October 25, 2019

School News

WFES Halloween/Fall Celebrations Reminders

Costumes/Makeup should not be worn to school. A short period of time will be allowed prior to the parade for students to put on their costumes. Costumes must be worn over clothing and easy to put on. Putting on a costume should not require a visit to the bathroom.

If you do not wish for your child to participate in the Halloween activities, please return the form on the bottom of the original Halloween letter that was sent home last week. You may also send a note or email to Penny_Smith@hcpss.org. Please know your child will NOT participate in the parade or the celebration. This note or email must be received by Monday October 28th.

WFES Halloween Parade and Celebration
(Parade will be cancelled if there is inclement weather--a message via email will be sent by 10:00am)

Who:
* K-5 students and staff
* Parents at Parade ONLY-go directly to parade route
* Parents may NOT wear masks while visiting – you will be asked to remove it
* Room Parents/Designated Volunteer – maximum of 2 per classroom - will monitor the set-up/clean-up of classroom celebrations

When:
* 10/31/19 – Thursday
* 2:15 Parade w/ celebrations immediately following

Where:
* Parade – outside at blacktop, playground, and field. Please stand on the outside of the cones.
* Celebrations - classrooms

Parking:
* Front lot not blocking school building,
* Empty lot behind the old WF Fire Dept.
* Wellworth Way or Clover Leaf Drive. Please park on only one side of the street to insure emergency vehicles can access the road.
* Please DO NOT leave valuables in your vehicles.

Worries, Concerns & Apprehension Parent Event

In the elementary years, many parents report about the anxiety and stress that their children are experiencing. In this workshop, participants will identify, understand, and learn techniques to help your child process and work through their worries. Emotional resiliency is crucial as it helps with both academic and personal life skills. Please mark your calendars to attend this event which will take place in the Media Center at West Friendship Elementary School on November 13th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Registration is required. For more information, see the flyer.

To register, click here.
Student Recognition

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as Student Leaders for our school! These students meet with our School Counselor, Mrs. Schnebly monthly, serving as the student voice for our school. They deliver and collect information from their classes and help to plan and promote school initiatives such as our spirit days. They will hold this position for the first half of the school year. Congratulations to these Student Leaders!

- Kindergarten: Brooke R., Zach S., Tori S., Cullen O.
- First Grade: Benjamin V., Vivian P., Maxwell B., Mia M., Ramsey A., Cassie C.
- Second Grade: Matthew B., Alivia L., Ian O., Bryn G., Owen D., Maddy S.
- Third Grade: Reid S., Annika J., Greyson A., Aditi R., Trenton S., Tvarita R.
- Fourth Grade: Bhavya P., Ryan H., Grace M., Claire Z., Jesse D., Addison C., Gretchen F., Shreyan M.
- Fifth Grade: Peyton A., Addison C., Vestina D., Charlie M., Bailey W., Dean H.

Upcoming School Spirit Day

Our next School Spirit Day will be on Friday, November 8th! WFES students and staff may participate in Stuffed Animal Day. Bring a stuffed animal to school.

School Pictures

All WFES students were photographed on September 18th. If you ordered school pictures the portrait packages were sent home with students last Thursday. These are the photos that will be used in our school yearbook that will be sold and published in late Spring. Please contact Mrs. Penny Smith ASAP if you have not received your child’s portrait package.

A makeup/retake photo session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th. If you are not satisfied with your portraits, please return your ENTIRE portrait package to the photographer when they are at WFES on November 6th. Your retake photo will be done at that time. Students who are new to WFES will also be photographed at that time and have the opportunity to order photos.

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. 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. Visitors must sign-in with a driver’s license or state issued identification card in order to obtain a badge from the office. Visitors who are not listed on a student’s emergency procedure form, must have written permission from the student’s parent in order to visit/volunteer in our school. Anyone wishing to tour the school or visit a class must call the school and prearrange a visit. Please understand that younger siblings are not permitted during visits/lunch/recess/volunteer time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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. **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... meaning no one will be at home to meet a student!** Please do not change dismissal plans after 3:15 p.m. End of day changes can be very hectic and confusing. Please remember that students are not permitted to ride any bus other than their assigned bus. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.

**Notes from the Nurse**

As we enter into flu season, this is a reminder that frequent handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizer is the best way to prevent the spread of disease. Many people catch the flu from infected people who are coughing and sneezing. Please teach your child to use a tissue or a sleeve when they have these symptoms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cold: Develops over a few days</th>
<th>SYMPTOMS:</th>
<th>Flu: Develops very quickly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May sneeze more often</td>
<td>Sneezing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>High Probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High probability</td>
<td>Sore Throat</td>
<td>Not common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not common</td>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>High probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not common</td>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>High probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Aches</td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy/moderate mucous</td>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>Small amount of mucous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Nasal Congestion</td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Chest Discomfort</td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- **Fever policy**: Keep your child home if she/he has a fever over 100.0. If your child has a fever at school, they must be picked up. Students may not return to school until their temperature is less than 100.0 for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. A fever indicates that your child has a contagious infection.
- Please notify your child’s teacher and/or the school nurse if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat or the flu.
- If the doctor prescribes medication for your child, please make sure he/she takes it as directed-which means the right amount at the right time and without missing doses.
- Make sure your child is getting enough sleep. 9-11 hours of sleep is recommended for school age children.
- We encourage you to send in a refillable water bottle labeled with your child’s name every day. Please remind your child not to share.
- You may send in cough drops with a parent note. They will be kept in the health room.
- Students may keep lip balm in their backpacks for use during the school day. Please remind your child not to share.

Please contact the Health Room with any questions or concerns.
Phone: 410-313-5515 or Email: elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org

**All Volunteers/Chaperones Must Complete Training**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering and/or chaperoning field trips within the Howard County School System! We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and schools.
According to HCPSS Board Policy, all parent volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools, as well as the abuse and neglect training. **If you have only sent in one certificate, please take time to complete the other mandatory training. Please complete these courses before registering to volunteer at our school.** Please follow these steps by clicking these links:

1) [Complete the Confidentiality Training Course](#)
2) [Download and print the first parent volunteer certification Form](#)
3) [Complete the Abuse and Neglect training](#)
4) [Download and print the second parent volunteer verification form](#)
5) Put both certification forms in your child’s folder to be sent to the front office. We will keep them on file for the duration of the school year.

Thank you in advance for your participation in our school, and helping to ensure that our students remain safe under the care of our volunteers.

### Save the Date!

**Wednesday, October 30**
Gr. 1 Field Trip – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Thursday, October 31**
Halloween Parade – 2:15 p.m.

**Friday, November 1**
Gr. 5 Tiger Celebration – 12:15 p.m.

**Friday, November 1**
Schools Close 3 Hrs. Early (12:45pm) – End of 1st Marking Period

**Wednesday, November 6**
Absentee/Makeup Photos & Yearbook Candids

**Thursday, November 7**
Kindergarten Field Trip – 9:30 to 11:45 a.m.

**Friday, November 8**
School Spirit *Stuffed Animal Day*

**Friday, November 8**
Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.

**Friday, November 8**
Kindergarten Tiger Celebration – 2:30 p.m.

**Monday, November 11**
Report Cards Issued

**Wednesday, November 13**
Worries, Concerns & Apprehension Parent Event in Media – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**November 18 – 26**
WFES Book Fair

### From the PTA

**West Friendship Elementary School PTA News**

The overall purpose of PTA is to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Be informed about the goings on with WFES PTA:

*PTA Website:* [www.wfespta.com](http://www.wfespta.com)

*PTA Facebook page:* West Friendship Elementary School PTA

**WFES PTA Membership Committee**

By becoming a PTA Member, not only will you help your child, you’ll also help other students, parents, school staff, and our community work together to share ideas that benefit our children.

The WFES PTA sponsors many wonderful programs and activities, such as Movie Night, Cultural Arts Assemblies, Science Fair, Staff Appreciation, School Dance, Spring Festival, and much more! Despite rising costs we have been able to keep our membership fee at $15 per family.

Our online PTA registration is now open: [https://www.wfespta.com/join/pta-member-registration/](https://www.wfespta.com/join/pta-member-registration/)

**WFES PTA Walking Wednesday**
Walking Wednesday is an integral part of our school’s commitment to promote Wellness for All Students!! We are gathering volunteers to log laps and to be an encouragement to all of our students!! Please just come to WFES, sign in at the office, and join us on the blacktop during your child’s recess time! We look forward to seeing you there!! Any questions, please email Kendra Albert at jalbert2276@yahoo.com

**Recess Schedule**
Kindergarten 11:00-11:30  
1st Grade 11:00-11:30  
2nd Grade 11:30-12:00  
3rd Grade 11:45-12:15  
4th Grade 12:45-1:15  
5th Grade 12:15-12:45

**Community News**

**Clothing Giveaway**
FREE Clothing for All Ages, Infant to Adult

- **Saturday, October 26th from 9:00a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**  
  North Laurel Community Center  
  9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel, MD 20723
- **Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (Line starts at 7:00 a.m.)**  
  Long Reach High School Cafeteria  
  6101 Old Dobbin Road, Columbia, MD

This information is neither sponsored/endorsed by HCPSS or the school. Clothes donated by Grace Community Church.

**Address**
12500 Frederick Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794

**Phone**
410-313-5512

**Website**
wfes.hcpss.org

**Twitter**
@hcpss.wfes