

# WOODBIDGE ELEMENTARY WHISTLER

*Proud to be a BCPS Passport School!*



Lori Phelps  
Principal

Kim Fields  
Assistant Principal

## December 2019 Newsletter

### The Principal's Corner



As we continue our monthly focus on Virtues, the December virtue is none other than Generosity. Joining our already celebrated virtues of Kindness, Respect, and Cooperation, Generosity allows students to practice empathy and thinking of those other than themselves. During this season of giving, Student Council will sponsor both a toy drive and a canned food drive for families who may be struggling to provide the type of holiday we all want to give our children. If you know of a family that could use a little extra help during the Holiday Season, please contact School Counselor Colleen Boyer or Student Council Advisor Lindsay Bossi. Our school was able to provide Thanksgiving baskets to 15 families and everyone was very grateful. As your family plans its own holiday celebration, please consider teaching your child about the virtue of Generosity by allowing them to contribute canned food or a toy to the school community. From our school family to yours, we wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!



### December Calendar

- Dec. 4 -- Make-up Picture Day
- Dec. 9 -- PTA Holiday Shop Begins
- Dec. 11 -- Winter Concert @ 7:00 pm
- Dec. 13 -- PTA Snowflake Dinner & Dance @ 6:00 pm
- Dec. 23 -- Winter Break Begins!

#### Upcoming Dates:

- Jan. 2 -- School Re-Opens @ 8:25 am
- Jan. 9 -- BCPS Blue Day
- Jan. 13 -- PTA Mtg @ 6:30 pm (Use Rec Rm Doors)
- Jan. 24 -- End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr; Early Dismissal @ 12:15
- Jan. 30 -- Family Fun Night @ 6:00 pm

WOODBIDGE ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS THE  
**Holiday TOY DRIVE**  
DECEMBER 2ND - 13TH  
Woodbridge Elementary School



# Dec. 4



The Maryland State Department of Education has re-defined *chronically absent* to be 10% of the number of days a child has been enrolled. Our school had an abnormally high number of students identified as chronically absent last year – 18%. That means 81 students missed 18 or more days of school. It is important for parents and guardians to understand the ramification of a child being identified as chronically absent. The BCPS Pupil Personnel Worker becomes involved and may conduct a home visit or summon the family to a “Project Attend” hearing before a magistrate in District Court. Ultimately, parents can be prosecuted, fined and jailed for children who are chronically absent. Family vacations are *unexcused absences*. Travel abroad for weeks and months at a time leave significant academic gaps for students that cannot be “made up.” Please keep this information in mind when making your family plans.

## Get Ready for Winter Weather (and the accompanying headaches)



Children (and teachers) usually get excited about snow days. Parents (and Principals), not so much. They know how

inconvenient it is for people who work to find alternate day care when school is closed for the whiff of snow but adults still have to go to work! Safety is always the first priority in BCPS and those big yellow buses can slide dangerously on icy roads, especially at 5:30 am when some high school bus runs start. Allowing roads to warm up and get plowed or ice to melt is the reason for the 2-hr delay. Please make plans NOW for dropping children at school between 10:25 and 10:40 on 2-hr delay days. Children cannot arrive until 10:25 because there is no supervision until that time, and it is critical that children do arrive. Day care on delayed arrival days sometimes means children don't come to school at all. Please avoid that situation by planning what to do now when the 2-hr delays come ... because they ARE coming!

## Congratulations to our November Students of the Month

Angel D-L.  
Fawziya M.  
Fatima Q.  
Mylene P.  
Aubree E-P.  
Ruth A.  
Merwa B.

Nickiya C.  
Aashanveer S.  
Cing L.  
Emily G.  
Kamsiyonna I.  
Roan M.  
Um M.

Syed Q.  
Chris V.  
Kole W.  
De'Arya B.  
Erick A-M.  
Emmanuel S.

These students have been selected by their homeroom teachers as displaying the traits of our School Virtues Education program. Please help us congratulate them for demonstrating the November character trait of Cooperation and check out our Student of the Month bulletin board in the lobby.

## Winter Concert December 11 @ 7:00 pm

If you are the parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, December 11<sup>th</sup> is a big day for your child. The entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade is preparing for the winter concert with all students participating in chorus and more than half the grade playing in either the band or the orchestra. Additionally, several of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are on the dance team which



will also perform. It is going to be a music filled night at Woodbridge and we hope your family can join us as our students share their talents!



**Next Meeting  
Mon., Jan. 13  
6:30 pm**

Plan to attend and review the year's activities to date: Trunk or Treat, World's Finest Chocolate Sale, Donuts for Dads, the Winter Snowflake Family Dinner & Dance and the Holiday Shop. Activities still to come include: Muffins for Moms, the School Play and Talent Show, Teacher Appreciation Week, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell. If you have ideas or can help with any of these events, please attend or contact President Lindsay Bossi.

## PTA Snowflake Family Dinner & Dance

Friday, Dec. 13 from 6 – 8 pm



This event is a chance for your family to spend some quality time together during the busy holiday season. Dance to

a variety of music played by our DJ and enjoy a dinner you didn't have to cook! Appetizers, Pasta (ex. stuffed shells or baked ziti), salad, bread, drinks and dessert are on the menu. Fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, grandparents and grandchildren ... the whole family or just two of you can attend (children must be accompanied by an adult). Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$7 for students. See the separate flyer that came home for details and ticket ordering or call the main office.



## Watch for School Play Audition Info

The school play will be directed by Ms. Kensinger and will be held on Friday, April 24. Auditions will be held before the winter break so watch for information coming home soon!





# Field Trip Fun



November is the big month for field trips. Although 5<sup>th</sup> grade led the way by having the first field trip of the year for their BioBlitz Science unit, Kdg and PreK followed up with the farm and 5<sup>th</sup> grade had a 2<sup>nd</sup> field trip to the Port of Baltimore in October. Now, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade have joined in the field trip fun by going on trips in November. 4<sup>th</sup> grade took our school's first ever trip to Martin State Airport where they participated in, "Why yes, it IS rocket science" by building a rocket and touring the flight line of this working airport. 1<sup>st</sup> graders visited the Aquarium, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade went to the Science Center and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade went to the Museum of Industry. Field trips start again in February.

## PTA HOLIDAY SHOP

### DEC. 9 - 11

Students will have an opportunity to experience the joy of giving at the PTA Holiday Shop this year. Items are low-dollar cost such as picture frames that say "World's Best Dad" or small toys appropriate for baby brothers and sisters. Students will have an opportunity to shop during their Special Area time Mon.-Wed Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.

A separate flyer with more info will be coming home. If you are available during the day and can help our little

ones select presents for their families, please contact Mr. Garmer to volunteer. If items are left, the shop will be open Wed. evening of the Winter Concert.



of picking it out and giving it themselves.



## Woodbridge Vision

Woodbridge Elementary School will be among the highest performing schools in the state of Maryland, prepare students for college and career success, inspire students to become life-long learners and reinforce strong foundational skills. We value:

- Academic achievement delivered in a warm, welcoming and safe environment that prepares students to be globally competitive;
- Instruction that results in responsible students who will develop into productive community members;
- Partnerships with students, families, staff and community, and invite them to participate in creating a positive educational experience;
- Respectful interactions that result in a collaborative environment where individual differences are celebrated and the needs of all students are met.

