

WESTBROOK EAGLE NEWS

September 2011

Westbrook Elementary School
5110 Allan Terrace
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
301-320-6506



Principal Rebecca Jones

Email address

Rebecca_A_Jones@mcpssmd.org

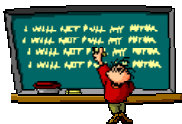
School Web Site

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/westbrookes/>

WELCOME BACK! What a smooth beginning at Westbrook Elementary! We are so excited for another great school year. This newsletter is our way of communicating important events and items of interest to the school community. You can look for this newsletter the first week of each month.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL The student day is 8:50am to 3:05pm. Students can be dropped off after 8:35am. Beginning at this time, there will be staff members and patrols on duty on the playground and blacktop, not in front of the building. After school, all families may use the playground as a place to meet and chat, but please be aware that there is no supervision provided by the school. Dismissal will be supervised by school staff in the front of the building until dismissal is complete.

PDS INTERNS Westbrook ES is a Maryland Professional Development School. This means we work with the University of Maryland to train current and future teachers. This year we are hosting 5 student interns from UMD. These interns work with an assigned teacher two days a week in the fall to observe the classroom, teach lessons and gain experience in working with small groups of students. Beginning in late January the student interns are with us five days a week, slowly taking over each subject area until they fully take over a classroom for a few weeks. The benefits to our school are many! This lowers the student to teacher ratio; builds a professional learning community; supports small group enrichment or reinforcement; provides ongoing in-service training for our current teachers, and offers our teachers leadership roles within the building. We are thrilled to be a part of this program and share our wealth of knowledge with future teachers and continue our professional growth as well.



HOMEWORK and DISCIPLINE POLICY A copy of the discipline policy will be located in the PTA Directory and will be sent home with each child. Please be sure to review as a family. The policy was revised last spring with a team of parents and staff members to better reflect our school and community. The homework policy is currently under review by the Leadership Team and parent representatives. We want to ensure homework is valuable, meaningful and reasonable. Part of this comes from a discussion after the Race to Nowhere movie and what we can do as a school to change the tide. Homework will not go away, but we are looking to ensure it is not overwhelming and that the expectations for parents and students are clear. We appreciate your support!

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dogs in Montgomery County are expected to be leashed and under their owner's control when in public. Dogs are not to be left unattended, tied or tethered on school property at any time. Dogs are not permitted on school grounds during school hours or when students are arriving to or leaving from school (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). Guide dogs are the only dogs permitted inside the school building. Before, after, and during school hours, dogs are expected to be on leashes and to the far side of the bus circle. Owners are expected to clean up after their dogs. Thank you for abiding by these guidelines/laws.



FORMS, FORMS AND MORE FORMS

Many forms and requests have been sent out by teachers and the main office. Below is a list of what needs to be returned as soon as possible by EVERY child.

- White emergency information sheet
- Parent Child Reunification Forms (attached to this newsletter)
- Free and Reduced Meal applications (if needed)
- Internet/Picture Release (attached to this newsletter)

NEW ADDITION Please join us for an important meeting regarding the phasing of the new addition construction. The meeting is on Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00pm in the Media Center. We will cover the various stages of construction, the impact on our building including areas that will not be accessible during construction. This is a very important meeting and all are encouraged to attend. Muse Architects, the recently hired Construction Manager from Hess Construction, representatives from MCPS, as well as the principal will be presenting and ready to answer questions and concerns after the presentation.

PRINCIPAL COFFEE Please join Ms. Jones, the principal, on Wednesday, September 21 from 9:00am to 10:00am in the Media Center for our first Principal Coffee this year. The topic will be the Stop And Think Program being implemented in all classrooms this year. As you know, we do not have a full-time counselor this year, but we wanted to ensure we were still instructing students on important interpersonal, survival, problem-solving and conflict resolution skills. Teachers will instruct students bi-weekly using this program as part of the class meeting. Come and learn more about what this program offers and the specific language being taught to your children.

ATTENDANCE POLICY Regular attendance in school is very important and is the law, but children do get sick. PLEASE call the school and let us know that your child is home sick. This can be done anytime, even if the office is closed! You can leave a message on the answering machine indicating that your child is sick. Please be sure to say the child's first and last name clearly and slowly. It is so important to arrive ON TIME every day. All students are expected to be lined up by 8:45am to enter the school building. Missing our morning routines can be difficult for students. Please support our instructional program by being on time.

MAKE UP WORK for ABSENCES If your child is out for just one day, no work will be sent home; if your child is out for more than one school day, you may call the office or email the teacher to ask for work to be ready, but the teacher must be given at least one school day to collect the work and have it ready at the pick-up table. Please respect that the teachers are working with the children in school and need time to collect the work. Work will NOT be given ahead of time for unexcused absences such as vacations or trips of any length. Remember that quality classroom instruction cannot be replaced! Please do not drop by school and ask for work right away, we cannot meet these last minute requests.



After School Change of Plans Please notify your child's teacher and the office regarding any change of dismissal plans. Teachers and the office need to have this information early in the day—before 11:30am. Bus drivers require a note for any student who is not a regular bus rider. It is best to send a note with your child in the morning. You may also use email. Please call the office for any late occurring emergency change of plan (not play dates, etc.).

TWO-ADDRESS FAMILIES: If your family has a different address for each parent, please notify the office. The office will make every effort to notify both parents when important school information is mailed out (i.e.: invitations to IEP/EMT meetings). However, please be aware that the majority of information regarding school and classroom activities is sent home via the students. If you would like classroom/school activity information (PTA events, extracurricular activities, classroom newsletters, etc) mailed home, please provide your child's teacher with self-addressed, stamped envelopes (large envelopes) or contact your child's teacher to set up a mutually agreeable plan.

PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Please join the Westbrook PTA! The first regular PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. **All parents are welcome.** Meetings will address a wide range of topics that concern our children and our school. The PTA **supports many school activities:** the Artist in Residence Program, cultural arts events, book fairs, field trips, school equipment purchases, etc. Come and take an active role in your children's education.

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	29 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)	6 PTA Meeting In APR 7:00pm	7	8 Grade 4 Field Trip	9 Grade 4 Field Trip Back to School Picnic 6:00pm Playing Fields	10
11	12	13 Back to School Night Grades K-2 7:00pm	14 Back to School Night Grades 3-5 7:00pm	15	16	17
18	19	20 Parent Workshop by NAMI 7pm in Media Center	21 Principal Coffee 9:00am-10:00am Media Center Community Meeting about New Addition 7pm in Media Center	22	23 Grade 5 Field Trip	24
25	26	27	28 Early Release Day Dismissal at 12:35pm	29 NO SCHOOL (Rosh Hashanah)	30 Interims	