

And We're Off!

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.

We introduced and welcomed new staff additions to WCC on Back-to-School night. Starting with Nicole Kwan as the lead teacher in the Penguin class, Jasmin Marquez assistant teacher in Teddybear class, and Aliyah Williams as co-lead teacher in the Bunny class.

Lastly, the WCC Board of Directors held its annual retreat last month. Some of the items the Board and executive staff discussed were:

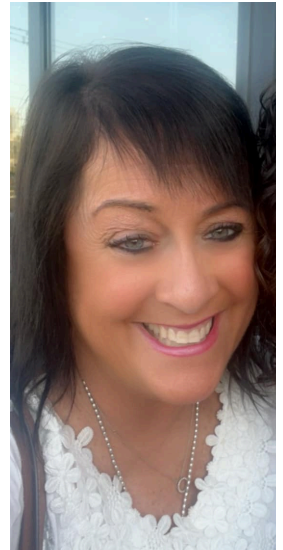
- Child Care/Preschool Demographics
- Nonprofit Governance
- Committee and Board Assignments (see below)
- Committee Scope of Work
- Governance vs. Management
- WCC's Board of Director's Position Description and WCC Bylaws
- WCC's Mission

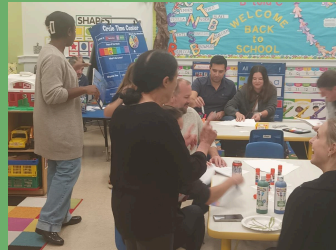
We are ready for October and look forward to a month of exploration, learning, and fun.

Best,

Libby

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





Meet Some of WCC's Board of Directors & Committee Members

Georgia Skene, Board Chair, has been part of the community since enrolling her daughter in 2022. She is the mother of three--a WCC graduate, a current student, and a future student--and has deep family ties to the Westbrook and Westmoreland Hills neighborhoods, where she grew up. Georgia comes from a family of educators and worked in education domestically and internationally for four years before joining the State Department. She served as WCC Secretary from 2024-26 prior to Board Chair. Georgia has this to share with the WCC Community:

"Welcome to the new school year! As parent to one WCC graduate, one current student, and one future student, it is an honor to address you as the new Board Chair following two years as Secretary. I'm thrilled to introduce our new Board volunteers: Sam Crow (Vice Chair), Sarah Coppersmith (Secretary), Adam Leslie, Ellen Mathias, and Sophia Meissner. I'm equally grateful to welcome back Carlton Davis (Treasurer), Whitey Fore (Fundraising), and Elyse Moyer (Long-Range Planning), who join our staff representatives, Kyla Johnson (Staff Liaison) and Greer Jackson (Westbrook Campus Site Director), and leadership team, Libby and Clare.

We kicked off the year with our annual Board retreat and orientation on September 19 and our first Board meeting on September 29. During our first meeting, we approved the annual budget and the establishment of a Safety and Security Committee, chaired by Adam. This committee will support ongoing efforts to continually strengthen the safety and security of our WCC community. Over the next few months, the Board

will finalize updates to our bylaws (last updated in 2018) and our committee charters. We look forward to keeping you updated on our work throughout the year."

Sofia Meissner (Sophie) recently moved to DC from Philadelphia. She grew up not far from WCC, so this is a homecoming. Her two children attended camp at WCC this past summer, and they received an incredible welcome. Mona just started kindergarten and Ren is in the Bunnies class. Sophie is an immigration attorney and works for a legal aid provider in southwest Texas. She is excited to join the long-range planning committee.

Whitney Fore is the mother of two WCC alumni (Eloise (5) and Sam (3), both of whom attended WCC. Originally from North Carolina, Whitney moved to DC for law school and decided to stick around. She is a gaming law attorney and serves as Chair of WCC's Fundraising Committee. She is excited to continue to give back to a community that has meant so much to her family and to support WCC's current and future families.

Sarah Coppersmith and her family have been part of the WCC community since 2022, and currently serves as the Board's Secretary. Sarah is Senior Vice President of Marketing at Progeny, a leading women's health benefits company, where she oversees brand and commercial marketing. Her career spans work in healthcare, technology, and public service, including work on Capitol Hill and with Michelle Obama's Partnership for a Healthier America.

Samantha Crow, Vice Chair, was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ, and moved to DC with her husband, Andrew, in 2018. She joined the WCC community in 2024 when her daughter, Cecelia, started in the Bunnies class. Their son Owen will start with WCC in the fall. She is a researcher programmer for Brookings Institute and is looking forward to working with the Board.

Adam Leslie - Has been part of the WCC community since his son Jimmy enrolled in 2024, first as a Dragonfly and now as a Starfish. Originally from Australia, Adam is a former diplomat and senior intelligence officer with more than 25 years of experience in government, business, and non-profit leadership. He founded Levenhall, a Washington-based strategic advisory firm, and previously served as Executive Director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's U.S. office. He looks forward to contributing his experience in leadership, partnerships, and non-profit governance on the WCC Safety and Security Ad-hoc Committee.

School Wide News

Circle Access

When a staff member is not in the Circle office and your call goes unanswered but you need to reach us, please call 240-839-0497.

Room Parents and Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to the following individuals who volunteers to be room parents this school year:

- Pandas – Jennifer Berlin
- Starfish - Bridget Behling and Lauren Hart
- Leopards - Sara Dendas, Elyse Moyer, Erin Mellen, and Samantha Crow
- Bunnies - Sophie Meissner
- Teddy Bear – Ellen Mathias and Cassie Mowers
- Penguin – Karen and Brian Hunt, Carithers Halbbrook
- Bumble Bee – Michelle Tam and Louise Bayly

If you are interested in volunteering on committees or special projects, please reach out to Libby King at Libby.King@wccbethesda.com. We can always use great talent, minds and hands! Also, it's a great way to meet new friends and to be a part of our special community.

Welcome Back!

Summer camp counselors, Billie Margulis and Pia Wise, who worked at our summer camp for the past two summers, have joined our school year team at the Circle campus, Tuesday's and Thursday's from 3:30-6pm. Both young women are former WCC students and are seniors at BCC High School. We are delighted to have them join us and so are the children!

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.

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.

Tours Begin for 27-28 Year

Tours have begun for incoming children for the 2027-28 school year. If you have family, neighbors or friends who may wish to consider WCC, please have them visit www.wccbethesda.com today!

Happy Birthday to You!

Happiest of birthday's to our special October children:

- Grace
- Mila
- Noah
- Nora
- Remy



Charleston Gift Wrap On Sale

WCC Charleston Gift Wrap fundraiser is live through October 9th. 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. Recently at our campuses we added a see-saw and two seater bikes. See below pictures.



Please share this link family and friends, all are welcome to participate. QR code is below or you can order online: <https://registercw.com/gateway?organizationMidasId=28109>



Westmoreland Children's Center

OUR FUNDRAISER STARTS TODAY!

REGISTER. SHARE. SHOP.

AND HELP OUR CAUSE!

Charleston Wrap
BETTER PRODUCTS. BETTER FUNDRAISING.

1 Register Now

REGISTER NOW, it takes less than 60 seconds to gain access to your Participant Dashboard.

www.registercw.com

Our Organization ID:

28109



PARTICIPANTS:
REGISTER NOW!
Sharing is easy!
www.registercw.com

2 Share Your Link

INVITE 10+ friends and family to shop and help support our cause! Your Participant Dashboard makes it easy to send your link by TEXT, EMAIL, or SOCIAL MEDIA!

3 Shop & Support

SHOP online today to help reach our goal! Use your participant's link to shop 2,500+ gifts, customizable items, great deals & more. Every purchase makes a big difference and your support matters!

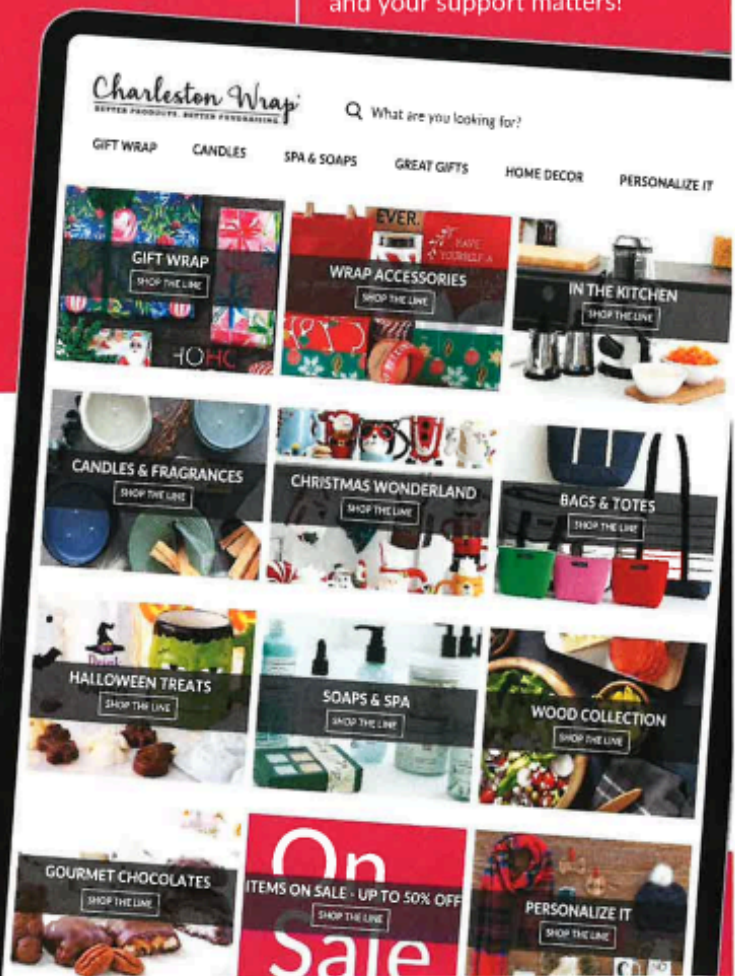
We Need Your Help Today!

To shop, use the link received after registration.

2,500+ gift ideas.
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October is National Book Month and Guess What?

My name is Joan Beecham and I am the new WCC librarian. I am thrilled to be back at WCC and look forward to getting to know your children as I begin story times in each class and campus.

A little bit about me. I taught at the Westbrook campus preschool classroom some twenty odd years ago. I then went to teach preschool at Chevy Chase/Bethesda Children's Center (CCBC) where I recently retired. I returned home to WCC to submit my name to its substitute list, and after doing some subbing and other odd jobs, I began work organizing the library.

The goals for the library include having an organized book system cataloged by title, author, and subject to make finding books easier. Further, to add library book cards/pockets so that both teachers and parents will be able to checkout books. Currently most of the hardback fiction books have been cataloged and shelved alphabetically by author, with several sets of books shelved as collections such as fairytales/folktales, nursery rhymes/poetry, and alphabet/number books, as well as several well-known author or favorite story sets.

The library shelves have now been tagged to show more clearly where specific books are located. We also have a large number of non-fiction books which are being cataloged, and will also be organized by both subjects and subcategories. Another goal is to identify any gaps in our library offerings and fill them as needed. When all this is accomplished, I look forward to welcoming you and your child to WCC's revitalized library.



Westy Asks Greer Jackson What Makes Her Tick

Greer is the Site Director at our Westbrook campus. Her WCC journey began as an office administrator assisting with in the main office. She later transitioned to the Circle campus, where she started as a 2's lead teacher and eventually served as the Site Director for three years.

She was born in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and shortly after, she and her family moved to Connecticut. We later relocated to Gaithersburg where I grew up and completed grade school. I then attended college in North Carolina and graduated from Eastern Caroline State University.

Outside of work, she loves going to live music events and flying to relaxing destinations where beautiful blue water is a must. Here are other nuggets Greer was kind to share with me. Thank you, Greer. Your friend, Westy



What song instantly puts you in a good mood?

"Lovely Day" ♪ by Bill Withers

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

Whitney Houston and the band "Chicago"

What sound drives you crazy?

The device kids add on their cars so that it makes that loud putting and popping noise when they shift gears while driving.

What is an essential item you must have on a road trip?

My driving glasses and some coffee.

What are a few of your favorite smells?

Inside the smell of an old fashion bakery and popcorn being made.



WCC Dates-to-Remember *October is National Book Month*

October 7 - Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Patch – Circle 2's at 10 AM

October 8 - Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Patch – Circle 3's at 10 AM

October 9 - Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Patch – Westbrook 4's at 10 AM. Deadline for Charleston Gift Wrap Program.

October 30 - Halloween Parade - 9:15 am for Westbrook; 10:15 am for our Circle campus. *Costumes optional.* Class party immediately following *for students only.*

October 31 - Halloween



November 1 - Daylight Savings Time (Set clocks an hour behind)

November 3 - Election Day – **WCC CLOSED**

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

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

Head Start Awareness Month

A resource message from the Maryland Office of Early Education

October is Head Start Awareness Month and marks a time to celebrate the national Head Start program. Head Start offers education services, care, and support for children aged birth to five years old from low-income households and their families.

In addition, pregnant individuals, infants, toddlers, and their families can locate a range of targeted services through Early Head Start programs. Early Head Start supports children until they turn 3 years old and are ready to enter kindergarten or a Head Start program. Are you looking for family support services near you? Find a Head Start or Early Head Start program online: md-hsa.org.



Updates from the Office of Early Childhood

On October 1, 2026, the Division of Early Childhood became the Office of Early Childhood. This change promotes early childhood within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) so we can prioritize the following goals:

- Give all Maryland families access to quality, affordable early care and education
- Boost school readiness and success in life for all Maryland children
- Help families thrive through community connections

To ensure continued access, we recommend updating saved links to the new URL after the move. If you have questions or are having trouble finding information on the website, please contact us at earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov.

Looking for Fun Activities to Do with Your Family?

Spending time as a family can help your child build connections and social skills and have the confidence to learn. This opportunity is especially important for young, developing minds. Check out these ideas of activities you can do with your child and the rest of your family to bond and grow together.

- Make crafts with items found in your home
- Visit a local library or museum
- Have a picnic outside
- Plan a family game or movie night
- Go on a nature walk
- Read aloud to your child

Find Balance in Your Busy Life

Now is the perfect time to look at balance between your life in and out of your home. Do you feel productive while at work or another commitment, and relaxed and connected with your family at home? If not, the imbalance could lead to stress in both areas of your life. Try these tips to help you maintain a healthy balance in your schedule.

- Set boundaries. Keeping life inside and outside the home distinct will ensure you can show up at your best for each. Stick to firm working hours at your job or volunteer positions when possible. This way, you can unplug and be present at home. If working from your home, try to set up a work space separate from where you relax or sleep.
- Manage your time. How much time does it take you to complete your to-do list? Plan your schedule accordingly. Organize your tasks and make sure you have enough time planned for your personal life, as well as transition times like your commute.
- Reduce stress. You cannot always control outside factors that make you stressed. But you can lower stress levels by taking breaks, finding ways to relax, and practicing self-care.
- Stay flexible. Life can be unpredictable, whether you are at work or at home. If you stay ready and are able to adapt in unforeseen circumstances, while still maintaining your boundaries, you can feel less pressure when something comes up and plans need to change.

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

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