




Weekly Community Updates December 29, 2024

<u>Calendar</u>	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
<i>This week:</i>	29	30 Winter Break! 12/13-1/1. See you back at school on 1/2/2025!	31 Winter Break! 12/13-1/1. See you back at school on 1/2/2025!	1 Winter Break! 12/13-1/1. See you back at school on 1/2/2025!	2 First Day Back in School!	3 4Th Grade Rainbow Club Meeting 11-11:30 Spirit Wear!	4
<i>Next Week:</i>	5	6 11:30-12:00 Third Grade Open Lunch Bunch with Mrs. Faerber (Ms. Bussard's Room)	7 12:20-12:50 Second Grade Open Lunch Bunch with Mrs. Faerber (Ms. Piotti's Room)	8 11:30-12:00 Fourth Grade Open Lunch Bunch with Mrs. Faerber (Mrs. Scherr's Room) Green Team Meeting 3:30-4:30	9 1:10-1:40 Fifth Grade Open Lunch Bunch with Mrs. Faerber (Ms. Sparks' Room) Yearbook Candids & Clubs Photos	10 Farwell Breakfast for Mrs. Faerber- APR 8:00-9:30 (Community Welcome) Spirit Wear!	11

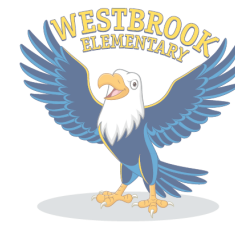
 Please always drive safely around the school- our children depend on it! 

Congratulations to Mr. Lapadula's and Ms. Spark's homeroom class door decorating!

Let Karen know if your class wants a pizza or sundae party!

This year was competitive, with all doors contributing to our festive atmosphere! See pics below

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**** Counselor Transition Update:** *I have gathered community feedback regarding the qualities desired in the new counselor and conducted interviews last week with staff and Core team members. Additionally, the presidents of the PTA and FOWs participated in the interviews to ensure community representation. We met with several candidates, and one of them is an ideal fit for Westbrook. :)*

At this time, I plan to hire a long-term substitute counselor (LTS) for the remainder of the year. This decision prioritizes the interests of the Westbrook community and the needs of our students. I will keep you updated on the hiring status of this candidate once it is confirmed. The candidate is eager to meet the staff and community and is committed to ensuring a thorough and smooth transition.

Westbrook NEWS, INFORMATION, REMINDERS

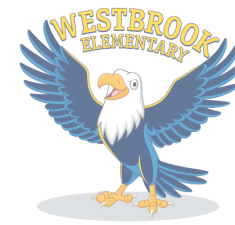
Kindergarten and First Grade Read Alouds with Mrs. Faerber and Open Lunch Bunches with Grades 2-5:

Mrs. Faerber will be going into Kindergarten and First Grade classes to read to students the week of January 6, 2025. She will also be hosting grade-level lunch bunches with students in Second through Fifth Grades to say goodbye.

Water Bottles will no Longer be Sold at Lunch/Breakfast

Please note that MCPS is going green and will no longer be selling water bottles at lunch or breakfast anymore in the near future. Please plan accordingly and send a water bottle with your student in their lunch box. There is a water filling station/water fountain in the cafeteria.

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Buddy Bench!

We have a special bench on the playground, between the basketball hoop and the batting cage. The inviting Buddy Bench is for students looking for a playmate or friend during recess. We encourage all students to use the Buddy Bench- Find a friend or playmate!


Cold Weather

Baby. It's cold outside! Please be sure your student wears a jacket to school. Students go outside even when it is cold, so please make sure they have hats, mittens, gloves, a coat and appropriate shoes!

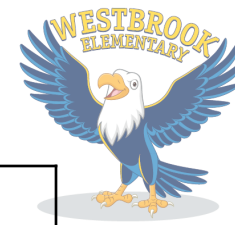
***Personal Mobile Devices Clarification**


The MCPS policy states that elementary school students must have all personal mobile devices OFF and IN THEIR BACKPACK during the school day, including recess and lunch. This policy also refers to watches that have calling/texting abilities. Putting the watches in "school mode" violates this policy. They must be off and put away.

Monthly Grade-Level Newsletters

K	Contact teacher
1st	First grade
2nd	 FY25 December Newslett...
3rd	G3 Dec
4th	Gr.4 Dec
5th	G5 Dec

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Art	Art December
Music	 December Music Newsletter
P.E.	Dec PE
Media	Contact teacher
EML	Contact EML teachers
Counseling	January 2025

Counseling Updates - Mrs. Faerber

Important information from Mrs. Faerber - Letter sent to the Westbrook Community on December 5, 2024

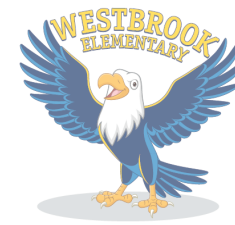
December 5, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and were able to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. I am writing to share that I will be leaving Westbrook Elementary School effective January 10, 2025. This decision comes after much thought and reflection, and while I am excited for this next chapter in my life, I will truly miss being a part of this wonderful community.

I have accepted a promotion working with the Board of Education (BOE) and the Ombudsperson as the Coordinator of BOE Constituent Services. In this role, I will, among other responsibilities, serve as the Board's contact for stakeholders requesting information about policies, programs, and practices, help resolve complaints and connect constituents with appropriate resources and offices, and assist in

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creating and implementing focused community engagement and outreach.

During my time here, I have been privileged to work alongside Karen Cox and Linda Johnson, two seasoned and dedicated Administrators. I have enjoyed working with our incredible staff, supportive parents, and amazing students. Our success and progress as a school have been possible because of the strong collaboration among all stakeholders. Together, we have created an environment where learning, growth, and mutual respect are the norm and are encouraged daily.

In the coming weeks, I will work closely with Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Johnson to ensure a smooth transition and to support the next person who will take on this role. Thank you for your understanding and for the trust you have placed in me during my time here. I will always cherish my experiences at Westbrook, and I look forward to staying connected.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Stefanou Faerber

Yolanda Stefanou Faerber
School Counselor

Counselor Coffee and Conversations and Guidance Advisory Council:

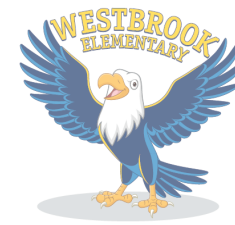
Counselor Coffee and Conversations and the Guidance Advisory Council Meetings will be temporarily halted while we continue searching for a new Counselor. Refer to prior Counselor Coffee and Conversation presentations linked on the Westbrook Website.

MCPS News

[Check out the MCPS Parent's Resource page](#)

As we embrace [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) at Montgomery County Public Libraries, we are thrilled to highlight a range of vibrant events at our branches that honor the contributions of Hispanic librarians, authors, and

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educators.

Established in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and expanded to a full month in 1988, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic/Latino/x/e communities across the nation. Our upcoming programming acknowledges the achievements of this community while also emphasizing the library's role in promoting cultural understanding, inclusion, artistic and literary freedom.

Montgomery County, MD, is proud of its rich diversity and significant Hispanic/Latino/x/e contributions to our community. Our libraries are dedicated to supporting and reflecting this cultural richness through engaging and educational programs.

We warmly invite you to join us for these exciting events. Your participation helps us continue to provide diverse and inclusive programming for our community. See you soon!

To see a list of all Hispanic Heritage Month events, [check our calendar](#).

PTA NEWS

Thanks to all who joined our PTA meeting on December 3. Minutes will be distributed this week for those who weren't able to attend. Our next PTA meeting will be in the spring and feature a presentation about social media. Date to be announced soon.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Interested in learning about PTA positions? We are recruiting for PTA volunteer opportunities for both this school year (2024-2025) and next school year (2025-2026). If you are interested in learning more available positions, please email the PTA.

Become a PTA Member!

The PTA invites you to support our school and make a difference in your child's education during the 2024-2025 school year by becoming a member today. Your annual membership dues directly fund programs, resources, and events that benefit all students and teachers. Follow [this link](#) to join the PTA for the 2024-2025 school year.

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Save the Date for Spring PTA events:

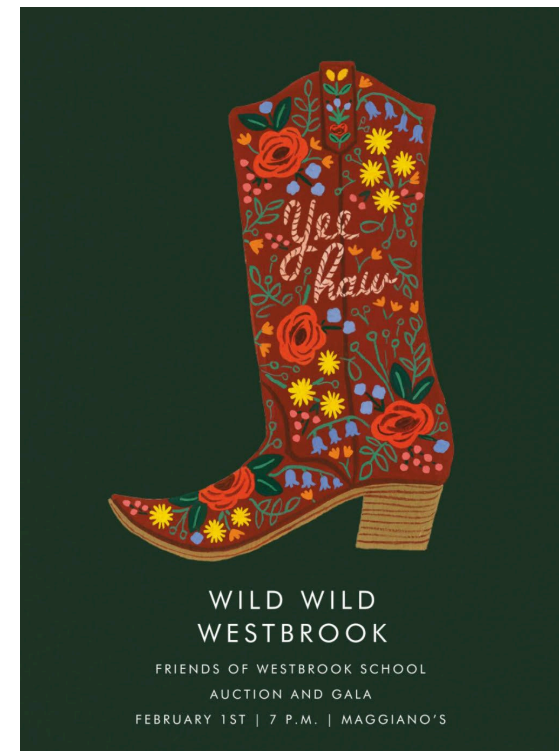
- January 15: Math Night
- February 23: Bingo Night
- February 27: Spelling Bee (added thanks to a parent's suggestion at the PTA meeting!)
- March 21: Skate Night
- April 8: Science Fair
- May 16: Carnival

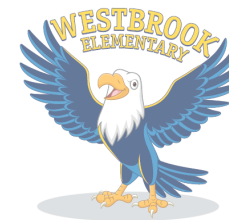
FOWS (Friends of Westbrook School Foundation) NEWS

Save the Date - Farewell Celebration Breakfast for Mrs. Faerber on January 10th 8 - 9 am! Join us as we bid Mrs. Faerber a fond farewell. Stop by when you can; stay as long as you like.

Tickets on Sale Now for Wild Wild Westbrook - Saturday, February 1st

- ***Buy your tickets at <https://givebutter.com/WildWildWestbrook>***
- Following Cathy Stocker's presentation at the December PTA meeting, we are working hard to obtain MCPS approval to fundraise for a new playground prior to this event so that funds raised could go to this goal.
- ***We need your help to make the FOWS Winter Social and Auction a success!***
 - Do you have items you'd like to donate to the auction? If so, please email us at friendsofwestbrook@gmail.com.
 - If you'd like to join the Auction Committee, please email us at friendsofwestbrook@gmail.com.





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Quick Links!

- [PARENT DASHBOARD](#) (Parent Handbook)
- [Parent Resources](#) from MCPS
- Our school [website](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)

****Bullying, harassment (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment), intimidation, hazing, incidents of hate bias, and concerning issues involving student gender identity are not tolerated in MCPS. We are committed to ensuring our students feel safe, valued, and respected in our schools. Please see the multiple ways you can file a report by clicking [here](#).**

Please contact us directly with any questions or concerns. We have an open-door policy and desire to support our school/home community partnership.

Proudly serving the Westbrook Community,



*Principal
Cox and
Assistant
Principal
Johnson*

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