives within the West Towson boundaries, please call the school office at 410-887-3869 to receive a registration packet, please fill out the attached kindergarten registration form at the end of the newsletter and return it to West Towson



Elementary.

You will need the following documentation to register your child.

- Child's birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Proof of residency - this includes a copy of your lease, tax bill, or mortgage coupon book and 3 additional proofs of residency, dated within the past 60 days
- Your photo ID - If there is an address on the photo ID, the address must match the address that the parent/guardian is providing to the school

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 offered numerous volunteer training opportunities for those wishing to be volunteer trained during the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Ruocco, Volunteer Coordinator, is also available to answer any questions that you may have concerning the volunteer process. You may email Mrs. Ruocco at eruocco@bcps.org. Thank you for your support and cooperation in keeping our Westies safe!

NEWS FROM THE WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The Kenilworth Farmer's Market, located behind Trader Joe's, will be starting back up again on Tuesday, April 16. The market will run from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., every Tuesday. Come out on April 16, and you will see the #1 traveling Vegetable Parade. This parade will have life sized vegetables, providing handouts and information about the vegetables, recipes, and fun games and art for the children.



NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

➤ Clothing for Cash Collection

The Clothing to Cash collection truck will be in West Towson Elementary School's parking lot on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The collection truck accepts all clean textiles (clothing, linens, fabrics, shoes, accessories) in ANY condition. No plastic, cushions, rugs, or food items are accepted. Our last collection in October 2018, kept 5208 lbs of textiles out of the landfill and earned West Towson Elementary School \$520.80.

➤ Crayola Colorcycle Program

West Towson Elementary is now collecting old markers (any type or any brand) for recycling through the Crayola Colorcycle Program. There is a large collection box in the school rotunda.

Thank you for your support!

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

6914 N. Charles Street 8902 Towson, MD 21204



Kindergarten Registration for the 2019=2020 School Year

If you have a child (or know of a neighborhood child) who should be registering for kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year, please complete and return this form to the school office as soon as possible.

In order to be eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year, the child must have a date of birth between 9/2/2013 and 09/01/2014. The child must also reside within the West Towson Elementary School boundaries. Once your form has been received and processed, a registration packet will be mailed to you. **Kindergarten registration will take place on Thursday, April 25, 2019.**

KINDERGARTEN

Child's Name

Date of Birth

Parent's Name

Home Phone Number

Work Number

Cell Phone Number

Address

County/State/Zip Code

West Towson Office Use Only

Registration packet mailed: (date) _____

Appointment date and time _____

Notes:

Revised 2018-2019 BCPS Year End Calendar

April	18 (Th)	Spring Break Begins at the End of the School Day
	23 (T)	Schools Reopen – Report Cards Distributed
May	6 (M)	PreK and Kindergarten Conference Day – No Preschool-3, PreK, or Kindergarten Sessions – Teachers on Duty
	24	Last Day for Seniors
	27 (M)	Memorial Day Observed – Schools and Offices Closed
	28 – 31 (T-F)	Commencement Exercises 5 (W)
June	1-7 (Sa-F)	Commencement Exercises
	5 (W)	Schools in Session for Students – Teachers on Duty; Eid-Al Fitr###
	13 (Th)	Assessment Day*** – Elementary, Middle, and High Schools in Session Full Day – Last Day of Classes for Preschool-3 and PreK
	14 (F)	Assessment Day*** – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty; Flag Day
	17 (M)	Assessment Day*** – Last Day of Classes – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty
July	4 (Th)	Independence Day – School and Office Closed
	5 (F)	Summer School Teachers on Duty
	8 (M)	Summer School Begins
August	2 (F)	Summer School Ends

* Schools open with appropriate exercises OR appropriate exercises to be scheduled on the school day prior.

** GRADE AND DATA RECORDING, DATA ANALYSIS – Principals and teachers will have time for grade and data recording, data analysis/progress assessment.

***ASSESSMENT DAY – High schools will have the opportunity to administer traditional final exams or to use alternative assessment procedures.

Adjustments to the School Calendar

The following day will become a school day for students in order to meet the minimum required student days and student hours:

- June 5, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #1 for November 15, 2018

The 2018-2019 school year calendar had the following four (4) inclement weather make-up days built into the calendar at the end of the school year. In order to meet the minimum required student days and student hours, these days are being designated as make-up days for the respective school closures:

- June 11, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #2 for January 14, 2019
- June 12, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #3 for January 30, 2019
- June 13, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #4 for February 11, 2019
- June 14, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #5 for February 12, 2019

In order to meet the minimum required student days and student hours and due to exceeding the number of built-in inclement weather days, the school year will be extended beyond June 15, 2019, in the following manner:

- June 17, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #6 for February 20, 2019
- June 18, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #7 (if needed)
- June 19, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day # 8 (if needed)
- June 20, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day # 9 (if needed)
- June 21, 2019 – Inclement Weather/Emergency Closure Make-up day #10 (if needed)

In the event additional inclement weather/emergency closure days are needed, the last three school days will become assessment days with the last day for Preschool-3 and PreK being on the first assessment day.

***# TENTATIVE NUMBER OF DAYS FOR EACH MONTH; SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON INCLEMENT WEATHER/EMERGENCY CLOSURE**

Teacher duty days will not exceed 191.



April 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).

Tue 9:30 AM
Thu 9:30 AM & 10:30 AM
Apr 13 & 27 Sat 10:30 AM

Bilingual Story Time/Hora de Cuentos en Bilingue

2 to 5 years old with adult
Interact with your preschooler by enjoying stories and songs together in Spanish and English. Relacionese con su preescolar al disfrutar juntos historias y canciones en español y inglés.

Tue 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 9:30 AM

Preschool Story Time

2 to 5 years old with adult
Interact with your preschooler by enjoying stories and songs together.

Fri 10:30 AM
Apr 6 Sat 10:30 AM

PAWS to Read

School age
Register your shy or reluctant reader to read to a lovable pet from Pets on Wheels. They are friendly, nonjudgmental and good listeners. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Register at the service desk.

Apr 6 Sat 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. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Apr 10 Wed 10:30 AM

BC Reads: Positive Post-Its

All ages

In an effort to start with kindness and then pay it forward, the Positive Post-its board is at branches, along with sticky notes and writing tools. Leave a word of kindness, an inspirational quote or some positive energy on the board. If you are in need of positivity, feel free to take a note left by someone else with you. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Apr 1—14 All day

25th Annual Friends of the Towson Library Book Sale

All ages

Books in many subjects for all ages!
On First Choice Night (April 11), Friends are admitted for free and non-members pay \$10. Free admission from April 12 to 14. Bulk pricing at \$3 a foot on Sunday. Call or visit BCPL.info for hours or details.

Apr 11-14 Thu-Sun Hours vary

Saturday Crafternoon

All ages

Make a seasonal craft every Saturday. All materials provided.

Apr 6: Popsicle Stick Baby Chicks

Apr 13: Cherry Blossom Tree

Apr 20: Spring Wreath

Apr 27: Mini Paper Kites

Sat 11:00 AM

BC Reads: Speak Out Story Time

2 to 11 years old with adult

Stories, songs and activities about activism and using your voice — perfect to help even the youngest understand the power of words.

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Apr 13 Sat 2:00 PM

Pajama Story Time

2 to 5 years old with adult

Put on your PJs and bring your bedtime pal for stories and songs.

Apr 17 Wed 6:30 PM

Bicycle Blender

School age & teen

Hop on the bike and pedal to make a nutritious smoothie! Presented by University of Maryland Extension. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch). Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Apr 22 Mon 2:00 PM

Battle of the Books

2 to 5 years old with adult

Seven Towson schools (Boys' Latin, Hampton Elementary, Riderwood Elementary, Rodgers Forge Elementary, Saint Paul's School for Girls, Stoneleigh Elementary, and West Towson Elementary) will compete in a literary battle at West Towson Elementary on North Charles Street, answering questions about the 4th-6th grade Black-Eyed Susan nominees. Come cheer them on.

Apr 25 Thu 6:30 PM

Om Shanti Elementary Yoga and Meditation

6 to 11 years old with adult

An introduction that helps with mindfulness, emotion placement and calmness. Also includes yoga postures, breath awareness and meditation techniques. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch). Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Apr 28 Sun 2:00 PM

All branches will be closed on Sunday, April 21 for the Easter Holiday