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Principal



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**West Friendship E.S.**  
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**Web Site:** <http://wfes.hcpss.org/>  
School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**January 17, 2020**

## School News

### WFES Celebrates Reading Month!

During the month of January, staff members will read an excerpt from their favorite book or poem on the morning announcements. Students will try to guess what staff member is reading each day!

During the week of January 28-31, students and staff will engage in several activities to celebrate our love for reading! Some activities include:

- Staff Mystery Reader - Staff members will visit other classrooms and grade levels to read one of their favorite books. This will be ongoing throughout the week.
- The Bookmark Swap - All students in grades K-5 will design a bookmark. Bookmarks must be turned in by **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**. Bookmarks will then be distributed to all classrooms so that each student receives a bookmark designed by someone else.
- **Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> is Read Me Day!** Students and staff are encouraged to wear a shirt with words! Let's see how many shirts we can read!

### Valentine's Celebrations

WFES will celebrate Valentine's Day on **Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. This is an early dismissal day and we will have a jammed pack schedule. Each grade level will organize a short time within the school day which will allow the exchange of Valentine's and a few **(non-food)** classroom activities. **Please do not send in Valentine's that contain candy. These type of Valentine's will NOT be distributed due to student safety.**

### Grade 4 & 5 Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all of our Spelling Bee participants! What an amazing and impressive group of students!

We are thrilled to announce that the following fifth grade students will represent West Friendship in the county spelling bee in March:

Winner - Chloe Chung  
Runner Up - Sahasra Batta

### West Friendship Elementary School's Young Author's Contest Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of our school's Young Author's Contest winners. These winning entries were submitted to the county level competition.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Short Story - Sadie Midgley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Short Story - Katherine Whitley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Short Story - Chase Midgley
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Short Story - Danielle Olaleye
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Short Story - Sahasra Batta
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Poetry - Morgan Miles

We are excited to announce Sahasra Batta won the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Short Story category on the county level competition!!! Her writing will go on to compete in the state level competition. Thank you to all of the participants, congratulations to all of our school winners, and good luck to Sahasra!

### **Career Day is coming to West Friendship!**

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**. WFES will host a school-wide Career Day. We hope you will consider participating to make this a successful activity. Please see the following attachment for complete details! [Career Day Flyer](#)

### **Upcoming School Spirit Days**

Our next School Spirit Day will be on **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**! WFES students and staff may show their school spirit by wearing a jersey/sweatshirt/t-shirt representing their favorite sport and/or team.

### **Lost & Found**

The WFES Lost & Found collection is steadily growing! We have moved the collection to the front hall. If your child is missing items (jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts), please take a few minutes to peruse the growing number of items when you visit our school. Please remember to label all student items.

### **Kindergarten & New First Grade Registration**

Kindergarten and New First Grade Registration begins Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at West Friendship Elementary School. Please encourage new families to register early as this helps drive staffing and planning efforts for the school. More details will be announced soon.

### **Outdoor Recess**

As we head into our winter months, now is the perfect time to share our school system's policy regarding outdoor recess. As you are aware, we take students outside each day for recess. This is a great opportunity for students to get some exercise and a much needed break from their academics. With that being said, we want to make sure that we keep students healthy so that they can be in school each day. If the wind chill (AKA "Feels Like") temperature is 20°F or above and no falling precipitation (no more than a sprinkle or mist) we will go outside for recess.

As the temperatures drop, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for the bus stop, as well as for recess. Please make sure students have winter coats with them for recess. We want to keep students safe and healthy. Please be sure all clothing (coats, sweaters, hats, gloves) are labeled with your child's name.

### **Counselor's Newsletter – *The Advocate***

Please take a few minutes to read the January edition of the HCPSS Elementary School Counseling monthly newsletter, *The Advocate*. [Click here!](#)

### **Board Approves 2020–2021 Academic Calendar**

The [next school year](#) will begin on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, for students and on Monday, August 17, 2020, for school staff. Winter break will be December 24–January 1, with schools reopening on Monday, January 4, 2021. Spring Break will run from April 2–9, 2021. The last day of school is scheduled for June 10, 2021.

### **Student Safety & Building Security**

Please take time to review a few important reminders, reaffirming the importance of safety and security of our school.

- **Absences, Late Arrivals, and Early Dismissals**

- Parents are required to **send a note to school explaining their child's absence when the student returns to school**. The note must include the student's name, the date of the absence, and the reason for absence. In cases of three consecutive days of absence or frequent absence, a doctor's certificate is required.
- When arriving to school late, **the student, accompanied by a parent/guardian, must report to the office for a late pass before he/she will be admitted to class**.
- If it is necessary to pick up a student for early dismissal, please send a note in with the student that day. **Early dismissals must be conducted prior to 3:30 p.m.**

### ➤ **Dismissal Arrangements**

Please be advised that notes are needed if you want your child to follow a different dismissal arrangement. Telling a student of a dismissal change is not satisfactory. **Notes must be sent to school if you wish for your child to be dismissed to Circle Drive or attend an afterschool activity**. Please **do not email** this information. If our Internet is not working or if a teacher has a substitute, your message will not be received in a timely manner. **Arrangements via telephone will only be honored in the event of an emergency**. Please do not change dismissal plans after 3:15 p.m. Please remember that students are not permitted to ride any bus other than their assigned bus.

### ➤ **Visitation/Lunch**

Parents are invited to visit our school; however, the instruction of the students is the primary purpose of the school and no other activity should interfere with this basic purpose. We ask that **parents/guests not join students for lunch on early dismissal and/or late arrival days**. We work by a revised schedule on these days and most lunch shifts are doubled up. In addition, please understand **that younger siblings are not permitted during visits/lunch/recess/ volunteer time**. For the protection of the children and staff, **all visitors must report to the school office before going to any other area of the building, including outside recess**. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### ➤ **Weather Updates**

The winter weather season is fast approaching, and while winter 2020 has commenced with relatively mild temperatures, we all know snow is right around the corner. Please review important weather-related information at the following HCPSS website: <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/emergency-closings/> Please also ensure that all emergency information is current and updated in your family file. In the event of an early closing, this information may be critical.

## **Harris Teeter**

**Do you shop at Harris Teeter?** Please make sure you have enrolled in Harris Teeter's Together in Education Program. At this time we only have 19 participants signed up for the program. It is easy to sign up. Please go to [www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com) and log into your account. At the bottom of your profile screen is a section for Together in Education. You can search for West Friendship Elementary and link the school to your account. You must enroll each year, so even if you were enrolled last year, please take a minute to link your account for this year. WFES thanks you!

## **Save the Date!**

Sunday, January 19	WFES PTA Skating Party – 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Monday, January 20	<b>Schools &amp; Offices Closed</b> - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Wednesday, January 22	Yearbook Group Photos (Band, Strings, Chorus, etc.)
Friday, January 24	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period
Monday, January 27	<b>Schools Closed for Students</b> - Professional Work Day
Tuesday, January 28	Gr. 2 Howard County Conservancy In-House Field Trip – 9:20 a.m.

Wednesday, January 29	<b>Read Me Day! ... Wear a Shirt with Words</b>
Thursday, January 30	Vision & Hearing Rescreening
Thursday, January 30	Bookmarks are due for the Bookmark Swap
Friday, January 31	<b>WFES School Spirit "Sports Jersey/Sweatshirt/T-Shirt Day"</b>
Friday, January 31	Bookmark Swap
Friday, January 31	Gr. 5 Tiger Celebration
Monday, February 3	Report Cards Issued
Monday, February 3	Gr. 1 Tiger Celebration
Tuesday, February 4	<b>Schools &amp; Offices Closed</b> – Special Election Day
Wednesday, February 5	Gr. 5 Field Trip – 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Thursday, February 6	Kindergarten Tiger Celebration
Thur., Feb. 13 & Fri., Feb. 14	<b>Elementary Schools Close 3-Hours Early - Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>
Monday, February 17	<b>Schools &amp; Offices Closed</b> – Presidents' Day

## PTA News

### PTA Family Fun Skate Night

Please join us for Skate Night this Sunday, January 19, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Wheels Skating Center in Odenton.

**Admission is FREE** and skate rental is only \$3 for quads or \$4 for inline. Food is available for purchase. Be sure to fill out the PTA event waiver form in advance. There is a form for students and a separate form for adults.

<http://www.wfespta.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Student-Waiver-Form.pdf> - students

<http://www.wfespta.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Adult-Participant-Waiver-Form.pdf> - adults

Please click here to see the flyer for complete information. Students will be ending the night with the school dance!! Monday is a holiday, so come out on Sunday evening for some family fun! If you have questions,

please email Kendra Albert at [jalbert2276@yahoo.com](mailto:jalbert2276@yahoo.com).

**In the event of inclement weather, please check the WFES PTA website, <https://www.wfespta.com/> and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/westfriendshipESPTA/>.**

### BOX TOPS

Don't forget to scan your receipts and clip those box tops. Please get your family in on the action too! Family members can easily download the app and choose West Friendship!

### WFES PTA Cultural Night

WFES PTA is proud to present our FIRST Cultural Night celebrating each other with our different and unique backgrounds. This will be a fun filled night of crafts, performances, food and displays. Cultural Night will take place on Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the event, please use the following Sign-up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BA8AA22AB9-wfes>. If you do not have Internet access please use

the following paper form:

-----Detach Here-----

<b>Participation/Volunteer Form for PTA Cultural Night</b>	
Check areas you are interested in:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> Display <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
<b>Parent/Guardian Name:</b> _____	<b>Email/Phone:</b> _____

For additional questions, please contact Puluna Thakkar-Shelat at [tpuluna@hotmail.com](mailto:tpuluna@hotmail.com) or Glenda H. Tittle at [glendatittle@gmail.com](mailto:glendatittle@gmail.com).

## WFES Restaurant Month at Kung Fu 12 Szechuan!

The entire month of January 2020 will be WFES Restaurant Month at Kung Fu 12 Szechuan! Be sure to mention WFES PTA when you place your order and Kung Fu 12 Szechuan will donate 10% of your Lunch, Dinner, or carry-out order to the WFES PTA. Click here for flyer.

Please visit: Kung Fun 12 Szechuan  
12250 Clarksville Pike, Suite F  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
Phone 410-698-6676

## Amazon Smile

Here is another reason to smile! Support your favorite organization – West Friendship Elementary School PTA when you purchase books, music, and lots of other items from Amazon.com through their Amazon Smile! program. Amazon Smile is a program where a portion of your purchase will be donated to your designated non-profit every time you shop from <https://smile.amazon.com>. A portion of each eligible purchase is donated to WFES PTA. You will have access to the same wide selection of products at the exact price as you do through regular Amazon! Giving to the WFES PTA in this way costs nothing extra, once you setup your Amazon Smile account.

1. **GO** to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.
2. **SELECT** “[PTA Maryland Congress of Parents & Teachers Inc., W Friendship, MD](#)” as your favorite charity on your *first* visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), before you begin shopping.

(Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible subsequent purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.)

3. **BOOKMARK** [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. **Remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com, (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) support the charity.**
4. **SHOP** as usual on Amazon! Then, look for the AmazonSmile badge in Your Orders to see which of your orders have supported our WFES PTA!

You must be on the “Smile” version of the site for your purchases to count towards the program. Items can be added to the cart but you must pay from the Smile site.

## Community News

Visit the Community News and Programs web-page for all announcements of events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations. <https://www.hcps.org/community-news-and-programs/>

## Road to Kindergarten Workshops, January 22, 23 & 30, 2020

### Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2020?

Please join us for an information session about kindergarten in the Howard County Public School System.

At this workshop you will learn:

- Expectations for school readiness (and receive a Ready for Kindergarten toolkit)
- Details about the kindergarten program
- Information about HCPSS kindergarten registration
- Ways that families and children can be supported during the transition to kindergarten

Sessions are designed for adults only. **Child care is available** for children ages 2 and older. Doors will open at 6 p.m. to allow time for parking, child care drop off and check-in. Sessions begin promptly at 6:30. We anticipate large crowds so please allow yourself ample time.

Choose a session that is convenient for you. No registration required. See below for sessions where a Spanish language interpreter will be present. For any other interpreter needs, please call 410-313-7102 ASAP.

### Sessions

All sessions will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. **If Howard County Public Schools are closed for inclement weather, that day's session is canceled.**

- Wednesday, January 22, Hammond High School, 8800 Guilford Road, Columbia (Spanish interpreter present)
- Thursday, January 23, Oakland Mills High School, 9410 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia (Spanish interpreter present)
- Thursday, January 30, Centennial High School, 4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City

An inclement weather date has been reserved for Wednesday, February 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Hammond High. Please contact the Office of Early Childhood Programs, 410-313-5693, with any additional questions, or visit our [Getting Ready for Kindergarten](#) page.

### Not My Child: Teen Vaping and More

The Marriotts Ridge High School PTSA is sponsoring a Howard County DrugFree (Howard County non-profit organization) program titled **"Not My Child: Teen Vaping and More"**. This is a **FREE** presentation for parents. Please join them on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Marriotts Ridge High School Auditorium. Go learn more about the dangers of vaping and other dangerous substances that your teens face daily. In the event of inclement weather the snow date will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



#### Address

12500 Frederick Road  
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#### Phone

410-313-5512



#### Website

[wfes.hcpss.org](http://wfes.hcpss.org)



#### Twitter

[@hcpss.wfes](https://twitter.com/hcpss.wfes)