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School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

May 12, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

I hope everyone is managing well with all of this rain. Sunny skies are just around the corner! Fortunately, we had nice enough weather to have our Beautification Day! The grounds look wonderful. Thank you, **PTA** for purchasing all the flowers and thank you to all the families who came out to help weed and plant. Next school year we are looking to form a Beautification Committee that would be charged with developing a sustainable planting plan that is creative and aligns with our science curriculum. If you are interested in this committee, please let me know.

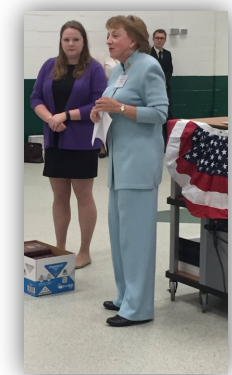


Congratulations to **Mr. Umla, 2nd and 4th graders, and our drum ensembles** for a wonderful spring concert! You all sounded so great. All had a good time!

This week 5th grade conducted their Simulated Congressional Hearings (SCH). Our students demonstrated their understanding of the U.S. Constitution and they shared their expertise on topics ranging from colonial life and government to the contemporary rights and responsibilities of citizens in our country. Our program kicked off with a keynote speech from **Delegate Trent Kittleman**.

She shared her insight with our students about her work writing and voting for Maryland state laws. Other SCH judges were WFVFD Chief Day, Board of Education members Mrs. Giles and Mrs. French. Youth Pastor, Ms. Rhema Davis, Howard County Fire and Rescue Manager Mrs. Jackie Kotei, from Junior Achievement, WFES PTA and WFES parent Ms. Hina Naseem, Proud citizen Mr.

Ronald Giles, and Mrs. Carol Hahn, Principal of Bellow Springs ES. Congratulations to the **5th grade team** for preparing our students so well and setting them up for success!



On behalf of the WFES Staff, I would like to thank Mrs. Kathy Baur, the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee and WFES Community for all the wonderful treats, the lunch, the gifts, and the appreciation. We truly value your partnership. Thank you so much for sharing your wonderful children with us everyday.



Don't forget that there are several important events next week. Monday is our spring band and orchestra concert. Tuesday is our Family Math Night: Summer Math Ideas and Thursday is Field Day! On Friday, May 20 there is no school for students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

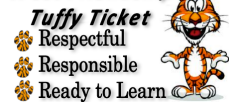
Monday, May 16	Band/Strings Concert for WFES Students – 2:30 p.m.
Monday, May 16	Band/Strings Concert Evening Performance – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17	Family Math Night – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 19	Field Day (rain date is May 23 rd)
Friday, May 20	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning Day
Wednesday, May 25	Evening of Excellence – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 27	School Spirit “Wild Hair” Day
Friday, May 27	PTA Spring Festival – 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 30	Schools & Offices Closed – Memorial Day
Monday, June 13	Gr. 1 Picnic – 10:00 a.m.
Monday, June 13	Gr. 5 Promotion Program – 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 14	Kindergarten Promotion Program – 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday, June 14	Gr. 3 Picnic – 1:50 p.m.
Tuesday, June 14	Gr. 5 Picnic – 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 15	Kindergarten Picnic – 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, June 15	Gr. 4 Picnic – 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, June 16	Gr. 2 Picnic – 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, June 16	3-Hour Early Dismissal (12:45)
Friday, June 17	3-Hour Early Dismissal (12:45) - Last Day of School

What's for Lunch?

For the latest menus, and information regarding food services, please go to: <http://www.hcpss.org/food-services> or download the HCPSS App for free.

School News

West Friendship



PBIS News: Today we conducted another Double Tuffy Day! On this day the staff wear their WFES gear, and when we catch students following the 3R's, they get double Tuffies!

Our next and last PBIS celebration is in the planning process. This celebration is called Tiger Beach scheduled for June 8. This year we have a 5th grade focus group that is assisting with the planning.



Math at Home!

Family Math Night

Please join us on Tuesday, May 17th at 6:30 p.m. for Family Math Night! Come out and learn about fun ways to engage in math this summer. Please see the attachment.

Yearbooks Orders Due May 20th!

This is a reminder about purchasing yearbooks. The deadline to order is next Friday, May 20th. The cost per yearbook is \$25.00. You may go to the following website to place your orders online: <http://osp.osmsinc.com/HowardMD/>. However, if you prefer to send in a check please make it payable to West Friendship Elementary. Please see the attachment to download an order form. Thank you!

2016 Screen-Free Week Challenge

The Maryland General Assembly, Delegate Bob Flanagan, Delegate Trent Kittleman, Delegate Warren Miller, and Senator Gail Bates invite elementary school students in District 9 to participate in the "Screen-Free Week Challenge." Younger siblings are also encouraged to participate. We hope interested students will accept the challenge by giving up television (and other electronic devices with screens, unless it is school-related) for seven consecutive days and engaging themselves in more productive, creative, and educational ways to spend their time. A perfect time to do this is in conjunction with National Screen-Free Week 2016 from May 2nd thru May 8th. Students who successfully complete the "challenge" will receive a personalized certificate. Please see the attachment to download a challenge form. **Please complete it and return it to Penny Jones in the school office by Friday, May 13th.**

WFES Field Day!! * Thursday, May 19th *** Event Help Needed!!**

Field Day activities require volunteers. Basketballs and footballs must be wrangled, bowling pins reset, races executed, and water replenished.

Here's how to volunteer in 3 easy steps:

1) Click this link to see our Sign-Up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/Q5xvFC>

2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. If you'd like more detailed information about each activity, please visit Mr. Talbert's site and scroll to the bottom:

<https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/942>

3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password.

Can't attend but would still like to help?

Visit <http://vols.pt/Q5xvFC> to donate supplies. Your donations will make a difference!

Questions? Need assistance with sign-up?

Contact Wellness Committee Chair, Cathy Rayburn at crayburn001@yahoo.com or 410-589-4928.

WFES Night of Excellence

Please join us for our Night of Excellence on May 25th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. In order to ensure each enrichment unit and seminar has student presenters, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Crivelli are asking all students who participated in an activity with them this year, to complete the presentation sign-up form.

Additionally, they are looking for volunteers to help with setup, assistance during the event, and break down. Volunteers can sign up using the same online form. Help us ensure this night shows the excellence that has occurred all year! Please use this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/w6vNp83fsC>

Color Cycle Program

Mrs. Curran's third grade class is doing a program called Color Cycle from Crayola. The Color Cycle program is a program that takes dried out markers, highlighters and dry erase markers and turns them into energy. Instead of throwing the markers in the trash, we can donate them to Crayola to make them into something new. A box marked Color Cycle is located in the school office. Please drop off your dried out or old markers, highlighters, and dry erase markers. Thank you!

Walking Wednesdays

We need your help with Walking Wednesday. You can sign up during your child's recess. You will mark laps, help the kids stay on the track, and hand out small awards for laps completed. Only 40-minutes of your time is needed. Sign up for as many as you'd like. We welcome any family members that want to participate. Here is the link for sign up: <http://vols.pt/d3wWgB>

Please consider being the lead volunteer for your time slot. More details included in the link above.

Please contact Cathy Rayburn if you have any questions regarding volunteering for Walking Wednesdays or any other Wellness Committee opportunities.

Phone: 410-489-5928 or mail: crayburn001@yahoo.com

Join the WFES Band!

If you are a current third or fourth grader, it's time to start thinking about joining the band for the 2016-2017 school year! WFES is in need of current third graders to play flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, trombone, tuba, french horn, euphonium, and percussion next school year. Please know that no musical experience is necessary and everyone in third grade is invited and encouraged to try an instrument next year. We learn everything together, even how to open the case! If your child is interested in joining the band next year and you have questions you can contact Band Director Amy Syversen at amy_syversen@hcpss.org. Please visit the WFES band website at www.amybejm.com to learn more about the program. Joining is very easy! All you need to do is click on the join the band button and fill out the online application. Band is free to join and anyone currently in third grade is welcome to join. September 2nd is the band application deadline, but students may start joining today. Any student who was in beginning band this year as a fourth grader must apply online as well, but no auditions are required. Any child who is a current fourth grader and was not in band this year in fourth grade, and would like to join band next year in fifth grade, should contact band director Amy Syversen at amy_syversen@hcpss.org to discuss your options. Your fourth grader can join as a beginner next year, or I can help you find a private teacher to catch up over the summer so they can join their fifth grade peers in band next year. I hope to have your child join our program and make friends and memories to last a lifetime!

Kindergarten Registration Continues

Do you have a child who will be 5-years old by September 1, 2016? **[Please take time now to register them for next school year's Kindergarten Program. You may come in any school day between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.](#)** Students must be registered by their custodial parent (biological, adoptive, legal guardian), and the parent must live within the school attendance area. Please be prepared to spend about 30-minutes completing paperwork. The following documents are required at time of registration:

- Parent picture ID: original driver's license, military ID, or passport.
- Signed original, current lease or deed with your address, valid dates, signatures.
- Current utility bill with name and address (non-cellular telephone, gas and electric, cable bill).
- Student's proof of birth (original birth certificate, baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, passport or military ID).
- Proof of parental relationship, custody, or guardianship. If applicable, bring legal proof of custody (court order).
- Student's current proof of immunizations signed by a doctor, health care provider, day care provider or school official.
- Documentation of Special Education (IEP), 504, Psychological Report, or related services.
- Any additional paperwork that may be necessary due to special living arrangements or circumstances.

No appointment is necessary during the Kindergarten Registration Kickoff week. If you are unable to register your child during this time, please contact Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 or colleen_green@hcpss.org to make a registration appointment.

PTA NEWS

Gift of Thanks Deadline – Monday, May 16th

As the end of the school year approaches, we are continuing with the Gift of Thanks Program online. This program provides a convenient way for you to express your gratitude to the dedicated staff that teaches our children. Your contributions are pooled and converted into gift cards selected by the staff.

Participation is not mandatory, and families are welcome to give individual gifts if they prefer. The intent is to simplify end of year gift giving for families and allow the staff some flexibility. The WFES PTA then receives a percentage of every gift card purchased.

Here is how the program works:

- Choose how much you would like to give the staff members. Any amount in \$1 increments is appropriate.
- Follow the payment instructions. You can pay with credit card or check
- If you choose to pay with a check, make payable to *WFES PTA* and deliver the printed copy of your confirmation form with your check to your child's teacher in an envelope marked "*Gift of Thanks.*"
- Staff members will receive a certificate with the total amount of gift card dollars they can redeem from an extensive list of retailers. Each contributing family is recognized on the certificate by **name only**, *not* amount given. The Gift of Thanks coordinator will be the only person who sees the individual contribution amounts and will ensure that each staff member who receives donations will not receive less than \$10.

IMPORTANT DEADLINE INFORMATION: The last day to submit is **Monday, May 16th** at midnight. We will send a reminder email. If paying by check, your order must be completed online by midnight (May 16th) and your check needs to be delivered to the school by Tuesday, May 17th by 3:30 p.m. If it is not received by this date and time, your order will be deleted. Thank you for following these necessary guidelines.

Please use the following link to get started:

<http://www.wfespta.com/online-forms/gift-of-thanks/>



Spring Festival Tickets On Sale Now!!!

The annual WFES PTA Spring Festival will be held on Friday, May 27th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. You can purchase tickets in advance and pay online for ticket packages of 50 or more. For smaller quantities, please use the ticket form and return it with payment through backpack mail. Either way you can pickup your tickets the day of the Festival at the ticket booth. Please visit www.wfespta.com/online-forms/spring-festival-tickets/ to purchase your tickets now.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Festival

Our students really look forward to Spring Festival! Many middle school students return to WFES for this fun-filled evening because they have such wonderful memories. This event is a huge undertaking and is only possible with the assistance of many volunteers. We need people to manage the games, donate baked goods, and 2-liter bottles of soda. Please visit <http://vols.pt/u1o7ZN> and sign up for a volunteer spot. Please get involved and sign-up to help create this fun time for our children. High school students needing service hours are more than welcome to sign-up, too!

Box Tops News

The month of May brings with it our final Box Tops Rally for this school year. Due to the tremendous success and enjoyment of the new, raffle-style incentive program, it will continue. Therefore, throughout this entire month, please turn in all Box Tops **in a bag or envelope marked with the student's (or staff member's) full name and the number of Box Tops being submitted.** For every 10 Box Tops submitted, an entry into the raffle will be earned. "April showers" will bring a lot more than flowers to our May winners! We will draw names during Morning Announcements in early June to award gift cards to such exciting retailers as Toys 'R Us, Under Armour, Barnes & Noble, & Yogi Castle. Good luck to everyone and thank you for your support of our school!

From the PTA Nominating Committee

WFES is looking for a few GREAT volunteers! Your help and support is needed for several upcoming activities for the remainder of this school year and next year too! If you have even one hour to lend a hand – either from home or at West Friendship - we would love to have you participate. What are your interests and talents? We probably have a committee that could use your expertise. Here are several PTA committees looking for some assistance:

- Spring Festival
- Walking Wednesday
- Field Day
- Community Outreach
- Reflections
- Box Tops

The following executive board position is currently open: 2nd Vice President.

If you are interested in chairing a PTA committee or taking on a PTA Executive Board position for the 2016-2017 school year, please contact a member of the nominating committee and get involved. ~ Valerie Eshleman at veshleman@healthlawyers.org, Kathy Baur at kdbaur@gmail.com or Penny Jones at penny_jones@hcpss.org.

Walking Wednesdays

We need your help with Walking Wednesday. You can sign up during your child's recess. You will mark laps, help the kids stay on the track, and hand out small awards for laps completed. Only 40-minutes of your time is needed. Sign up for as many as you'd like. We welcome any family members that want to participate.

Here is the link for sign up: <http://vols.pt/d3wWgB>

Please consider being the lead volunteer for your time slot. More details included in the link above.

Please contact Cathy Rayburn if you have any questions regarding volunteering for Walking Wednesdays or any other Wellness Committee opportunities.

Phone: 410-489-5928 or mail: crayburn001@yahoo.com

"Dining for Dollars" at Glory Days Grill

Upcoming "dining for dollars" WFES spring fundraising event at Glory Days Grill. When you dine at a Glory Days between March 11th & May 30th, the restaurant will contribute 10% of your total food and beverage purchases to West Friendship Elementary School PTA. Bring your neighbors, friends, and relatives, because the 10% applies to the total food and beverage bill. Simply ask your server for a copy of your guest check (not credit card receipt). Please put the guest check in an envelope marked "Glory Days – PTA" and send it to school with your student or have any other friends/family who participate mail it directly to WFES, 12500 Frederick Road, West Friendship, MD 21794. Questions – Email Jen at jlowther4@gmail.com.

Community News

Early birds sign up now!! Join in the fun at Marriotts Ridge!!!

Registration is now open for the Marriotts Ridge Booster summer sports and music camps. For a complete list and registration information, check out the website: <http://www.mrhs-boosters.com/summer-camps>

Register now, early registration until May 15, 2016

Marriotts Ridge Boys Basketball Camp 2016

Please join us for the annual Marriotts Ridge Mustangs boys basketball camp on June 20-24 from 9am-12pm. Meet the coaches, compete in full court tournaments, skill development, 3-point contests, skills competition and more!

To register please visit: <http://www.mrhs-boosters.com/summer-camps>

Coach Brady: timothy_bradley@hcpss.org

Howard County Public Library – Glenwood Branch

The *following presentations require registration* (which begins one week prior to class). Please register by calling 410-313-5579 or on-line, www.hclibrary.org.

FINGERPAINT FRIDAYS

Ages 2-5 with adult; 15-minutes.

Friday, May 13, 10:15 & 11:15 a.m.

SLOPPY SATURDAYS

Seasonally themed crafts.

Ages 5-10; 20-minutes.

Saturday, May 14, 3:00 p.m.

MUSICAL MAY-HEM

Celebrate spring with the music of children's musicians as you dance, play and sing with scarves, instruments and parachute.

Ages 2-5 with adult.; 30-minutes.

Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. **OR** Wednesday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.

BOOK BINGO

Play Bingo featuring book characters, and maybe win a book!

Ages 5-10; 45-60 minutes.

Friday, May 20, 2:00 p.m.

GHOSTBUSTERS

Watch the original movie (rated PG) and make a craft with marshmallow.

Ages 9 & up, families welcome

Saturday, May 21, 2:30 & 4:30 pm.

CELESTIAL SEARCHERS YOUNG ASTRONOMERS CLUB

Local astronomy educator Dr. Joel Goodman discusses our solar system and beyond with hands-on activities -- includes outside telescope viewing (weather permitting.)

Ages 5-8 with adult; 60-minutes.

Monday, May 23, 7-8 pm.

Join us in the Pool!

The Wilde Lake Watercats, of the Columbia Association Neighborhood Swim League, invite you to become a member of our summer swim team. Preseason practices begin on May 31st at Faulkner Ridge Pool. CA members and non-members are welcome to join. More information can be found at

www.columbiaassociation.org/facilities/pools/summer-swim-team-cnsl/ or at www.wlwatercats.org.

Contact us at wwatercats@gmail.com for additional information.

Glenelg Boosters Sports Camp 2016

Students will improve their technical and tactical skills in an encouraging, educational, and positive environment. **REGISTER NOW!!** Go to: www.glenelgboosters.com

This year's camps include: **Football, Boy's Lacrosse, Boy's Basketball I & II, Soccer I & II, Girl's Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Softball, Baseball, Cheerleading, and Speed & Agility**

Camps open to current year 5th-8th graders (2016-2017 6th-9th graders)

For questions, www.sportscamp16@gmail.com

Howard County Conservancy

Full-day nature camps, **June 27-August 19**, camps are located in Woodstock on our 232-acre nature center and at the Belmont in Elkridge www.hcconservancy.org/camp.html