

Woodbridge Elementary Sept. '23 Newsletter

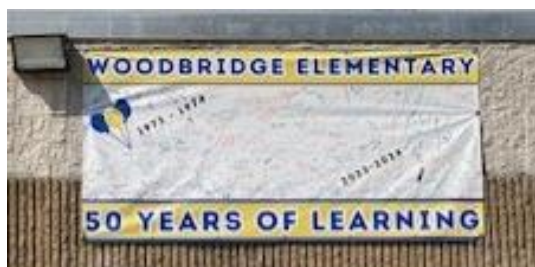
Lori A. Phelps, Principal
Lori Davenport, Administrative Secretary
Call Us @ 443-809-0857

Kimberly G. Fields, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Lee, Registration Secretary



Principal's Corner

Welcome to the 23-24 School Year! Woodbridge is 50 years old and we will be celebrating that milestone all year long.



Our first event was the Kick-Off prior to our Back to School Night where several important guests took the stage to congratulate us on this achievement. Over 400 people attended, had cake and ice cream *and* signed our 50 years of Learning Banner. Thanks to our Camp Woodbridge kids who led our 50th Anniversary Theme Song of "We Are Family" made famous in the 1970's by Sister Sledge. We will continue to play this theme song all year long. I am so excited to start my 10th year as the Woodbridge Principal which makes me the longest serving Principal in it's 50 year history! I look forward to seeing many of you at our family fun events throughout the year.



Thanks to Ms. Boyer and Ms. Mileto for getting our school facebook up and running this summer. You can now see pictures of what's happening in school and get up to date announcements without waiting for the monthly newsletter. Search Facebook for Woodbridge Elementary School Catonsville and look for the page denoted by the owl (Woody) icon. There are "unofficial" pages out there so use "see all" to find the Woody icon for the correct page!

WES Calendar Dates

September Dates

Mon., Sept. 11 – 1st Day of PreKindergarten!!
Fri., Sept. 15 – No School for Students; teacher training
Wed., Sept. 20 – MAP Testing gr. 1-5
Thurs., Sept. 21 – MAP testing gr. 1-5
Fri., Sept. 22 – Woody's FunRunRaiser packets go home
Mon., Sept. 25 – No School for Students; teacher training
Tues., Sept. 26 – 1st Day to return FunRunRaiser for prizes
– PTA & Title 1 Annual Mtg @ 6:30 pm
(Use Rec Room doors; childcare provided)
Wed., Sept. 27 – 1st Day to *receive* FunRunRaiser prizes

Upcoming Dates in Oct.

Mon., Oct. 9 – 5th gr BioBlitz Field Trip
Fri., Oct. 13 – Woody's FunRunRaiser
Tues., Oct. 17 – School Picture Day
Fri., Oct. 20 – School Closed
Fri., Oct. 27 – PreK & Kdg Field Trip to the Farm
Mon., Oct. 30 – Halloween Fun Night



Title I Annual Mtg

Please join us for our Annual Title I Meeting immediately following the PTA meeting on Tues., Sept. 26 @ 6:30 pm. This is particularly important for parents of 3rd & 4th grade students as these students are currently participating in the program but ALL Woodbridge families are encouraged to attend.



Congratulations

Watch here for our monthly Virtue Winners. This month is **KINDNESS!**

Each month, teachers and students will collaborate on who has shown the virtue of the month and should be named Student of the Month because of it. Please talk to your child about how to demonstrate "Kindness" in school.

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Also being awarded monthly will be certificates for *Most Improved* students. Students may be "most improved" for any reason, academically or behaviorally. Ask your child's teacher what your child can improve on.

PTA MTG SEPT. 26 @ 6:30PM

We hope you can join us for the first PTA Meeting of the year on Tues., Sept. 26th @ 6:30 pm. We will discuss this year's calendar of activities and then hold the Title I Annual Mtg where we review the program and planned expenditures. Childcare is available so bring your Woodbridge student(s) and younger siblings to the meeting to play while you receive valuable school info and share your ideas!



Reapply for Medicaid

Do you know that the government has reinstituted the application process for Medicaid benefits? PLEASE be sure to renew NOW as the number of students qualifying for Medicaid is a determining factor in our school receiving the \$325,000 we were awarded this year through the Title 1 grant. Scan the code below for more information.

Applying for SNAP (food stamps) benefits your family and the school as well. The deadline to count in our school Title 1 determination is Oct. 30, so don't delay!!



Subaru Loves Learning

A GREAT BIG WOODY THANK YOU to **Catonsville Subaru** for its donation of school supplies to our school! Students representing all of our grade levels met with General Manager Steve Knolle and other Subaru representatives to give them a tour of our school and say THANK YOU in person!



School partnerships are critically important in helping our school to provide more than just the basics for our students. If your job has a school partnership program, please think about recommending a partnership with us 😊 If you are shopping for a new car or somehow find yourself at Catonsville Subaru, please identify yourself as a Woodbridge parent and add your THANK YOU to ours to show our overall school community appreciation of their generosity.

New DEVICES from BCPS

Important: Students will be charged \$355 for intentional damage

Destruction and/or vandalism of school property is a Category II offense. This includes the destruction of technological devices. The student's responsible use of technology/internet is described in the *2023-2024 BCPS Student Handbook*.

Specifically, it indicates that students shall be held responsible for the appropriate use of BCPS technology and will be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP). Students are required to be safe, secure, and responsible digital citizens when using BCPS electronic devices, networks, and the internet.



Acknowledgment of the Student Handbook indicates that students agree to the following: Protecting school property and understanding that vandalism is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, accessing, modifying, or destroying equipment, programs, files, or settings on any computer or technology resource.

Changes to Award Criteria

You received a flyer outlining the Woodbridge Award Criteria for the 23-24 school year in your Back to School folder.



Unfortunately, BCPS made a slight change to report card criteria *after* those papers were completed. Now, there are 4 points in the Learning Skills and Conduct area on the report card which means instead of students earning all 3's to qualify for an award, they must earn ALL 4's in those areas. Learning Skills and Conduct include things like attendance and on-time arrival, completing homework and classwork, working well with peers and adults and following classroom routines and procedures. If you have any questions about Woodbridge Award Criteria, please ask your child's teacher or call us in the office. Awards will be distributed twice a year (at the end of the 1st semester and at the end of the year). We look forward to celebrating your child's accomplishments with you!

Field Trips are FUN!

It is Field Trip season already! Every grade, including PreKindergarten, will take at least 2 field trips this year, one in the fall and one in the Spring. If you would like to chaperone a field trip, you **MUST** complete the Volunteer application and training. This must be completed **EVERY** year. Go to bcps.org; select Parent; select "Family and Community Engagement" from the drop down menu; select "BCPS Volunteers" from the side menu and follow the directions to complete both the application and training. Send the application and training certificate to school or email Ms. Jen (jlee4@bcps.org). Complete the "I want to chaperone" form and send it to the teacher. Once your paperwork is confirmed, you will be contacted to send in the money required for the trip. Once those steps are complete, *then* you can ask for the day off from work to go. Chaperone numbers are limited based on available bus space so *please* do not take off work until the teacher *confirms* that you will be a chaperone!!



Woodbridge is Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



We are excited to begin a month-long celebration of the culture of more than 20% of our students. Ask your child to share what they are doing this month!

Parent Equity Team

Join Us on Fri., Sept. 22nd

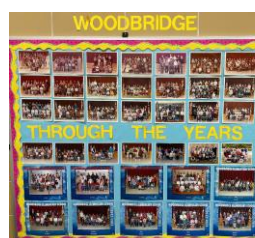
@ 8:45 – 9:30 am



Woodbridge is one of the most diverse schools in our county and we are proud of the way our school community accepts and promotes the different cultures within our building. To insure we continue to hear the voices of all of our students and families, we have created a Parent Equity Team that meets 3 times a year to share ideas and advice. Everyone is welcome to join this team. The 1st meeting will be held on Friday, Sept. 22 from 8:45 – 9:30 am. If you cannot attend that meeting but would like to be included on the team, please let us know. Please RSVP to Ms. Jen (jlee4@bcps.org) to join!

50th Anniversary Kick-off

Happy Anniversary to Woodbridge! Woodbridge opened its doors on Sept. 17th, 1973 and we welcomed many of its original students back for our Kick-Off celebration on Thursday, Aug. 24th. Watch for additional celebration activities throughout the year.



Arrival & Dismissal: A Huge Success

Thank you to EVERYONE who is using the arrival and dismissal lines for following staff direction and school routines so easily! It is always slow going at the beginning of the year as parents new to our school have to figure out what to do. Patience is always necessary as safety precautions can often be inconvenient. Our staff has worked hard to be able to welcome and dismiss our 450 students in the short 15 minutes we have for arrival and dismissal. With your help and cooperation, they are successfully doing that. We are adding another 21 PreKindergarten students to the arrival line on Monday so it might be slow again for another day or so as 4 year olds are a little slower to get out of their car seats and sometimes resist leaving mom and dad so the car has to drive around and park. For returning parents, we all miss Mr. Jordan but wish him well as he moves into a different career. Thank you for welcoming Ms. Schweiger, Ms. O'Donnell, Mr. Allison and Ms. Doonis into the traffic management roles!



FUNRUNRAISER

Coming Sept. 22nd

For returning families, you know what "FunRunRaiser" means. For new families, it is the school's major fundraiser of the year. Please watch for the envelope coming home on Sept. 22nd. Back this year is an old favorite: Top fundraisers will have the opportunity to "pie a teacher." NEW this year will be a trophy for the top school fundraiser. We appreciate your support for this important school initiative.

