

WESTBROOK EAGLE NEWS

October 2011

*Westbrook Elementary School
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JOIN US FOR PARENT VISITATION DAY On Monday, October 10th we welcome all parents to visit our classrooms to see learning in action! This is the Columbus Day holiday and means a no work day for many parents, yet it is still a school day for us. Students are expected to come to school on time and enter the building at 8:45am. Parents will gather on the front lawn until 9:15am, at which time you may join your children in the classrooms. This lag is to allow the teachers time to take attendance, the lunch count and get the children settled before the room becomes busy with the parents. At 11:00am we will announce the end of the parent visitation time. So, if at all possible, please join us anytime between 9:15am and 11:00am on Monday, October 10, 2011 to visit the classrooms! Unfortunately due to space restrictions, you may not stay to join your children for lunch in our cafeteria. Furthermore, we can only invite parents to join; extended families and younger siblings are not permitted to attend.

PRINCIPAL COFFEE Thank you to those who attended the Principal Coffee in September. These will continue every month as it is a great way for parents to get "face time" with the principal and have rich discussions or get questions answered. This month the focus will be on the new Stop and Think Program being used in all classrooms. I encourage parents to attend. Please join me on Monday, October 17 from 9:00am to 9:50am in the Media Center.

WESTBROOK VALUES MANNERS Our big focus this year is on showing good manners. During the first two weeks of school I visited every class and read a book on manners. Why should we use good manners? It shows others that we care about them and we care about ourselves. We are asking all students to demonstrate good manners every day by:

- Saying please, thank you, excuse me, and you are welcome.
- Raising hands in class to share thoughts or answers or ask questions.
- Showing good listening skills (eyes on the teacher, hands still, ears open).
- Following an adult's directions when given.
- Being kind to others (sharing, taking turns, and helping).

The staff is asking for your support in this endeavor by reinforcing to your children the importance of good manners. We have reminders on morning announcements and it is clearly a part of our Community of Caring, but your added discussions at home can really help. Respect for all is a key to success at Westbrook!

INTERIMS September 30 marks the halfway point of the first marking period. Parents in grades 2-5 will receive an interim if a student has an N, low C, D or E in any core subject or is not demonstrating effective work study skills. These will be coming home on Tuesday or Wednesday. It is so important to review, sign and return these to school. There is STILL time to improve those grades and study habits! These notices are given so that families are aware of what is happening in school and can work together to make improvements before the end of the quarter on October 28.

SHELTER and LOCKDOWN DRILLS

On Wednesday, September 28th we practiced a Lockdown drill followed by a Shelter drill. These are designed to practice emergency procedures just as we practice fire drill procedures. Shelter is in response to an outside danger and involves locking all outside doors. Instruction continues but student movement in the building is closely monitored. A Lockdown is when there is a potential danger inside the building. Each classroom is locked down, shades pulled and instruction is stopped. We do not discuss reasons for doing these other than the general explanation given here. You may want to discuss these with your children.

FIELD TRIPS We are extremely fortunate to have many field trips at Westbrook ES. Planning a field trip is no easy task, yet our amazing teachers regularly take this on to enhance the curriculum. Many times we ask for parent volunteers to attend the trip to serve as chaperones and ensure the safety of our students. If you volunteer for a trip, but wish to drive separately, this is possible, BUT, your child must ride the bus with the other students. This is done to foster relationships between students, function as a collective group, and maintain the safety of the group. It is a regular school day so students must be present for attendance in the morning and then travel with the class. This way a teacher can maintain an accurate head count at all times and avoid any confusions. We appreciate your support.

GRADE 5 FAMILIES: APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET PROGRAMS IS NOV. 7.

The magnet programs at Eastern Middle School and Takoma Park Middle School are a wonderful opportunity for your upcoming sixth grader to experience a unique middle school program. There are two upcoming informational meetings for families. Eastern MS will hold one on October 25th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Takoma Park MS will hold an open house on October 3rd from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. If you would like an application or are interested in more information, please contact Ms. Jones.

GRADE 3 FAMILIES: APPLICATIONS FOR THE GT CENTER AT CHEVY CHASE ELEMENTARY ARE DUE NOVEMBER 7.

For some students the challenges at the home elementary school are not enough. Students who demonstrate academic performance well above grade level, unusual creativity, exceptional abstract reasoning skills, and continual curiosity and drive to learn can be well-suited to this program. An informational meeting for parents will be held at Wheaton High School on October 10th at 7:00pm. Any student, no matter if he/she was identified as Gifted and Talented in second grade, is eligible to apply. If you would like an application or are interested in more information, please contact Ms. Jones.

BULLYING POLICY Attached to this newsletter is the Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form. Montgomery County Public Schools requires that principals communicate the policy and form to the parents at the beginning of the school year. The definition of bullying is intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and is motivated by an actual or perceived personal characteristic; is threatening or seriously intimidating; and occurs on school property, at a school event, or on a school bus. We are committed to an environment that is free of bullying so that school is a safe place in which to learn. If a student or parent chooses to fill out the attached form at any time during the year, an investigation into the allegations will be conducted by the principal or designee. Once the investigation is complete, if any disciplinary actions or consequences are required it will be in accordance with the Student's Rights and Responsibilities. Parents of any involved students will be notified. Support for the victim and bystanders will be made available. It is my hope that we do not encounter problems with bullying at WES. As a Community of Caring we want to work together to teach our students about caring, trust, respect, responsibility, and family. The forms will be available in the main office, counselors office and in the media center throughout the school year. Please contact Ms. Jones if you have any questions. Thank you!

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES OFFER SEASONAL FLUMIST VACCINE AT SCHOOL CLINICS

School Health Services and MCPS will conduct free, nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist) clinics at Einstein High School in Kensington and Seneca Valley High School in Germantown on **October 31st for school aged children** in Montgomery County. School Health Services will also conduct free, after-school nasal spray flu vaccine clinics in all MCPS elementary schools **for students enrolled at the school**. The clinic at Westbrook will take place on November 10th (an early release day for students) at 1:00pm. Notification letters, consent forms, and Vaccine Information Statements will be provided to students in the next few days. For more information about the upcoming clinics and the FluMist, visit the following websites: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/> <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu>. The injectable seasonal flu vaccine will be available, at no charge, at other DHHS flu clinics at various locations in the county, October through December. Flu vaccine may also be available from your health care provider.

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Aqua Eagles Field Trip: Claggett Farms	4 PTA Volunteer Training 6:30pm PTA Meeting Media Center 7:00pm	5 International Walk to School Day! Blanton Candid Picture day	6	7	8
9	10 Parent Visitation Day 9:15-11:00am	11 Gr 5 Field Trip: Strathmore	12 Gr 4 Field Trip: Stream	13	14 Individual Student Picture Day Gr 3 Thousands Museum	15
16	17 Parent Coffee 9:00-9:50am Media Center <i>Topic: Stop and Think Program</i>	18	19	20 Gr 2 Artist In Residence Performance 1:30pm	21 NO SCHOOL	22
23	24	25	26 Trash Free Lunch???	27	28 <i>1st Marking Period Ends</i> Homeless Walka- thon 9:30am HALLOWEEN Parade 1:30pm Class Parties 2pm	29
30	31 NO SCHOOL Report Card Preparation	1 NOVEMBER Gr 4 Field Trip: Living Class- rooms PTA Meeting 7:00pm	2	3	4 Gr 4 Field Trip: Living Class- rooms Gr 3 Field Trip: Play at BCC	5