



Oh, What a Night(s)

The school year is off to a fantastic start. It is hard to believe we are already a month into the school year. The hallways are full of laughter and the children are at ease in their new surroundings. It is heart warming to see and hear.

Back-to-school night was well attended and a clear representation of our community of invested parents who care about their child and their education. This makes for a solid partnership and we are grateful. Parents met staff, visited classrooms, and learned the operations of WCC. Parents also engaged in a Q&A session and learned about volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, we welcome your assistance so please reach out.

Our other big night was WCC's 55th Anniversary Celebration on September 13th! Parents, alumni and staff danced to funky tunes from the 70's and donned groovy apparel to celebrate WCC's inception in 1970. It was truly a fun community building blast from the past. A big and heartfelt thank you to our outstanding volunteers: Lakita Burnley, Tia Canty-Rivers, Whitney Fore, Martell Galloway, Greer Jackson and Mara Weinstein, for their creativity and hard work! Pictures of both nights are below.



Lastly, the WCC Board of Directors held a retreat last month. The Board and executive staff discussed:

- Child Care Demographics
- 12 Principles of Nonprofit Governance
- Public Policy Links
- Governance vs. Management
- WCC's Board of Directors Bylaws
- WCC's Mission Statement
- Board Member Role Description

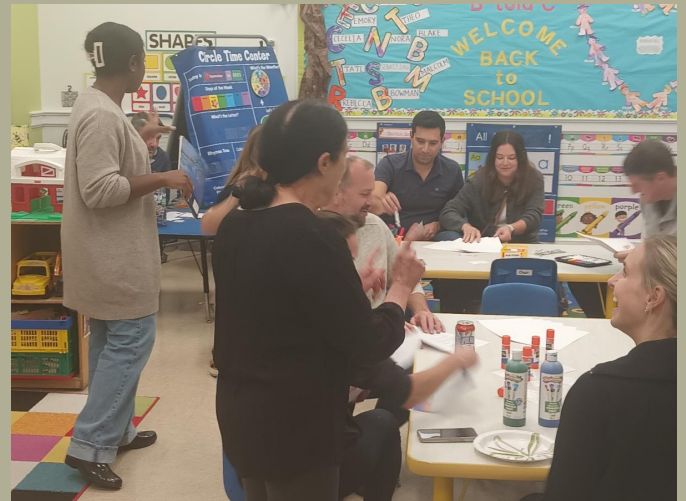
We are ready for October and look forward to a month of exploration, learning, and fun.

Best,

Libby

Libby King
Executive Director
Libby.King@wccbethesda.com
301-229-7161

WCC's Back to School Night





"CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES--ALRIGHT"

HERE'S TO ANOTHER GREAT 55 YEARS!

HAPPY 55TH ANNIVERSARY WCC!





School Wide News

Kindertales

If you have not already done so, please establish a Kindertales account, our preschool management app. Instructions to access and establish your Kindertales account can be found on our website:

www.wccbethesda.com. When possible, please use personal email addresses for communications and not business emails for confidentially reasons.

Labeling Clothes

With cooler weather approaching, please remember to label outerwear such as coats, jackets or sweaters that your child wears to school. If you are missing a piece of clothing, reach out to your child's teacher to

see if it is in the lost and found.

Hours of Operation

A reminder that our hours of operation are:

- Nursery hours are from 9-12
- School Day hours are from 9-3
- Full day hours are 8-6

Breakfast is from 8-8:30. We are not able serve breakfast past 8:30 so please keep that in mind.

Sharing Feedback

At each center there a suggestion box in the campus foyer to solicit comments, critiques and suggestions. Comments may be anonymous or named. We welcome your input.

Few Placements Remain for 2025-26 School Year

We are near full capacity for next school year with only a few openings available in the 4's class. If you or your friends/neighbors have yet to register, please visit www.wccbethesda.com today!

Class Happenings



Bumble Bees

For the month of September, the Bumblebees focused on the introductory unit that explored “All About Me”. We did many engaging activities that encouraged students to learn more about themselves, their families and their classmates while also fostering a strong sense of community!

In October, the Bees will practice phonemic and phonological awareness, and early word recognition when identifying the letters of the alphabet and the letters in their name. At home, parents can continue to encourage their child to identify different types of objects that begin with their name to practice letter recognition. That's the buzz!

Bunnies

In September we focused on All About Me, My Family, Friends & Feelings/Emotions. The Bunnies Team planned several fun, interactive activities that will facilitate development and learning. We worked together as a class to create several group art projects, discover our new classroom through lots of play, learn all about our new friends by sharing their favorite toy they enjoy playing with at home and talking all about our families. We sang many songs, read lots of books



and had plenty of time outside exploring our new playground! During that time we focused on our 'Bunch of Feelings'. The children learned about the different expressions happy, sad, mad, excited and angry.

As the crisp air settles in, October is where we explore the beauty of seasonal changes. This month we will talk about 'Falling into Autumn' when focusing on farm animals, nature, apples and pumpkins! The Bunnies will take nature walks to observe the new changes we see in nature and collect different items for our science area in the classroom. We will have an apple tasting and

discuss the different colors of apples. We will also dive into farm animals and identify the sound they make. Lastly, we will take a trip to the pumpkin patch and enjoy Halloween fun!

Dragonflies

The Dragonflies class has had a wonderful start to the school year!

In August, we completed our "Going to School and Meeting New Friends" unit, where children learned names, adjusted to routines, engaged in art, and sang songs about school and friendship.

Our "All About Me" unit in September focused on self-awareness, esteem, emotions, and empathy. Activities included making "Me Dolls," drawing self-portraits, and sharing "All About Me" packets. We also established classroom rules and created art and flowers for the Back-to-School Night project.



This October, we began our "Everything Fall" unit, which will focus on nature changes, phonics, number sense, and motor skills through hands-on activities and science experiments. We will conclude the month with a trip to Butler's Orchard, a Halloween Parade, and a Dragonfly party.

It's been a fun beginning, and we look forward to more exciting activities!

Leopards

The Leopards had a great start to the school year and began the process of getting to know each other through our opening themes, "School Is in!", "Celebrate Friendship!" and "All About Me/Family!" They did several activities to promote friendship, cooperative learning and self recognition including painting self-portraits, working with a partner in movement games as well as art projects, and talking about things they like most about themselves.

During our math activities the children began working on addition equations, graphing to learn greater than/less than concepts, patterns, one-to-one correspondence and handwriting for the Number of the Week. Our first Letter of the Week was letter "A" and the children were



introduced to long and short sounds.

Currently, they are learning about the wonders of autumn during our fall theme "Autumn Leaves". They have taken an observation walk to view changes outside, collect colored leaves, discuss fall colors and are now working on a science experiment to discover how leaves change color.

During October the Leopards plan to learn about life cycles, the importance of farming and close out the month with a festive Halloween celebration!



Pandas

The Pandas are now comfortable in the classroom and forming friendships. In September, we focused on "All About Me," "Feelings & Emotions," "Shapes & Rainbows," "The Five Senses," and "Teamwork." We covered classroom routines, getting to know each other, understanding emotions, name writing, rainbow order and primary colors, identifying and drawing 2D shapes (square, rectangle, circle, oval, triangle), counting sides and vertices of 2D shapes, identifying 3D shapes (cube, cylinder, cone, sphere, pyramid, rectangular prism), the five senses, letters Aa-Ee (recognition, sounds, writing), and the sight word "a."



Our October themes will be "The Fall Season," "Nocturnal Animals," "Farm Animals," "Pumpkins and Apples," and "Halloween Fun." Children will participate in group activities, stories, arts and crafts, and nature walks, all while learning new concepts and reviewing previous ones. Jump Bunch and music classes will continue.

Starfish

The Starfish class had a great first month. They met new friends, and adjusted to their new classroom environment and classroom rules. See photo links below.

During the month of October the themes will be about Fall on the Farm, Animals and Halloween. The Starfish class will also go to the pumpkin patch at the end of this month.

Some skills they will focus on:

- letter identification and sounds



- Parts of a pumpkin and its life cycle
- Number sequencing

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ofkUmZpi8JXTw5Sj8> - Leaf hunting

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/fiNciKkfKtuNHDEJA> - Friendship painting

Teddy Bears

The Teddy Bears are settling in nicely, the children are learning their friend's names and becoming comfortable with the classroom routines. Our "specials" Jump Bunch and Music with Mr. Rob and started last week.

We have mastered the first of four classroom rules: "Teddy Bears Stay Together" with the use of the loop to move from the classroom to outside. The second classroom rule: "We Use Loving Hands and Loving Words". One thing you can do at home to support us with that is to ask your Teddy to use

"please and thank you" during meal times. Our Teddies can sometime get a little frantic at snack and lunchtime, perhaps feeling that they have to compete with the other Teddies for more food.

We request one parent please volunteer as the 'Room Parent' for the Teddy Bear who would be responsible for communications between the teachers and the other Teddy Bear parents usually about holiday parties and fundraising opportunities. Please let us know if you are interested.

Our themes for this month revolve around the changing weather, the season of Fall, the school trip to Butler's Orchard and celebrating Halloween. We will sing songs and read books about farm life and the fall harvest. The decorations for Halloween will be silly and lighthearted.

We will have a Halloween party here at school for the Teddies at snack time on Friday, October 31st. Costumes are optional. We welcome any donations of decorations or paper goods from the classroom families. WCC will provide the party snacks if a room parent has not volunteered to handle a Sign-Up-Genius account by that time.



Charleston Gift Wrap On Sale now

WCC Charleston Gift Wrap fundraiser is live through October 10th. Shop for upcoming holiday decorations, home goods and gift wrap, all while helping WCC raise money to improve our school. Fundraising such as this allows WCC to purchase the new playground equipment that the children have been thoroughly enjoying.

Please share this link family and friends, all are welcome to participate.



LINK TO SHOP: <https://registercw.com/gateway?organizationMidasId=28109>



Scan this QR code to shop on the Charleston Wrap website and support the Westmoreland Children's Center fundraiser directly.

(No participant credit is awarded - only organization credit.)

Maryland Department of Education Resource

The Maryland Department of Education provides vast and tremendous resources for parents via



Maryland MESSENGER
marylandchild.org

Delivering Support to Families with Young Learners

Resources for Mental Health Awareness Month



Mental health plays a major role in a child's social and emotional development from birth. Helping your child manage feelings and stress at an early age can affect their future actions.

Need help?

- Money for Child Care
- Find Child Care
- Judy Centers
- Get Shot Records
- Parenting Support
- Pre-K Programs
- Jobs in Child Care
- Open a Child Care

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/Default.aspx>. You can sign up to receive their monthly newsletter which is full of helpful and information.



Westy Asks Debbie Jones What Makes Her Tick

What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome?

The greatest challenge I have had to overcome is losing my mother. I still miss her every single day. She died in 2013, and it still feels like yesterday.

What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?



What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?
No good deed goes unpunished.

Is there something you like that nobody would believe you do?
Golf.

If you could have any talent or skill, what would that be?
Dance and sing.

What is one of your favorite books?
To Kill a Mockingbird.

What is the best show you binged in the last two years?
House Of Cards.

What would you like to tell your younger self?
To learn to love yourself unconditionally.

What song instantly puts you in a good mood?
Happy.

What's your favorite way to unwind after a long day?
I love to put my pajamas on and binge watch Netflix.

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

If you were in food cooking contest, what dish would you prepare to impress the judges?
My mother's homemade stuffing.

What is one thing you wish you had known when you were younger?
Everything you hear is not always the truth.

What is your favorite bucket list accomplishment
Owning my own home.

Which well-known person would you most like to have a drink with?
Mark Wahlberg.

Who is one of your idols?
Mother Theresa.

What is your favorite cuisine/dish?
Lobster with lots of butter and champagne.

What is the most challenging and best part about being you?
I always care too much about people's feelings. I feel like I am responsible for fixing everything.

My favorite guilty pleasure is:
Chocolate or homemade carrot cake.

What TV series are your favorites?
I Love Lucy, The Little Rascals, The Andy Griffith Show

What is a sentimental item that has no value except to you?



What is a sentimental item that has no value except to you?
Our family photo with my mom and all eight of her children.

WCC Dates to Remember

October is National Book Month

October 2025

Through **October 10th -- Charleston Wrap Fundraiser**. See above details

22 - Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Patch – Circle 2's

22 - Potomac Pizza Fundraiser (4–9 pm); Details to follow

23 - Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Patch Pumpkin Patch – Circle 3's

30 - Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Patch – Westbrook/Circle 4's

31 - Halloween Parade - 10 am on the WCC Playground, costumes optional. Class party immediately following *for students only*.

November 2025

3rd - Picture Day for Circle students

4th - Picture Day for Westbrook students

11th - Veterans Day

26 - Early Dismissal at 1 pm

27 - 28 - Thanksgiving Holiday - WCC Closed

December 2025

10 - Chipotle Fundraiser (4–9 pm); Details to follow

23 - Early Dismissal at 1 pm

24 - Winter Break - WCC Closed

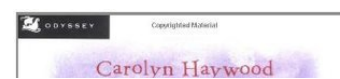


From the Maryland State Department of Education

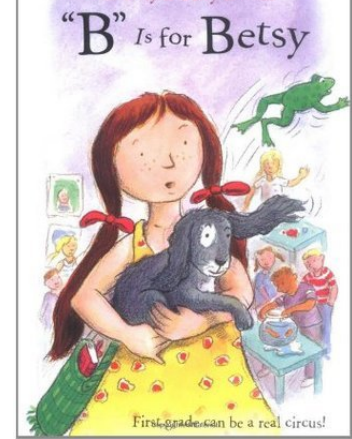
October is National Book Month, a time when you can encourage a love for reading in your child. When you read to your child, you help them develop language skills and vocabulary, improve comprehension and critical thinking, nurture their creativity and imagination, and boost their ability to focus and concentrate. Reading with your child from a young age will also allow you to bond with one another. Enjoy National Book Month alongside your family with these fun reading activities:



- Visit your local library or bookstore to find new books to love.



- Attend a story time event in your community where your child can meet other families and hear a story read aloud.
- Plan fun book-related family activities where everyone shares a passage in a favorite book, dresses as a book character, or acts out scenes from a book.
- Set up a comfy reading nook in your home with pillows and blankets for a cozy experience.



Westmoreland Children's Center | One Westmoreland Circle | Bethesda, MD 20816 US

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