

<b>Dr. Debra L. O'Byrne</b> Principal	 <h1 style="color: green;">Tiger Tales</h1>	<b>Mrs. Sara Cox</b> Assistant Principal
<b>West Friendship Elementary</b> 12500 Frederick Road West Friendship, MD 21794 Phone 410-313-5512 Fax 410-313-5514	Website <a href="https://wfes.hcpss.org/">https://wfes.hcpss.org/</a>	School Hours: 9:25 am – 3:55 pm

**November 17, 2023**

## From the Principal's Desk

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent Conferences will be held next week, and **school will dismiss three hours early on Monday, November 20, and Tuesday, November 21 (12:55 p.m.)**. We are very pleased with your response in scheduling these important meetings with your child's teacher. Teachers are eager to describe our instructional programs and provide information about your child's progress this year.

### Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is almost here, and our school year is moving along quickly. At this time each year, we often reflect on everything we are thankful for. We are grateful for all the wonderful people at West Friendship Elementary. We have wonderful students, an outstanding staff, and supportive parents. Our school has an amazing learning environment because everyone is willing to work together.

Here at West Friendship Elementary we have so many reasons to be grateful, so we want to share our bounty. That is why we are participating in a **Thanksgiving Food Drive** to benefit the Howard County Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. Specific items are being collected based on the first letter of your last name. Please [click here](#) to see full details or you may scroll to the bottom of this newsletter. The **final day of our food drive is Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for sharing and caring.

Next week is a short week and we will take a break from sending our newsletter. Our next weekly *Tiger Tales* will be sent on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. On behalf of the West Friendship Elementary School Staff, we wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

Always for children,

Dr. Debra L. O'Byrne  
 Principal



## Dates to Remember

<b>November 20</b>	<b>Final Day of Thanksgiving Food Drive (<a href="#">See Details Here</a>)</b>
<b>Monday, November 20</b>	<b>Grade 2 Tiger Celebration – 12:00pm</b>
<b>Monday, November 20</b>	<b>3 Hr. Early Dismissal (12:55pm) – In-Person Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 21</b>	<b>Grade 4 Tiger Celebration – 10:55am</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 21</b>	<b>3 Hr. Early Dismissal (12:55pm) – Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 22</b>	<b>Schools Closed for Students</b>
<b>Thurs./Fri., Nov. 23 &amp; 24</b>	<b>Schools &amp; Offices Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b>Friday, December 1</b>	<b>Grade 1 Tiger Celebration – 2:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 6</b>	<b>School “Spirit Wear” Day – Wear Spirit Wear or School Colors: Green &amp; White</b>
<b>Monday, December 11</b>	<b>PTA Meeting – 7:00pm</b>

Wednesday, December 13	Schools Close 3-Hours Early (12:55pm) – Professional Work & Wellness Day
Friday, December 15	PTA Restaurant Event at Cozy Café Bakery & Bistro – 9am to 8pm
Friday, December 22	School Spirit “Pajama Day” – Wear Comfy PJ’s ( <u>NO</u> slippers, please!)
December 25 – January 1	Schools & Offices Closed – Winter Break

## School Information

### PE Dress Guidelines for Students

Physical education students should wear clothing and footwear that allows for safe & free movement and is conducive for learning:

- Appropriate athletic and supportive footwear is needed for safety, protection, and performance. Students should wear athletic shoes that can be tied or velcroed.
- No attire on/around the neck (necklaces, lanyards, garments).
- No dangling clothing (scarves or clothes that are baggy). Exceptions should be made for religious garments.
- No jewelry, with the exception of stud earrings, medical bracelets, and fitness trackers, may be worn during physical activity.



### Impact Aid Forms Due December 14

Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive federal funding by [completing the Impact Aid form](#) online by December 14. Impact Aid supplements the HCPSS operating budget to enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in Howard County classrooms.

### Lost and Found

If your child is missing something, tell them to look in the lost and found area located in the school foyer. As students are starting to dress in more layers due to colder weather, please label their coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, etc. with their name. Also, please label water bottles. This makes it easy to return items to students rather than place them in the lost and found area.

### Weis 4 Schools

Do you shop at Weis? If so, please link your Weis Rewards card to WFES! Please see [this flier](#) for more information, including a QR code to link your Rewards card.

### Harris Teeter Together in Education Rewards

If you shop at Harris Teeter, you can link your VIC card to benefit WFES. Follow these simple steps [HERE](#):

1. Enter email associated with your VIC account.
2. Enter the one-time passcode sent to your email.
3. Search for your school and click "add" to link.

## PTA News & Information

### Join the PTA!

Remember that PTA membership must be renewed each school year. Please visit <https://westfriendshippta.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true> to join or renew.

### Gift of Thanks Program

The WFES PTA will continue our traditional **Gift of Thanks** program. This program provides a convenient way for families and individuals to express their gratitude to the West Friendship Elementary staff that teach and nurture our children. Your contributions are combined and converted into gift cards the staff members choose. Participation is not mandatory. The intent of this program is to simplify holiday gift giving for families and to allow the staff flexibility.

Here is how the program works:

- Choose how much you would like to give the staff member(s). Any amount in \$1 increments is appropriate.
- Payment is by credit card only, via the memberhub store.
- Each staff member will receive a certificate informing them of the total combined amount of gift card dollars contributed to them.

Each contributing family is recognized on the certificate by name only, not the amount given. The amounts will be kept confidential. The PTA will ensure that each staff member receives a minimum of \$10.

Please use this link to participate in the program: <https://westfriendshippta.memberhub.com/>. You may also send payments to the school via backpack mail. Please place it in an envelope labeled "Gift of Thanks" and include **cash or check payable to WFES PTA**, a note with the name(s) you would like included, and which staff member(s) is to receive your gift.

The deadline to contribute to this easy and loved gift giving program is Monday, December 5 at 5:00pm! For the staff to receive their gift cards prior to winter break, this will be a firm deadline. Questions? Please contact [kathryn.calton@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.calton@gmail.com).

## Community Information

### HCPSS Community News / Events

Families can quickly discover educational and recreational resources, events, and after-school programs offered by community non-profits on HCPSS's new Community News and Programs [website](#).

### **MARRIOTTS RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MATTRESS SALE! Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>; 10 AM - 5 PM**

The Marriotts Ridge Music Department is excited to announce our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mattress Sale Fundraiser to be held in the high school Commons on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Come try out one of 25+ brand name mattress models on display and place your order for a brand new mattress! In addition, there will be premium bedding accessories including weighted blankets, luxury pillows and sheets, and more for sale.

EVERY purchase benefits the music programs of Marriotts Ridge. Plus, we offer -- **10% discount for HCPSS staff and community heroes! \* Price Matching! \* Financing Available!**

For more info [click here](#) and please share the [FACEBOOK LINK](#) with all your family and friends!

### **SENSORY FRIENDLY SUNDAY AT THE ROBINSON NATURE CENTER**

Sunday, December 10, 2023; 10:30am - 12:00pm

6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

These events are designed for families with children, teens, and adults with sensory-processing differences, autism spectrum disorder, or developmental disabilities. Center exhibits, trails and outdoor play areas will open early. Enjoy self-paced activities including sensory bins and pathways, scavenger hunts and crafts or games. The planetarium will be open from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Preregistration is recommended, please call 410-313-0400. Sponsored by the Robinson Nature Center and Howard County Recreation & Parks.

There is a fee for non-members: adults \$5, children \$3. Children under three are FREE.