

## **WCC Staff Attend Professional Development Seminar**

The annual National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conference was held last month in Orlando. Our business manager Clare Cahill, and teachers Chippi Wims and Lakita Burnley and I attended a myriad of educational programming spanning a few days with peers from across the globe to network and gain knowledge to positively impact our students. Seminars were also held on the business aspects of running a NAEYC accredited preschools.

We received valuable insights and practical tips to enhance school curriculum and administration with wider use of technology. The biggest innovation in school programming for educators is the implementation of a NAEYC multicultural curriculum. Other programming included Assessments of Young Children, Cognitive Development, Family Engagement and Support, Health and Safety to name a few.

After full days of seminars in dark cold rooms, it was refreshing to stretch our legs in the warm night air and take advantage of the Orlando scene sans the Disney experience. Next time Mickey!

I know our students are excited for the holidays as are staff. It's such a magical time of year. Should you wish to share a holiday (or birthday) gift with WCC staff, a binder is in the foyer of both sites with staff gift suggestions but of course, there is no obligation.

***From all the staff of WCC, best wishes for a happy holiday season and a joyous and healthy New Year!***

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## Grab Your WCC Apparel Today!

Stock up on holiday gifts and showcase your school spirit by getting your WCC gear at our online store at <https://wcc-backtoschool.itemorder.com>. We offer a variety of apparel available in an array of sizes, styles, and colors for both adults and children alike.

*WCC receives a percentage of sales to support WCC's programs and resources.*

## The Season of Giving



In this the season of giving, we humbly ask that you remember WCC in your year-end giving. You recently received our annual appeal which helps WCC as a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization raise funds to offset tuition to help provide additional educational resources, scholarship for those in need, and recreational equipment. Please visit <http://www.wccbethesda.com> and use code **AC25**.

If your employer has a matching giving program please select WCC as your beneficiary. Also, when shopping Amazon please select WCC as your Amazon Smile charity. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible AmazonSmile purchases. No gift is too small and goes a long way toward helping to strengthen our programming.

## . School-Wide News

WCC's 2025 annual fundraising drive is underway! As you make your year-end giving, please consider WCC. We know you have many demands for your time and resources and appreciate your consideration. Please see above link in the "Season of Giving" article to see WCC's president Mara Weinstein's letter and use the code **AC25** when making your tax-deductible donation. We thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

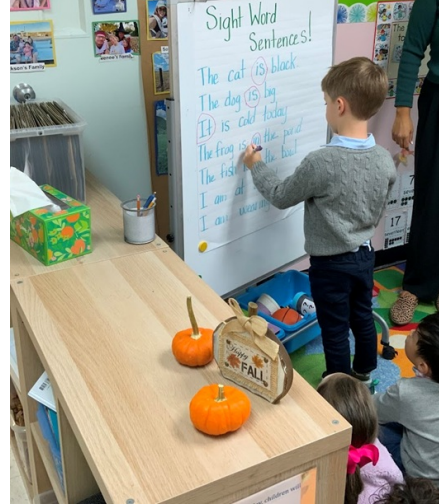
Our re-enrollment process for the 2026-27 school year will begin next week. Please keep an



A vertical strip of three photographs. The top photo shows a child's hand reaching out and touching a blue surface. The middle photo is a close-up of a child's face, smiling. The bottom photo is another close-up of a child's face, also smiling.







## More from Westbrook

**The Leopards** had a great time in November learning about the fall harvest, the meaning of gratitude, writing about thankfulness and celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday with their families.

As winter approaches the Leopards will say goodbye to autumn and welcome the winter holiday season. They will talk about winter celebrations including Hanukkah and Christmas, prepare for our holiday party, where the children will present a seasonal music presentation, and create a festive scene in the classroom. The Leopards will also discuss winter climate and holiday traditions as we prepare for future winter topics.

Our Leopards will continue to cover new random sight words by adding "a", "the" and "on" to our list. They will be introduced to rhyming family sight words (AT Family) and discuss beginning and ending sounds as we move toward reading readiness activities. They will continue our Letter/Number of the Week activities and work on math concepts. It will be a fun month with new Family Sharings and STAR celebrations!



## Circle Campus Update

All five Circle Campus classrooms will host families this month to share holiday traditions and discuss holidays around the



world, seasonal changes, winter weather, and winter animals. Details to follow. Pictures on the right.

**The Teddy Bears** are making wonderful progress across several developmental domains, including significant improvements in verbal skills and social interaction with classmates. Our continued focus remains on developing social-emotional skills through "Learning through Play," which is essential for fostering empathy, friendships, and bonds. Themes for December include Travel and Winter Holidays.

**The Bunnies** will begin our new theme of "Fairy Tales & Holidays Around the World!" We will learn about the different holidays in the month of December. On the 19th, we will have our Winter Wonderland Celebration followed by a small performance. We are excited about Holiday Family Sharing and can't wait to see your holiday traditions. We are really looking forward to all the fun songs and artwork the kids will learn and do over the month.

**The Dragonflies** are working on literacy and storytelling, actively sharing their individual stories, which we are compiling into a Dragonfly Classroom Storybook.

The teachers are encouraging families to read their child's storybook at home, as being a reader is the best way to raise a lifelong avid reader.

To further support handwriting development, the teachers are asking families to please ensure writing and coloring materials are available at home for practice with dictations and "writing/drawing."

Dragonfly December Themes and Community Projects include "Celebrating Holidays Around the World," where Dragonflies will discuss family holidays and cultural traditions.

They will also continue working on their

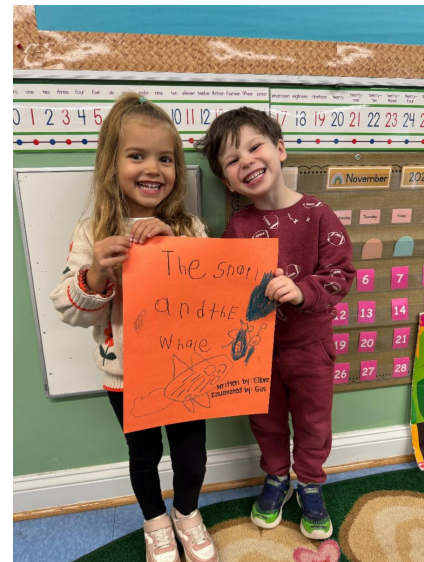




alphabet book. This month, they will create a Dragonfly Cookie Cookbook, a collaborative collection of the children's family recipes.

**The Bumblebees** will dive into winter-inspired learning, discovering snowy textures through science, seasonal vocabulary, and celebrating holiday traditions from around the world. They will also explore winter stories, practice fine motor skills with projects like snowflake crafts and ornament threading/tracing, and develop social-emotional skills through discussions of compassion, patience, and teamwork. The Bumble Bees will create open-ended art highlighting the magic of the season.

**The Pandas** will focus this month is Nursery Rhymes/Poems and The Holidays. A Holiday Party will be held on December 19th in the social hall, which will also include a Family Sharing Event (Hanukkah). More details to follow.



**What is your favorite cuisine or dish?**

I absolutely love, love



## **Meet Our Very Own Sabina Manda**

I have been with WCC for 24 years and work in the Starfish class as an assistant teacher. I relish moments students have when learning or mastering something new. The smiles on their faces and their sense of accomplishment is inspiring!

I grew up in Malawi and as a young girl, I always wanted to become a teacher and serve my community. My passion for teaching blossomed and radiates in me from my vast and valuable childhood experiences and love of learning.

### **What piece of advice were you given when you were young that you still live by?**

It's not just one lesson but rather one person. I was brought up by a grandma who taught me about the importance of what matters in life and the differences that you make in people's lives. She was my greatest teacher and I try daily to still make her proud.

### **Who are your favorite musical performers?**

It would be a dream come true to see Cece Winans, Celine Dion, Andrea Bocelli, or Oliver Mtukudzi. Each is incredibly talented in their own way.

'I am Alive' by Celine Dion is my jump out of my chair energizing song. I simply can't sit still when it is playing!

seafood accompanied by rice and asparagus. I may just have to make that for dinner now that it is on my mind!

### **What are some of your favorite television shows?**

I gravitate to medical and public service dramas like Chicago P.D. and the Resident. I also enjoy African movies which conjure so many home memories.

### **Please share a favorite childhood memory or two.**

I miss the simpler and carefree days. In particular, I used to love to run and roll around in the rain after school with my childhood friends without a worry in the world! Take me back!



## **What is a bucket list item(s) for you?**

My bucket list is somewhat different than most. I am just finally appreciating myself and embracing my life as I learn about the beautiful world around me.

### **What challenges do you face?**

The most challenging part for me is coping with the devastating loss of my 29 year-old son, Khalid, in February 2024.

I try to find strength and joy in my other wonderful son's life, Justin, and be a strong mother to him and to others in need.

Thank you, Sabina, for sharing so much of yourself with us so we may get to know you better.

I bet your grandmother is proud of the woman, teacher, and mother you are!

I also loved learning about your great joy of music, the beach, cooking and in your strong faith.

**Best, Westy**



## DECEMBER

WCC class holiday parties. Details to follow

**10** - Chipotle Fundraiser (4-9); details to follow

**12** - WCC Staff Holiday Party; 6-8 pm

**23** - Early dismissal at 1pm

**24- January 2** - WCC Closed for Winter Break

## JANUARY

**5** - WCC Classes resume

**10** - The Great Zucchini, Circle Campus Social Hall, 10-11 am. Details to follow.

**19** - Martin Luther King's Birthday. **WCC Closed**

**21** - Pizzeria Paradiso Spring Vally Fundraiser (4-9 pm) Details to follow.

**26** - WCC Summer Camp Registration Opens for **WCC families only.**

## February

**7** - WCC's Valentine's Day Dance, 4:30 pm. Details to follow

**11** - Five Guys Fundraiser, 4pm, Details to follow

**16** - President's Day -- **WCC Closed**

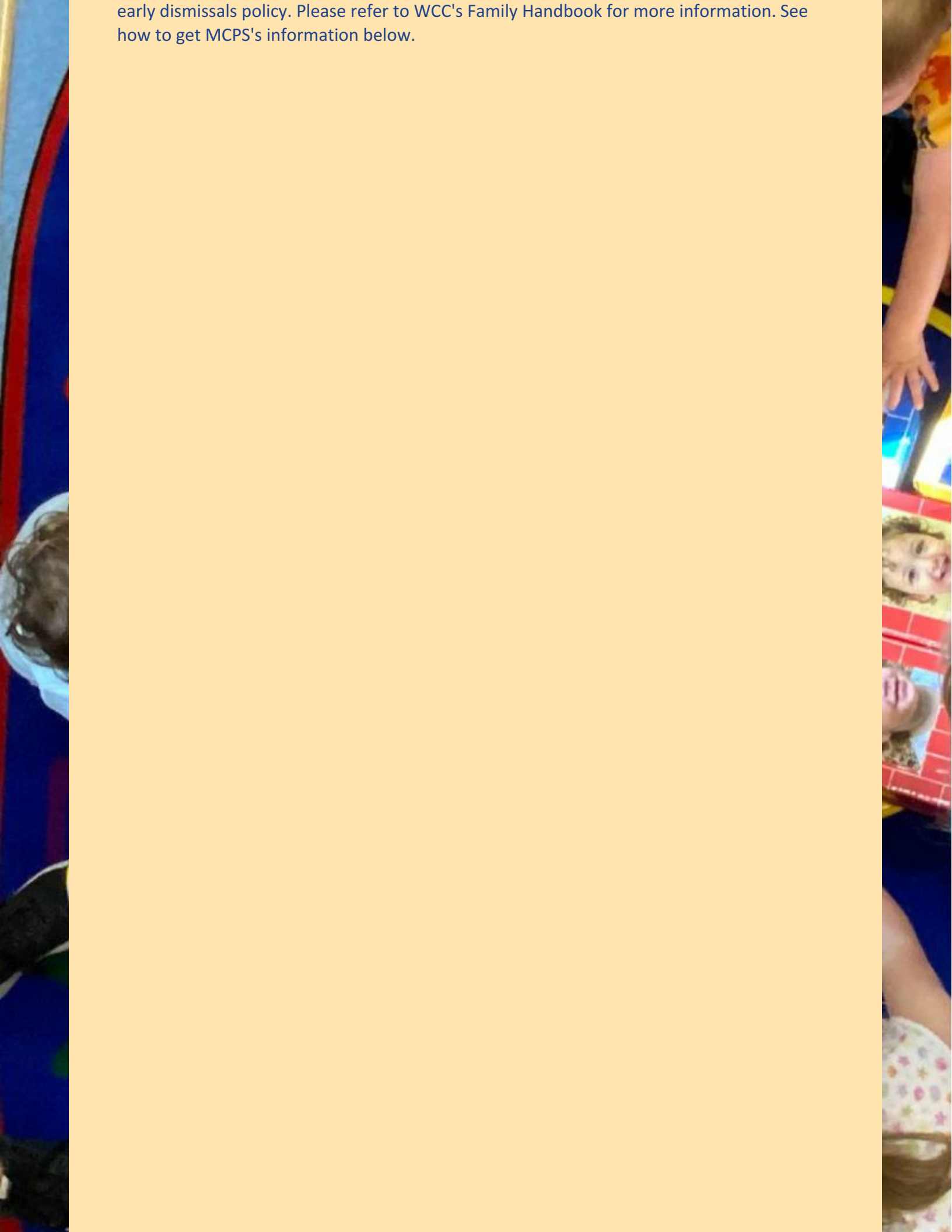
**28** - WCC Summer Camp registration due for WCC families before being opened to the community at-large. Camp information will be available soon at [www.wccbethesda.com](http://www.wccbethesda.com)

## Inclement Weather Season

Brrr...it's here--the inclement weather season is upon us as we found out today! As you are aware, WCC follows MCPS' inclement weather or emergency situation closures, delays or



early dismissals policy. Please refer to WCC's Family Handbook for more information. See how to get MCPS's information below.





Montgomery County ...



19h •



Winter weather season alert!  
Stay up to date on school closures  
and emergencies:



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May the magic of the holiday season be with you and your



family now and through the year!



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