

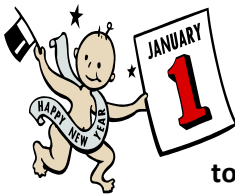


JANUARY 2010
WESTSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
MUSTANG MESSENGER

IMPORTANT DATES

January 4	School reopens at 8:30 A.M.
January 5	PTA meeting 6:00 P.M. at Intermediate School
January 8	Candid photos Lifetouch
January 12	Induction Ceremony Elementary National Honor Society 6:30 P.M.
January 14	Budget meeting Board of Education Central Office 5:30 pm
January 18	Schools Closed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19	Board Presentations North Salisbury 7:00 pm
January 22	End of 2 nd Marking Term
January 25 and 26	Schools Closed Professional Days for teachers
January 28 and 29	PBIS Incentive YMCA

THANK YOU AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS



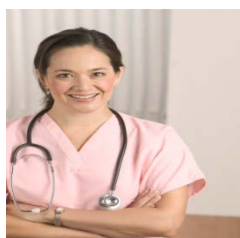
The administration, staff, and students wish to “THANK” all of our families for a wonderful first four months of the 2009-2010 school year. We could not survive without the support of all of you and our community. **Thank you to the many who took stars from our Giving Tree, the community, parents and staff who bought and wrapped over 200 gifts for our needy families, and helped with our canned food drive. We made our goal of 1000 cans, for the United Way, and the Salvation Army carton drive.** Thank you for your support of our fund raiser in September. We have had an off-site Code Red drill, special assemblies and programs, and lots of learning and some fun in the process. We wish for you and your families a wonderful, safe, and joyous holiday season. We are very blessed here at Westside to have the positive support from all of you. We couldn’t do it without you. We look forward to a busy and exciting 2010!

SCHOOL DELAYS AND CLOSINGS

As we approach winter weather sometimes road conditions warrant the closing or delay of school. Please be aware that you can find the listings of delays and closings on the county website, www.wcboe.org. Also, radio and television news stations have these posted. Dr. Fredricksen will also be sending out information on the Parent Link System.



Please make sure if you move or change anything from what we presently have in our computers that you get the school the updated information. We need this in order to keep you informed of everything happening in school and the community. The county has also provided a hot line for parents to call for further delay/closing information. **The number is 410-677-5100**



Notes from the Nurse:

January is Blood Donation Month

Did You Know?

- Only 5 percent of eligible donors across the nation donate blood, but the number of transfusions nationwide increases by 9 percent every year.
- Blood donors can donate as frequently as every 56 days. A benefit from donating this often is that you receive a mini-physical once every two months.
- Each whole blood donation can help as many as three people. One unit is divided into three parts: red blood cells, platelets, and plasma.
- On average, a hip replacement typically uses one unit of blood, a cardiac bypass 2 units, a heart transplant 2 units, and a liver transplant 10 units!
- Blood cannot be manufactured. It can only come as a gift from people.
- The need for blood increases during holidays and summer months. People are more apt to be traveling and active during these times and thus are at an increased risk for accidents.
- Statistics show that 25 percent or more of us will require blood at least once in our lifetime.
- You burn about 650 calories by donating

If you can, please donate blood at your local blood bank. I hope none of you, or members of your family ever need a blood transfusion, but those who do are truly thankful for the gift. If people don't donate, there may not be enough for those in need. The Blood Bank of Delaware-Eastern Shore is located on Mt. Hermon Rd. You can contact them at 410-749-4161 or 1-800-553-8819.

Mrs. Davis



FAMILY PORTAL INFORMATION

Assistance for Family: Family questions regarding a grade or an assignment:

1. Speak with your child first
2. If still have questions, contact teacher (remember teachers have 2 weeks to post grades after a test.)
3. Any other family questions concerning Family Portal, please contact the school office for assistance.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

WAY TO GO!!! Thank you to Mrs. Higgins and our fourth and fifth grade students for presenting a wonderful holiday program about giving, caring and sharing. Thank you to all who helped make this program possible.

PTA NEWS

The PTA wishes to **“Thank”** all of the parents and volunteers who helped with the staff holiday luncheon and Breakfast with Santa. The following business donated food for the luncheon: Deli @ Pecan Square, Boonies, Shorestop, Food Lion, Chicken Man/Hebron Mini Mart and many parents donated drinks and desserts.

The next PTA meetings will be held January 4 at Westside Primary and January 5 at Westside Intermediate both beginning at 6:00 pm. The teachers at the Intermediate School will be sharing information on testing and curriculum for the remainder of the school year.



Nicholas Colletti, Vice President, of PTA and family activities would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations for Breakfast with Santa:

Synapse Management Services **donation**
Nicholas Colletti **donation**
Christine Braughler, Delmarva Archive **donation**
Dierdre Nay **donation**
Holli Clark photographer

Volunteers
Pam Mitchell Krissy Jennette
Abby Cole Jeanette Wood
Tammy Lauer Charity Steinacker
Allison Smith Cliff Lawrence

And all of our safety patrol helpers, Honor Society members and parents at the craft tables

Thanks so much
Nick

UP COMING PTA EVENT

Look for information coming home after the holidays about our big fund-raiser which is out auction and dinner. This year the PTA is looking to have a fried chicken dinner and a wider variety of auction items. Information will be coming home on light yellow and green paper. The theme this year will be St. Patty's Day.



BUDGET HEARING

The first public budget hearing for the fiscal 2010 budget will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Board of Education Office auditorium, Mt. Hermon Road and Long Avenue, Salisbury. Parents, students, community members and Board staff are invited to come with comments. Early input will be valuable in what is expected to be a very challenging budget year for the school system and the Board of Education. For information please call 410-677-4561.

Nominations for Wicomico Teacher of the Year Accepted Until Jan. 29



Nominations for 2010-2011 Wicomico Teacher of the Year will be accepted until Jan. 29. Anyone in the community is invited to seek recognition for a current Wicomico teacher who has taught full-time for at least five years.

Nomination forms will be sent home with students. They are also available in schools, at the Board of Education Office, at the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, and on line at www.wcboe.org.

The Wicomico County Teacher of the Year Program annually solicits nominations from parents, students, the community and fellow educators to recognize Wicomico teachers with exceptional qualities and characteristics that make them shining examples of teaching in Wicomico County. Nominations come from many different people; a student who treasures a special teacher, a parent who sees the benefits of all that a teacher does, someone who recalls an outstanding experience in the classroom of a teacher who is still teaching, or a coworker who sees the value of a fellow teacher's work every day.

"Teachers considered as nominees for recognition as Teacher of the Year should exemplify the traits associated with master teachers. They should be skillful and dedicated teachers who plan to continue their teaching careers, said Karen Leimann, coordinator of the Wicomico County Teacher of the Year Program.

Wicomico Teachers of the Year, including the current Teacher of the Year, Susan Cullen (Grade 3, Delmar Elementary), model teaching excellence. Wicomico has had a number of finalists for Maryland Teacher of the Year, and has two past Maryland Teachers of the Year on staff, Bonnie Walston, now the director of special education (1994), and Aaron Deal, a computer education teacher at Salisbury Middle School (2004).

Semifinalists for the Wicomico award will be interviewed by a blue ribbon panel of judges (March 4-5). On March 18, during the Teacher of the Year Banquet at Salisbury University's Commons, the finalists at the primary, intermediate, middle and high school levels will be named, and the new Wicomico Teacher of the Year will be announced. All semifinalists will attend the banquet.

For more information, please call Karen Leimann at 410-677-4462 or e-mail her at kleimann@wcboe.org

NEW TO WESTSIDE STAFF

It is with sadness that I announce the retirement of Mrs. Candice Combs, resource teacher. Mrs. Combs has been at Westside for nine years and has decided to retire December 31, 2009.

No one can take her place, but Mr. Christopher McLaughlin, grade 4 reading teacher, will continue to serve the students at Westside as a full time reading teacher beginning January 4, 2010. We have joining our grade 4 team Mrs. Gretchen Ardis from Prince Street School. She will assume Mr. McLaughlin's responsibilities in grade 4 and the office area for the remaining school year.

2010-2011 Draft Calendar Now Available for Review

The Wicomico County Board of Education is seeking input on its calendar for the 2010-2011 school year, prior to a final vote at the Jan. 12 Board meeting. The draft calendar, with school closings and holidays, is posted on the main page of the Board's web site, under Links.

Under the proposed calendar, the school year would begin Monday, Aug. 30 and end June 10, 2011. Students would be off Nov. 24-26 for the Thanksgiving break, Dec. 23-Jan. 2 for the winter holidays (schools would reopen Jan. 3), and April 21-25 for the spring holidays. June 8, 9 and 10 would be early dismissal days.

Schools would also be closed Sept. 6 (Labor Day), Sept. 14 (Primary Election), Oct. 15 (MSTA Convention), Nov. 2 (General Election), Jan. 17 (Martin Luther King Birthday), Feb. 21 (Presidents Day) and May 30 (Memorial Day). Schools would be closed for students (but open for teachers) for professional days on Oct. 18, Jan. 24 and 25, Feb. 28 and May 2.

The calendar also includes proposed changes in graduation procedures for the county's four high schools. Commencement ceremonies for the class of 2011 would take place at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center for all four high schools, with Mardela High School students receiving diplomas the evening of Friday, June 3, 2011, and students from Parkside, James M. Bennett and Wicomico high schools graduating at staggered times on Saturday, June 4, 2011. Scheduling the commencement ceremonies for one location on only two days would save money on facility rental and other graduation costs for the school system and the high schools.

The proposed calendar may be downloaded as a pdf from the Wicomico County Board of Education's Web site at www.wcboe.org, under Links.

The Board approved the draft calendar on first reading at its Dec. 8 meeting, and expects to adopt a final calendar at the Jan. 12 meeting. Please submit any comments or suggestions to Stacy Messick, Coordinator of Employees Relations, at smessick@wcboe.org or 410-677-4421.

Destination Imagination Club

The Destination Imagination Club for Westside Intermediate will begin in the month of January. This club is an opportunity for students to work with other students to use some creative problem solving skills. At each club meeting students will work in groups of up to seven to solve a problem that involves using skills such as building structures, creating skits, performing skits, communicating in an unknown languages, communicating with no language, making scenery with unusual supplies, in addition to many other skills. Club members are encouraged to use their imagination and ability to think outside of the box to solve these problems.

The club will meet after school from 3:30 to 4:30 once or twice a month with Mrs. Skeeter in Room C-29. A schedule will be sent home with all members. Second and third grade club members will meet as one group and fourth and fifth grade club members will meet as one group.

In order for your child to participate in the club, a permission slip must be filled out and returned to school no later than Friday, January 8, 2010. Permission slips will not be accepted on the day of the club meetings.

The January club meetings are as follows:

- January 12th and 19th – 2nd and 3rd grade club members
- January 14th and 21st – 4th and 5th grade club members

If you would like your child to participate in the club, please complete the permission slip below and return it to school with your child **no later than Friday, January 8, 2010.**

My child has permission to participate in the DI after school club at Westside Intermediate School beginning in January 2010. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide prompt transportation home at 4:30 pm. While participating in the DI club, students will be expected to adhere to all school rules. Dismissal from the club will result from continued disregard for the rules or more than one late pickup.

Students Name

Grade

Homeroom Teacher

Parent's Signature

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Emergency Contact Name

Phone Number of Contact