

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY



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West Towson Elementary School Twitter Page @WestTowsonES

<http://westtowsones@bcps.org>

Go West Newsletter
March 2019

West Towson Elementary School
2018 National Blue Ribbon School



MARCH

- 15 Volunteer Training Opportunity - 9:30 AM - Please Call the School Office to Reserve a Computer
- 21-22 MISA Testing
- 25 Maryland Day
- 26 Career Day - 9:30 - 4th and 5th Grade Students
- 29 Spring Picture Day - Class and Individual Photos Will Be Taken



A LOOK AHEAD TO APRIL

- 1-5 Ballroom Dancing - 5th Grade - Gym
- 3 Patriot & Defender Recitations End
- 4-12 Spring Book Fair
- 5 3rd Marking Period Ends - Schools Dismiss 3 Hours Early - WTES to Dismiss at 12:40 PM
Westy Walk Reading Race Kickoff - 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- 8 - 12 National Assistant Principal's Week
- 8 Volunteer Training - 1:00 PM - Please call the school office to reserve a computer
- 9 PTA Meeting - 6:03 PM - Library
- 11 Go West Newsletter Distributed
- 11 Field Trip - Grade 4 - Biz Town
- 12 School Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold
- 16 Grade 5 P&D Washington
2nd & 3rd Grade Spring Concert - Day - 2:00 PM
2nd & 3rd Grade Spring Concert - Evening - 7:00 PM
- 19 Spring Break - Schools Closed
- 23 School Reopens
- 23 Report Cards Distributed
- 25 Grade 4 P&D Field Trip Annapolis
- 25 BCPL Battle of the Books - 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM - Cafeteria
- 25 Kindergarten Registration - Please call the school for an appointment
- 27 Spring Clothes for Cash
- 30 5th Grade Field Trip Philadelphia



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THE DATE



Westy Walk
Saturday, May 11, 2019
Loyola Blakefield

Additional details will be forthcoming
Stay tuned.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Are you planning to move your child to a different school for the 2018-2019 school year? If the answer is yes, please contact the office at 410-887-3869. This information will assist us as we plan next year's grade level organizations.



The office needs the names of 5th grade students who will not attend Dumbarton or Ridgley Middle School for the 2018-2019 school year.

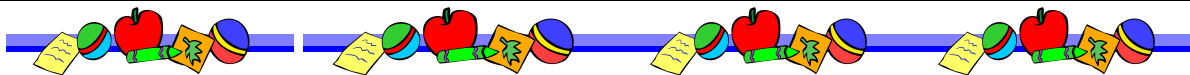
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe that it is already March, and we certainly have had our fair share of weather delays and closures! With spring right around the corner, perhaps we can enjoy some warmer weather and sunshine.

The Baltimore County Board of Education has adjusted the 2018-2019 school year calendar to accommodate the days missed for snow and ice. As long as there are no additional weather-related closures, the last day of school will be Monday, June 17. Elementary and middle schools will close three-hours early on this day. Wednesday, June 5 was scheduled as a professional day for teachers but will now be a school day for students as well. The date for the fifth grade Farewell Program will be announced after the chance for further snow or ice related school closings has passed.

At this point in the year we are well into the third marking period. Our school prides ourselves on consistently meeting or exceeding the attendance standard of 94% set for students by MSDE. Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success. Being on time for school is important as well. A student who arrives ten minutes late every day will miss nearly one hour of instruction each week. Your child's report card indicates their daily attendance rate as well as how many days your child has been tardy. Please review that data and make any adjustments to your daily schedule that are needed to help your child attend school on a regular basis and arrive each day on time.

SPECIAL AREA UPDATES



Library News

NEWS FROM LIBRARY LANE

There has been lots of learning going on throughout the end of February January continuing through the month of March. Check out what your child/ children's grade level is learning about:

During the first week of March, all students participated in activities from the Baltimore County's Mobile Innovation Lab. Kindergarten students used BlueBots to sequence numbers and identify beginning sounds. First grade students used BlueBots to code sums and spell sight words. Second grade students used Spheros to edit sentences for correct punctuation and capitalization. Third grade students used Spheros to play multiplication shuffleboard. Fourth grade students used LittleBits to create circuits. Finally, fifth grade students learned about Parrot drones to play Tic-Tac-Toe about Colonial America. Check out the school Twitter, library Instagram, or the upcoming yearbook to see photos of the fun!

Kindergarten - We just wrapped up our "Awesome Authors" unit. In our next unit, "Nifty-Neat-O Nonfiction," students will identify the purpose and characteristics of nonfiction print and digital materials.

Grade 1 - In the "Making Connections" unit, students will be introduced to the "making connections strategy" with the purpose of understanding that good readers make text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections when reading in order to help them better understand a given story. This strategy helps readers relate to how the characters feel and the reasoning behind the characters' actions while giving readers a clearer picture and understanding of the story.

Grade 2 - The "Discover Your Destiny" unit reinforces the skill of finding a book that is right for you using Destiny Discover. Students conduct a topic search and keyword search, as well as refine results to meet their needs using filters. Students also use Destiny to locate and checkout eBooks and Interactive Books, and create a Destiny Collection. Students access their Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) student accounts to check-out eBooks and audiobooks. Our next unit will be "Reading is Lit!"

Grade 3 - We are wrapping up the "Healthy Habits" unit in which students have researched a topic related to having healthy habits by searching the databases and other digital resources in order to select two resources they will use to answer their questions. Students are using their research to create a public service announcement to share their new learning. The next unit will be "Unique You."

Grade 4 - In the "Genre Genius" In this unit, students will discover the elements of several genres, including: historical fiction, narrative non-fiction, expository non-fiction, science fiction, and fantasy. They will have a working knowledge of the elements of each and be able to classify examples into these categories and explain their reasoning.

Grade 5 - The "We Shall Overcome!" unit explores various types of biological and situational adversities. Students will read different stories (fiction and nonfiction) about adversity. They will explore the different ways that people or characters have overcome adversity. Sometimes, overcoming adversity means that significant people have assisted or inspired a person. Other times, people overcame through perseverance and other positive character traits. Students learn how some people can use their personal struggles to inspire others

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.



SignUpGenius

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 @wtleslibrary 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>

DANCING DAYS WITH MRS. KUEBLER

On Friday, March 29, more than 20 Westies will be performing at the Baltimore County Public Schools Dance Festival at Perry Hall High School. Our performance will celebrate the life of Aretha Franklin using her recording of *Accentuate the Positive*. We wish our Westies Well!



A MESSAGE FROM NURSE VANDERWAL

I am in desperate need of stretch pants, leggings, sweat pants, or anything else with an elastic waist for both boys and girls. Also, if anyone has gently used clean boys and girls underwear, I could also use that as well. Thank you for your continued support.



PANDA FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 3rd grade's fundraiser. We sold 200 bracelets and raised money to donate to the Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute. With this donation, we also symbolically adopted a Giant Panda. Thanks for showing the 3rd graders that they can make a difference in the world

Adopt a Giant Panda



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



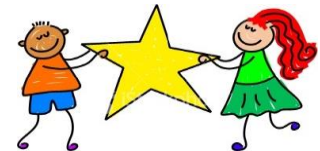
Elementary.

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

EARLY ADMISSION INTO KINDERGARTEN TESTING

In order to be considered for early admission to kindergarten for school year 2019-2020, the child must turn five between September 1, and October 14, 2019.



Early Admission Request Deadlines:

1. Early admission requests for the succeeding school year must be submitted to the home school principal between January 15 and May 1 of the current school year.
2. For students applying for a magnet program, early admission requests must be submitted to the home school principal by no later than the published magnet application deadline. Assessments for students applying for enrollment in a magnet program will take place in January so that the recommendation decision for early admission may be forwarded to the Office of Magnet Programs by the last business day of January.
3. The deadlines outlined in this section are mandatory. Early admission requests will be deemed timely if hand-delivered to the home school, on or before the request is due, or if deposited in the United States mail before the date the request is due.

The procedures for requesting early admission to kindergarten may be obtained at the child's home school, from the Office of Early Childhood Programs, or on the Baltimore County Public Schools' (BCPS) Web site at the following link: <http://www.bcps.org/offices/earlychildhood/kindergarten.html>.

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 offers volunteers the choice of coming to the school to be volunteer trained. If you wish to attend a volunteer training session, the 2018-2019 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.

April 8, at 1:00 PM (This will be the last volunteer training opportunity offered at West Towson for the 2018-2019 school year)

Please note that this process must be updated every year in order to be volunteer trained.

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.



THE WTES PTA DINO-MITE SPRING 2019 BOOK FAIR IS COMING!



Volunteers are needed: **Monday, April 4th - Friday, April 12th, 2019** with a set-up day on Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019 and a Reading Race Kickoff/Family Event on Monday, April 8th, 2019. If you can help and are volunteer-trained or can be volunteer trained and registered with the main office at least 48 hours prior to helping, please visit the following Spring Book Fair sign-up genius link to help out with the Book Fair.

2019 Spring Book Fair sign-up genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EA4AB2CA7FA7-west1>

If you are unable to attend the Book Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair which will be available from Monday, March 25, 2019

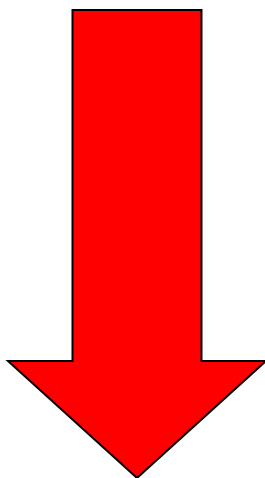
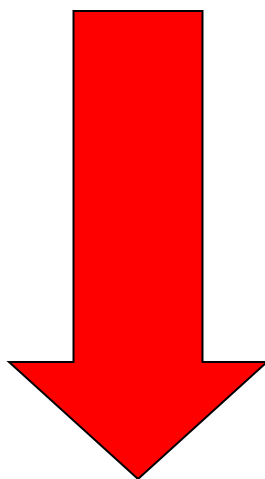
through Sunday, April 14, 2019 at the following link:

WTES Book Fair Home Page: <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/westtowsonelementaryschool>

NEW digital payment option: Book Fair eWallet! Now your student can shop the Fair cash-free! Visit our WTES Book Fair homepage link above between March 20, 2019 and April 12, 2019 to learn more about how to create an eWallet and to set up an eWallet account.

In addition to supplementing students' home libraries, all Book Fair purchases benefit WTES students, teachers and faculty by providing funds to the PTA, books and supplies to the school library as well as books to teachers and classrooms. Last fall during the Book Fair, each teacher/classroom received \$100 in free books and the school library received \$250 in free books while the PTA raised over \$2700 used to support our school and students with a variety of programs and social events.

[If you have any questions about the WTES PTA-Sponsored Scholastic Book Fair, please feel free to contact Jessica M. Paugh at \[jessicapaugh@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:jessicapaugh@hotmail.com\) or Joy Thompson at \[joythompson14@gmail.com\]\(mailto:joythompson14@gmail.com\), Co-Chairs of the WTES Book Fair Committee. We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair!](#)



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	5 (F)	Third Marking Period Ends – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty
	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.