WESTMORELAND CHILDREN'S CENTER
LEARN AND GROW WITH WCC

"Gratitude is the Memory of the Heart"



Jean-Baptiste Massieu, an 18th century educator of the deaf, is credited with the quote “Gratitude is the memory of the heart,” --meaning that gratitude stays with you and it shapes how you live and remember life.

Gratitude is such a wonderful gift—a heartfelt appreciation for the kindness and care around us! For our little ones, this understanding blossoms over time as they explore their world.

We are so fortunate to work together to plant these early seeds of thankfulness, guiding our children to become caring, resilient, and connected hearts. Research highlights how practicing gratitude boosts well-being, supports emotional growth, and builds loving bonds. While our infants and toddlers are building that early awareness, our preschoolers love sharing sweet chats about what makes them thankful. We cherish nurturing this naturally through gentle, everyday moments together.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we want to share our warmest appreciation for your wonderful partnership. Thank you so much for joining in our recent dinner out fundraisers and the Charleston Wrap prograthanm. Thanks to you, we generated close to $2500 in sales resulting in nearly $950 for WCC exceeding our $750 goal! We are truly grateful for our amazing community.

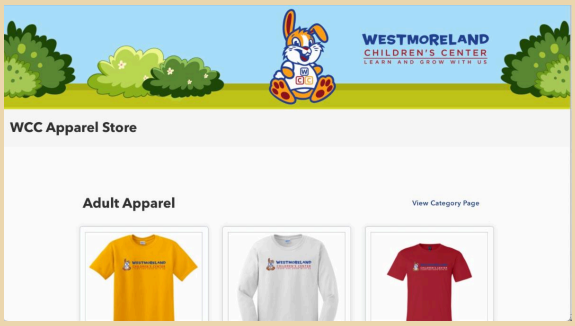
We wish those that served in the United States Armed Forces a Happy Veteran's Day on November 11th. We salute you and are grateful for your honored service.

With deep and sincere gratitude,

Libby

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Grab Your WCC Apparel Today!

Showcase your school spirit by getting your WCC gear at our online store at **https://wcc-https://wcc-backtoschool.itemorder.com** where we offer a variety of apparel available in an array of sizes, styles, and colors for both adults and children. This is the perfect time and opportunity to get holiday gift items.

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

Halloween Parties and Parades








TRICK
TREAT
BOO


WEEK


Let's Waddle into Fall!





WCC Dates-to-Remember



November - Beginning of November teachers will hold child development check-in meetings with parents.

November 10 - Picture Day for Circle Campus

November 12 - Picture Day for Westbrook Campus

November 24 - Early Dismissal – **WCC Closes** at 1pm

November 25–27 - Thanksgiving Holiday - **WCC Closed**

December 2026/January 2027

December 22 - Early Dismissal - **WCC Closes at 1pm**. **until January 3rd -** Winter Break

From the Office of Early Childhood

The Division of Early Childhood is officially the Office of Early Childhood as of October 1st. We look forward to the opportunity to promote early childhood within the Maryland State Department of Education so that we can better improve access to affordable early care and education for families, boost school readiness for Maryland children, and help families thrive through community connections.

As part of this transition, the Early Childhood website will be moving to the MSDE website soon. Our webpages will feature the same content but have a new look. Please note that links from the original website will still work and redirect to the MSDE site. To ensure continued access, we recommend updating saved links to the new URL. If you have questions or are having trouble finding information on the website, please contact us at **http://earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov.**

Happy November Birthday to YOU!

Kiddos

Jordan
Lydia
Ruby
Sami
San
Sophie
Quinn

Staff

Sandra Dove
Greer Jackson
Chippi Wilms







Butler's Orchard and a Small World

WCC children had the opportunity to visit Butler's Orchard in Germantown last month to enjoy fall festivities. The field trip included pumpkin picking, hay rides, playground play and much more.

It was a full circle moment for WCC's business manager Clare Cahill whose daughter Rosemary, a former little pumpkin picker at Butlers and former WCC camper/counselor/teacher at WCC, was also at Butler's Orchard with her own kindergarten class from a private school in Rockville, where she now teaches.



Clare also ran into another former WCC teacher, Kasia Wozniak Drozdz, who was at Butler's with her children. It is a small world after all!

Pictured top left: Penquin parents and kids. Top right --Kasia on right; Clare on left. Below: Rosemary and Clare.



Kyla Johnson and Westy Have a "Sit Down"

Westy had the chance to sit down and chat with Kyla Johnson nee Holt recently (see below corresponding article) and learned a great deal about our Panda class teacher. Kyla attended Salisbury University where she studied Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Kyla also likes to kick it up and played soccer for Salisbury.

Kyla, pictured below, has taught WCC 2's, 3's, and now 4's classes and is her fourth year of teaching at WCC. What she loves most about teaching is seeing the children's confidence flourish and grow throughout the year adding enthusiastically, "there is nothing better".

Walking with her husband Beau and their dog and spending time with family and friends are the ways Kyla likes best to spend her time. She is also an avid fitness buff and enjoys cooking.

Westy puts more questions to Kyla:

What do you like to do on the weekends?
Spend time with family and friends and in the summer, hang out at the pool with them.

What are your favorite smells?
Everything and anything coconut!

What musical artist, living or dead, would you like to see perform?
Hands down--Justin Bieber!

If you could go back in time and be a kid, what is the first thing you would do?
Hit the malls and shop!

What is your signature dish you cook?
Tacos or enchiladas.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
A teacher--dreams do come true!

Kyla, we sure are glad you decided to be a teacher, most especially our teacher! Your friend, Westy



Understanding Gratitude Through Development



In connection with the above article on gratitude. Provided by Teaching Learning Caring (TLC).

Infants (0–12 Months): Building Trust and Connection
Infants can't express gratitude, but they can feel safety, comfort, and connection. When caregivers respond to their needs consistently and with warmth, infants begin to understand that they are valued. This trust becomes the emotional base from which gratitude later emerges.

Toddlers (1–3 Years): Imitation and Emerging Awareness
Toddlers begin to understand routines and cause-and-effect. While their thinking is still egocentric, they notice when others help them. They may say "thank you" with prompting, but the emotion behind it is still developing. At this stage, modeling and repetition are key.

Preschoolers (3–5 Years): Perspective-Taking and Real Understanding
By age three or four, children begin to understand that others have thoughts, feelings, and intentions. They can start to comprehend that someone went out of their way to help them or give them something. This opens the door to a more genuine sense of gratitude.

Strategies to Cultivate Gratitude in Young Children

Model Grateful Behavior Daily
Children learn gratitude by watching adults. When consistently saying "thank you" to children and each other, they model respectful, appreciative interactions.

Incorporate Books and Storytelling
Picture books provide age-appropriate language and relatable characters for exploring gratitude. After reading, engage children in reflective conversations. Stories help children identify gratitude in familiar situations and give them words to express their feelings.

Create a Culture of Thankfulness
Make gratitude a part of your culture. Even simple statements like “I love snack time” can be scaffolded to: “I am thankful we have yummy and healthy snacks today!”

Teach Perspective-Taking in Simple Ways
Help children understand that others’ actions have meaning and intention. Instead of prompting a forced “thank you,” guide them to reflect: “Mr. Jack helped you zip your coat because he cares about you. What could you say to let him know you’re thankful?” Pointing out the “why” behind helpful acts builds understanding beyond manners.

Celebrate Acts of Kindness
Recognize when children help each other, and highlight the emotional effect: “You gave your friend a turn. That made him smile! That was a kind and thoughtful thing to do.” This encourages children to notice and value kindness, both given and received, which is a foundation for gratitude.

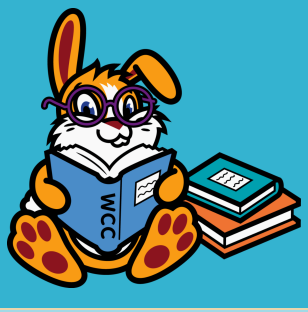
Use Creative Expression and Play
Art and pretend play are great mediums for teaching gratitude. Children can:

- Make thank-you cards for family members or staff.
- Create a “thankful tree” with paper leaves.
- Role-play scenarios where they help or thank each other.



Where's Westy?

Westy has been busy, busy, busy! He just seems to pop up everywhere. Take a look around WCC's classrooms and hallways as he promotes exploration, reading, building, and exciting learning concepts.



School Wide News

Camp Westmoreland 2027

Camp registration will be available in January with WCC families given first placement priority. Camp Westmoreland kids participate in a variety of age appropriate and fun-filled themed activities as well as supervised free choice activities. In addition, each theme-oriented session include:

- Special Events
- Arts and Crafts
- Music and Jump Bunch
- Gross motor activities
- Water Play

Camp is closed June 19th and July 5th for holidays and hours are 8-4 with aftercare from 4-5:30, Monday-Friday. Camp Westmoreland serves children aged two (*must be age 2 by September 1, 2027)* through 5. We offer a summer program designed to enhance your child's learning through a variety of activities in a safe, stimulating and fun-filled environment. More details will be provided at a later date.

Applications for the 27-28 School Year

Tours for incoming children began mid October. If you have a child who is eligible for the 27-28 school year, please be sure to submit an enrollment application which may be found on: ***www.wccbethesda.com.*** We began accepting applications for new students in the Westbrook community November 1st.

Labeling Clothes

With cooler weather here, please remember to label outerwear such as coats, jackets or sweaters that your child wears to school. If you are missing a piece of clotng, reach out to your child's teacher to see if it is in the lost and found.

Welcome Olga Torres

Olga Torres joins WCC on Monday as a floater working from10-6pm, Monday-Friday. More information to come. In the meantime, please help give Olga a warm WCC welcome when you meet her!

Three New Additions for WCC's Kyla Johnson Née Holt

On a beautiful September day Leopard teacher Kyla Holt and her longtime partner Beau Johnson wed seaside in Colonial Beach, Virginia. Kyla and Beau met at the University of Salisbury and are making their home in the Bethesda area.

Kyla not only added a husband to her family but her sister Brianna welcomed Kyla's, and now Beau's niece, Eliana, to the world. See pictures below of Kyla and Beau as well as fellow WCC teachers Jack Cahill and Chippi Wims who attended Kyla's nuptials. They "clean up" so nicely! :) Lastly, Kyla added a new last name: Johnson!

Best wishes Kyla and Beau and of course, Eliana, for a lifetime of love and happiness!











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