

Kaye M. Breon  
Principal



Brian Vanisko  
Assistant Principal

**West Friendship E.S.**  
12500 Frederick Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794  
P: (410) 313-5512

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

**January 3, 2020**

## School News

Happy New Year! The West Friendship Elementary Staff extends their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown during the holiday season. We were overwhelmed by the treats and gifts that were given to us. Many thanks to the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee for the delicious lunch that was served on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for the PTA Gift of Thanks Committee and the numerous families who contributed to the program to enable our staff to enjoy gift cards of their choosing. We thank the many generous families who adopted Salvation Army Angels. In addition, we thank and ask that you support The Ritter Family Farm, a local business for donating hams that were distributed to friends in need. Generous acts of kindness to round out a great year at West Friendship!

It is hard to believe that it is 2020 and the beginning of a new decade? Where does the time go? With the start of a new year it is important to start with a few important reminders, reaffirming the importance of safety and security of our school. We wish you a very healthy and happy new year.

### ➤ 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.

### **Hearing & Vision Screening**

The Howard County Health Department will be at WFES on **Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** for our annual Hearing and Vision Screening. **Kindergarten, First grade, and students new to the state of Maryland will be screened.** If your child is absent or does not pass the initial screening, they will be re-screened on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. **If your child wears glasses, please make sure they have them.** If you have questions, please call the School Nurse at 410-313-5515 or the Hearing and Vision Program Supervisor at 410-313- 7210.

### **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!

### **Upcoming School Spirit Days**

Our next School Spirit Day will be on **Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**! WFES students and staff may show their school spirit by participating in **Crazy Hair Day**. We can't wait to see all the wild and crazy hairdos!

### **Attention: Current 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents**

**Mount View Middle School will host their Incoming Grade 6 Student Orientation on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the MVMS Cafeteria.**

### **Save the Date!**

Friday, January 3	Gr. 5 Choral Trip to MRHS / Concert - 7:00pm / Student Pickup - 8:25pm
Wednesday, January 8	PTA Meeting – 9:30am <b>(THIS IS A DATE CHANGE!)</b>
Friday, January 10	School Spirit “Crazy Hair” Day
Friday, January 10	Kindergarten Tiger Celebration – 2:30pm
Monday, January 13	Band & Strings Concert for <b>STUDENTS ONLY</b> – 2:30pm
<b>Monday, January 13</b>	<b>Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Orientation at MVMS – 6:00pm</b>
Tuesday, January 14	Strings Concert – 6:00pm / Band Concert – 7:30pm
Thursday, January 16	Spelling Bee for Grades 4 & 5 – 2:00pm
Friday, January 17	Vision & Hearing Screening
Sunday, January 19	WFES PTA Skating Party – 5:30pm (More Details to Come!)
Monday, January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools & Offices Closed
Wednesday, January 23	Yearbook Group Photos (Band, Strings, Chorus, etc.)
Friday, January 24	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period
Monday, January 27	Professional Work Day – Schools Closed for Students
Thursday, January 30	Vision & Hearing Rescreening

Friday, January 31  
Friday, January 31

WFES School Spirit "Sports Jersey/Sweatshirt/T-Shirt Day"  
Gr. 5 Tiger Celebration

## PTA News

### Next PTA Meeting

Please join us for the next PTA Meeting on **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** The original meeting was schedule for January 15<sup>th</sup>, but had to be rescheduled. When you sign in at the office, you can confirm the meeting area. We look forward to seeing you!

### 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

### 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. If you are interested in participating in the event, please complete the Google form located here:

<https://forms.gle/S94oCNcwC8ugbdLy8>

Cultural Night will take place on Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM - 9 PM.

For additional questions, please contact Puluna Thakkar at [tpuluna@hotmail.com](mailto:tpuluna@hotmail.com) or Phuong Dam at [pdam721@yahoo.com](mailto:pdam721@yahoo.com).

### BOX TOPS

Don't forget to scan your receipts and clip those box tops as you're grocery shopping this season. And get your family in on the action too! Family members can easily download the app and choose West Friendship!

### 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](http://smile.amazon.com)), before you begin shopping. (Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible subsequent purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com), (not [www.amazon.com](http://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.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>



### Address

12500 Frederick Road  
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### Phone

410-313-5512



### Website

[wfes.hcpss.org](https://www.hcpss.org/wfes)



### Twitter

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