



Happy and Healthy New Year!

Libby King, WCC Executive Director

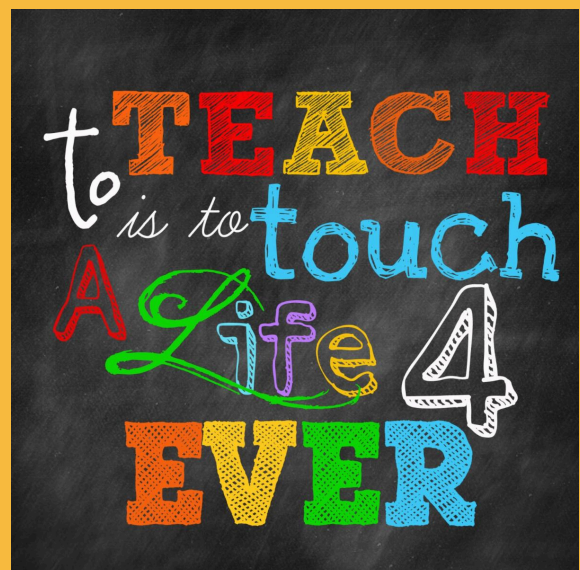
As we step into this new year with a fresh burst of energy and enthusiasm, Westmoreland Children's Center reaffirms our unwavering commitment to nurturing both the minds and bodies of our little learners. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff work tirelessly to create a welcoming and healthy haven where your children can flourish academically and emotionally, even amidst the winter chill.

With our range of initiatives—think scrumptious, nutritious meals, invigorating daily physical activities, and calming mindfulness exercises—we're not just promoting good health; we're crafting a holistic approach to well-being! In these times, especially with the current flu strain making its rounds in Maryland, we emphasize the importance of good hygiene to keep the germs at bay. **Help Stop the Spread!**

Remember, a healthy mind and body are the keys to unlocking your child's success! We kindly ask for your cooperation in keeping your child home if they are feeling unwell—after all, we're all in this together! Let's work hand-in-hand to create a safe, healthy and inviting space where children can thrive and reach new heights.

Here's to a year of health, happiness, and learning—because at WCC, we believe that when kids are healthy, they will soar!

Best,





Meet Deborah Guzman

We are delighted to introduce Deborah "Debby" Guzman, a welcoming and familiar face within the WCC community. This school year, she joined the xx class as a xx, bringing with her valuable experience from her previous two summers at WCC Summer Camp. Debby's enthusiasm for learning, creativity, and commitment to WCC's mission make her an invaluable asset to our preschool environment.

Beyond her role at WCC, Debby is a first-generation college student pursuing a degree in Interior Architecture at Marymount University, reflecting her dedication to holistic development. Growing up in a family with a driving instructor father and a mother who cared for a child with special needs, Debby learned the importance of patience early on. She believes that patience is one of the most essential qualities when it comes to educating and nurturing children. We warmly invite families to get to know Debby and the rest of our dedicated team, as we continue to foster a supportive and encouraging community at WCC.

Q&A With Debby and Westy

What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome?

My anxiety when it comes to public speaking.

If you could go back to being a kid for a day, what's the first thing you would do that you did when you were a kid?

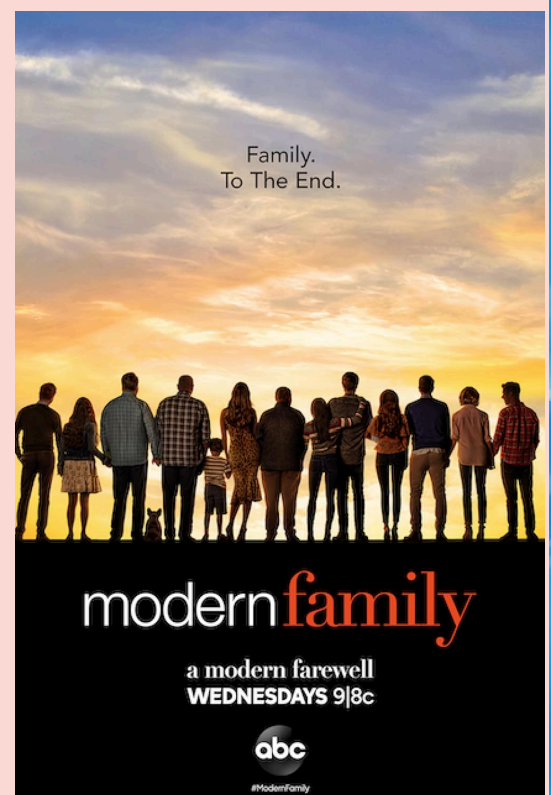
I would go into my grandparents' room and snuggle with my grandmother. She has always felt like a second mother and now that I am older, we no longer fit on the same bed.

If you could have any talent or skill, what would that be?

To sing while playing an instrument specifically the piano. My sister has taught me basic piano chords, but I struggle to do both at the same time but am working on it!

What is one of your favorite books?

'If Only I had Told Her' by Laura Nowlin about a young girl who goes through loss and the healing process of post-



partum depression.

What is the best show you binged in the last two years?

Modern Family. It is one of the funniest shows I've ever watched.

What would you like to tell your younger self?

I would tell my younger self that it is more than okay to be selfish at times and that standing up for yourself does not mean being disrespectful.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a veterinarian, however, I learned the hard way that I do not do well with blood.

What song instantly puts you in a good mood? *Last*

Christmas by Wham because I only listen to it during the holidays, which means it is almost Christmas. And I absolutely love Christmas!

What's your favorite way to unwind after a long day?

Singing while driving at night with the windows down. There's something about letting everything out and singing into the wind that feels like the best.

If you could see any musician/group perform, dead or alive, who would that be?

Julio Melgar, a well-known Spanish Christian artist who passed away from cancer a few years ago. I grew up listening to his heartfelt music.

One thing you wish you knew when you were younger?

I wish I knew when I was younger that I cannot change someone who does not want to change.

What sound drives you crazy?

The sound of Styrofoam drives me absolutely crazy!

What scares you?

I am scared of the idea of never having my own family or having one, but not being a good enough mother.

Who is one of your idols?

One of my idols is Jesus. He set the example of how to be a good Christian.

What is the most challenging and best part about being you?

The most challenging part is that I can be indecisive, something I am actively trying to improve. The best part about being me is that I laugh at almost everything. My family always says, "Sos barata para reír," which literally translates to "you are cheap to laugh."

My favorite guilty pleasure is:



musica.com

My favorite guilty pleasure is mango matcha boba. It isn't the healthiest drink, but it is great occasional treat!

What could you not live without?

I could not live without God. He has helped me in many more ways than just spiritually.

What is a common misrepresentation about you?

A common misrepresentation about me is that I am shy. While I can be quiet at times, I genuinely enjoy talking and connecting with others. I am especially drawn to people who are quieter than me because I understand what it feels like to be overlooked. I try to create space for them and make them feel comfortable and included.

So great learning more about you, Debby. Thanks for sharing! *Your friend, Westy*



WCC Summer Camp Registration Opens January 26th

Summer camp registration/information will be available at: www.wccbethesda.com on January 26th. WCC Camp offers fun-filled themed activities and runs from June 15 - August 14th, Monday through Friday, 8-5:30pm.

WCC children are given first priority for placement until February 28th. WCC's Camp fills up fast so hurry and register today!

Did You Forget Something or Someone?

It's not too late to spread some holiday cheer or celebrate that special birthday with delightful WCC apparel! Our store boasts an amazing variety of sizes and styles for both adults and children, ensuring everyone in the family can find something they'll love. Just take a look at our very own Angie Kamara, proudly showcasing her cozy WCC hooded sweatshirt—doesn't she look fantastic?

You can check out samples displayed at the Circle Campus foyer, and when you're ready to order, simply visit <https://wcc-backtoschool.itemorder.com>! Remember, every purchase not only brings joy to your loved ones but also helps support WCC's vital programs and resources, as we receive a percentage of the sales.



Plus, there's still time to *contribute to our annual appeal!* Your generous donations play a crucial role in helping WCC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, offset tuition costs, provide essential educational resources, and fund scholarships for those in need. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make a difference—send in your donation today and enjoy the added benefit of tax deductions while you're at it! Let's come together to uplift our community!

If your employer has a matching giving program or works with the United Way, please select WCC as your charity 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.
Thank you for your support of WCC!



JANUARY

- 5 - WCC Classes resume
- 10 - The Great Zucchini
- 19 - Martin Luther King's Birthday. **WCC Closed**
- 21 - Pizzeria Paradiso Spring Valley 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 at **www.wccbethesda.com**

MARCH



10 -12 Scholastic Book Fair, Circle Campus 8-6pm
19 - Ledo Pizza Fundraiser, 4-9 pm. Details to follow.
3 - APRIL 6 - Spring Break, **WCC Closed**

WCC's Inclement Weather Policy/Winter Apparel and Activities

A reminder that WCC follows Montgomery County Public School's (MCPS) inclement weather/emergency related policies for closures and delayed openings/early closings. On days with delayed openings, WCC opens at 10 am. Please see below resources for MCPS.

Please remember to dress your child for winter weather conditions. It's getting awfully chilly. Freezing temperatures and early sunsets can keep your children indoors. But staying inside does not have to be boring. Check out these cold weather safety tips and fun activities from the Maryland Department of Education that you and your family can do in your home this winter.

- Build a blanket fort. Break out your sheets, pillows, and blankets and set up cozy tents. You can even turn it into an indoor camping adventure with sleeping bags and snacks.
- Hold a family game night. Play board games, card games, or puzzles with the whole family. Many puzzles and games can help your child improve their math and cognitive skills too.
- Plan a dinner party. Use your favorite plates and napkins and decorate the table any way you like. Wear fancy clothes or costumes, cook a special meal together, and turn dinnertime into a fun, memorable event.

Winter Safety Tips for Kids

Winter weather can be harsh, especially for young children. Ensure you and your family stay safe this season with these outdoor winter safety tips.

- Cover children's heads, necks, and hands outside to prevent frostbite and keep warm in cold temperatures.
- Make sure children drink plenty of fluids. Dry winter air can lead to dehydration quickly.
- Schedule break times when playing outside where children come indoors to warm up.
- Wear sunscreen. You can still get sunburn outside even in the wintertime.



Montgomery County ...



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Winter weather season alert!
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and emergencies:



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www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org



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