

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY



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Go West Newsletter
November 2018

West Towson Elementary School
2018 National Blue Ribbon School



NOVEMBER

- 1-16 Kids Stuff Fundraiser
- 12-15 American Education Week (please see the attached schedule for grade level visitation dates and times)
- 12-16 SGA Food Drive (non-perishable food items)
- 13 PTA Meeting - 6:30 PM - Library
- 16 Generations Day
- 22-23 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26 Reports Cards Distributed
- 28 2nd Grade Field Trip - Towson University Theatre
- 30 Elementary Conference Day - Schools Closed for Students

A LOOK AHEAD TO DECEMBER

- 4 Volunteer Training - 1:00 PM (Please call the school to ensure that a computer is available)
- Fifth Grade Orientation - Dumbarton
- 13 Winter Concert - 7:00 PM - Multipurpose Room (4th & 5th Grade Vocal and Instrumental Music)
- 14 3rd Grade FT - Baltimore Museum of Industry
- Interims Distributed
- 21 Winter Break begins at of the School Day
- 22-31 School Closed - Winter Break

A LOOK AHEAD TO JANUARY

- 2 School Reopens



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

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 have been able to visit classrooms this week to watch their children learn. Friday, November 16, 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 card of the school year on Monday, November 26. 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*. The guided reading level will be noted directly on the report card when a child 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/>.

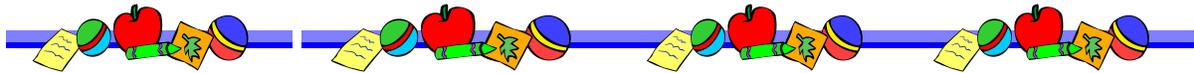
West Towson celebrated Bullying Prevention Week October 22-26, with the theme "Kindness Matters." Each day during the week, students and staff wore the color of the day and discussed the word of the day. West Towson promotes kindness throughout the year, and I am proud of the many examples of kindness 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 30, 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 please contact their child's homeroom teacher to schedule another time 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 a plan to help students improve their performance in school. Following the conference, parents are encouraged to stay in touch with the teachers to discuss the children's progress and growth throughout the year.

Families are reminded that students are not allowed to bring any toys, games, sports equipment, trading cards, etc. to school. These items often interfere with student learning by causing disagreements between students, distractions during instruction, and disappointment and conflict if lost or broken. Therefore, students should only bring the items listed on the school supply lists distributed by their classroom teachers. Please note that *fidget spinners*, when brought to school and used as toys, are not allowed in school.

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.



NEWS FROM LIBRARY LANE

Lots of learning has been happening in the library! Check out what your child's grade is learning:



K- Digital Citizenship: This unit will prepare students to be good digital citizens as they use technology in their classroom instruction and outside of the classroom setting. Our next unit, "Let Me Tell You About My Friends" will allow students to examine friendships.

1st- Digital Citizenship: This unit focuses on topics in beginning digital citizenship, including staying safe, netiquette, and evaluating websites for appropriateness. The next unit, Visualization will focus on that reading strategy.

2nd- Pack Your Bags: In this unit, students identify similarities and differences between many cultures through reading and researching. Students can then use this new information to connect to their own community and cultural experiences in order to understand global citizenship.

3rd- Digital Citizenship: This unit will prepare students to be good digital citizens as they use technology in their classroom instruction and outside of the classroom setting.

4th- Digital Citizenship: This unit will prepare students to be good digital citizens as they use technology in their classroom instruction and outside of the classroom setting.

5th- Digital Citizenship: This unit will prepare students to be good digital citizens as they use technology in their classroom instruction and outside of the classroom setting.

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 a great tool for research and extending learning through books, videos, and only digital resources.



Parents and guardians of students at our school can now get a library card in order to check out materials from our library! If interested, please return the Parent School Library Card Application at the end of this newsletter to Ms. Gleitsmann. More information will be sent home about library hours for parents! *Even if you completed a form and had an account during the 2017-2018 school year, a new form will need to be filled out.*



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 @wteslibrary to see all the wonderful things that are happening in the library!





Grading in Library: This year, students will only receive two grades for the year from library. First and Second Quarter grades will be combined and displayed on the second quarter report card. Students still have time to make up any missing work from the first quarter.

Ms. Gleitsmann 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>

SPANISH NEWS FROM SEÑORITA REIER

¡Saludos desde la clase de español!

Fourth and fifth grade Spanish classes are in full swing here at West Towson, and it is hard to believe that the first quarter is about to end. In fourth grade Spanish class, the students continue to be fully immersed in the language and are currently working on basic communication skills like greetings, farewells, introductions, feelings, ages, birthdays, where they live, and their preferences. It is amazing to hear the students communicating in the language and to watch them become more confident in their skills. ¡Qué fantástico!

In fifth grade, the students are adding more Spanish to their repertoire by enhancing their basic communication skills, talking about their preferences, describing themselves and other people. Soon the students will start a unit on food in Spanish! ¡Qué delicioso! The fifth grade students are also adding more Spanish learning experiences to their repertoire by using creativity and imagination in the language, listening to a variety of Spanish voices (in music and other media), and engaging in a variety of activities to acquire new vocabulary. It is so much fun to see the joy on the students' faces when they make new connections and overcome different challenges in Spanish. ¡Qué maravilla!

Along with weekly Spanish classes, all fourth and fifth grade students now have access to the Middlebury Interactive program online as well. The students access this program through their BCPS One accounts. The fourth grade students complete Middlebury I and the fifth grade students complete Middlebury II. Since the students only have Spanish class once a week, the Middlebury programs allows them to have more exposure to the language and more time to practice their skills. Hasta luego,

The seasons are changing...What's the weather like today?



WESTY WALK FUNDS



Funds from the 2018 Westy Walk will be used to purchase items to enhance the safety of students and staff in the school. West Towson's walkie talkies were purchased when the school opened nearly nine years ago. They need to be replaced, and the school is currently investigating new walkie talkies which have greater coverage throughout the building. In addition, items to create safety kits for each room will be purchased.

SAVE THE DATE!! SAVE THE DATE!! SAVE THE DATE!! CELEBRATING AMERICA

This year our Generations Day Celebration will be held on Friday, November 16, from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. We will have a morning session for grandparents and special friends to visit classrooms, view and participate in a dance performance for K-3 students, and enjoy spending some time with their grandchildren. 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.



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.

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.



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.

KIDSTUFF FUNDRAISER

The KidStuff Fundraiser is coming! Starting November 5th, our school will be selling valuable, family-friendly KidStuff Coupon Books filled with hundreds of national, regional and local coupons for all ages! The KidStuff Book is conveniently organized, offers incredible savings and is sold exclusively through schools! Our school earns 50% or more profit for every book we sell! KidStuff is a teacher supported fundraiser in which all funds will be put towards technology for West Towson! **This year, we would like to purchase a portable sound system to use for programming around and outside the building and buy Ozobots (coding robots) for Maker Spaces.** (See below for pictures of items that have been purchased using the KidStuff funds.)

Use just a few coupons and easily save more than the \$25 cost of the book...Remember to keep KidStuff in your car! Most coupons are long-term and valid for 16 months! You will enjoy fabulous savings from: The Maryland Zoo, Macys, Six Flags, Outback Steakhouse, Food Lion, Bed Bath & Beyond, Dick's Sporting Goods, Port Discovery, Michaels, Hershey Park, Payless, and many more!

New this year to KidStuff is a mobile app so you will always have access to the coupons on your book as well as an online portal to pay for your book or sell to friends and family. We would love for as many families as possible to set up their account and share their link. This is a wonderful way to help our school raise money. You can set up your account at <https://mykscb.com/myschool> using our school code: WES473711. Your family earns 1 FREE book worth \$25.00 for every 5 books you sell!



Also new this year is the **New Tees & Hoodies Prize Program.**

- Purchase/sell 3 books, get 1 Short Sleeve Tee for FREE!
- Purchase/sell 5 books, get 1 book AND 1 Long Sleeve Tee for FREE!
- Purchase/sell 10 books, get 2 books AND 1 Hoodie for FREE!

Payment is due by November 16, 2018. Please make checks payable to West Towson Elementary. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rabin at brabin@bcps.org or Ms. Gleitsmann egleitsmann@bcps.org. KidStuff does not promote door-to-door sales by children.



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.**



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.

December 4, at 1:00 PM
January 8, at 9:30 AM
February 14, at 1:00 PM
March 15, at 9:30 AM
April 8, at 1:00 PM

Thank you for your support and cooperation in keeping our Westies safe!

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

American Education Week

“Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility”

Please join us for

American Education Week
at West Towson Elementary School
November 12- 16, 2018

Classroom Visitation Schedule

Kindergarten	Monday, November 12	9:30 AM - 11:10 AM
	Monday, November 12	12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Grade 1	Thursday, November 15	9:30 AM - 11:30 PM
	Thursday, November 15	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Grade 2	Monday, November 12	9:30 AM - 11:40 PM
	Monday, November 12	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Grade 3	Tuesday, November 13	9:30 AM - 12:15 PM
	Tuesday, November 13	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Grade 4	Wednesday, November 14	9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
	Wednesday, November 14	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM
Grade 5	Tuesday, November 13	9:30 AM - 12:20 PM
	Tuesday, November 13	1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

- 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.

November 2018 Calendar of Events

Adults

NaNoWriMo: Make-a-Book Workshop

Teen and adult

Learn how to create your own book during National Novel Writing Month! Amanda McCormick, Ink Press Productions founder, invites you to take part in an interactive experience to learn bookbinding, printmaking and storytelling methods, both conventional and experimental. All supplies provided. Registration required (phone, online, or in branch). Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.

Nov 3 Sat 2:00 PM

Trivia Night

Adult

Have fun and compete to win prizes! Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.

Nov 7 Wed 7:00 PM

VR Gaming with Oculus Rift

All ages

Sample current virtual reality technology with the Oculus Rift and play games currently available for the PlayStation 4. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Nov 10 Sat 11:00 AM

Ready, Set, Go! The Nuts & Bolts in Starting a New Business

Adult

The Maryland Small Business Development Center teaches you how to write a business plan and other aspects of starting a business. Registration required. Contact 240-342-9410 or visit marylandsbdc.org to register.

Nov 13 Tue 6:00 PM

Maryland at War: The History of Aberdeen Proving Ground

Adult

Richard Wiltson, deputy command historian of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) History Office, gives a presentation on the History of APG. He discusses the contributions Aberdeen Proving Ground has made nationally and to the local community over the last century.

Nov 13 Tue 7:00 PM

History Book Club: 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 14 Wed 6:30 PM

History Book Club

Adult

Join us as we discuss *S.P.Q.R.: A History of Ancient Rome* by Mary Beard.

Nov 14 Wed 7:00 PM

Towson Book Club

Adult

Join us for a lively discussion of *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea.

Nov 15 Thu 7:00 PM

Introduction to Microsoft Office: Word, Part II

Adult

Take the next step and learn more about Microsoft Word in a classroom setting. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).

Nov 27 Tue 11:00 AM

Learning with Lynda.com

Adult

An introduction on how to access online self-paced free classes from Lynda.com by using your library card. Classes are presented by field experts, with over 6,000 classes to choose from in business, marketing, K-12 education, computer programming and more. Must bring library card and password. Customers unable to participate in person may send in a brief description of their interest to towson@bcpl.net from November 20 to 27 and will receive a personalized sample of interest-related classes available. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).

Nov 27 Tue 6:30 PM

LGBTQ+ Adult Meetup

Adult

Join fellow college-aged and adult members of the LGBTQ+ community for conversation and activities. Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.

Nov 27 Tue 7:00 PM

Board Game Night

Teen and adult

Play Ticket to Ride, Pandemic, Castle Panic, Catan and more. Beginners and advanced players welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.

Nov 28 Wed 6:30 PM

Computer Know-How

Adult

Learn basic computer skills. Registration required (online, by phone, or in branch).

Nov 28 Wed 6:30 PM

All branches will be closed on November 22 for Thanksgiving Day
Towson Branch • 320 York Road • 410-887-6166