

# Wildcat News

## West Meade Early Education Center

# December 2020

7722 Ray Street  
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755  
Phone: 410-222-6545  
Fax: 410-222-6518  
**Jessica Kallon, Principal**



### Office Hours:

8:15 AM–3:45 PM

### School Hours (in person instruction):

8:45 am—doors open

9:05 am—instruction begins

3:30 pm—dismissal

**AM PreK/ECI** -9:05-11:40 AM

**PM PreK/ECI** - 12:55-3:30 PM

### Administration

**Jessica Kallon, Principal**

[jkallon@aacps.org](mailto:jkallon@aacps.org)

### Counselor

**Theresa Lacovara, School Counselor**

[tlacovara@aacps.org](mailto:tlacovara@aacps.org)

### Office Staff

**Linda Best-Hazan, Principal Secretary**

[lbest-hazan@aacps.org](mailto:lbest-hazan@aacps.org)

**Renee Puhl, Registration & Attendance**

[rpuhl@aacps.org](mailto:rpuhl@aacps.org)

Follow us on Twitter @

**WestMeadeAACPS**

### Principal's Monthly Message

Dear West Meade families,

We are at the end of 2020 and it has been a year of inconceivable adjustments and changes. It is hard to imagine that we are still in the COVID-19 pandemic that has changed our daily lives. However, I am so proud of our students and staff who have adjusted to eLearning and are showing their ability to be resilient. I attribute our success to our dedicated families, students and school team. Thank you for your support and dedication.

Finally, I wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season. Holidays can be a busy time and this year will look different. Please take time to read with your scholar and spend quality time with your loved ones. We will see you back in our virtual classrooms on Monday,  
January 4, 2021.

Thank You,  
Mrs. Jessica Kallon  
Principal

### Math Resources

Students will continue to work on numerals and amounts to 10. Just a reminder that it is completely normal for students to write numbers backwards at this time. Please continue to demonstrate the proper way of writing numbers but place greater focus on connecting the amounts to the correct numeral and counting accurately. The other major skill that students will be focusing on this month is identifying multiple ways to make a given amount. (ex. 4 and 3 make 7, 5 and 2 make 7 and so on) This skill is a precursor to addition. In developing this skill, it is important to use manipulatives. The red and yellow counters in the school supply backpack are perfect manipulatives to use.

Online Games Fuzz Bugs Number Bonds on [www.abcy.com](http://www.abcy.com) is a great game to help practice number bonds. In this game, students can select a number to make. Then they must catch a fuzz bug with the amount needed to complete the number bond at the bottom of the screen. This game is fun however, students need to have a solid knowledge of numerals and the value they represent to play the game. Also, another great online resource is iReady. Students can access the program through the Classlink portal at any time. iReady is tailored to your student's individual needs.

These family card games will better support students that require a visual to count to discover ways to make a given amount.

### Make An Amount

2 to 4 players

How to play: Split deck evenly between all players. The players cannot look at their cards. Select an amount to make between 5-10, this is the target number. After the number is selected, players may begin to turn over cards; two cards at a time. Once cards are out, the player must add the cards together (face cards are equal to 0). Which ever player makes the target number first wins. If their amount is too high or too low the player can set aside both cards or they may keep one. The players then continue to flip cards out until someone makes the target number. Players can only have two cards in play. So, if a player chooses to keep a card they can only turn out one card at a time. Whoever wins that round selects the next amount but they cannot select the amount that was just made.

Greg Mueller  
Kindergarten Teacher and Lead Teacher

### Important Dates For December

- 1–31 Disguise a Gingerbread
- 8–23 Spirit week - "12 Days of Winter Break"
- 9 **Two-hour early dismissal.** No PM Pre-K and ECI
- 24–1/1 **Christmas/Winter Break— All Schools & Offices Closed**



## From the School Health Room

### Holiday Safety Tips



1. Prevent food poisoning by:
  - Cleaning your hands, utensils, and surfaces with hot soapy water
  - Cooking meat to its safe minimum internal temperature
  - Putting leftovers in the fridge within two hours of cooking
2. Keep alcoholic beverages out of a child's reach.
3. Give visitors a safe place to store medicines and other potential poisons.
4. Supervise children around new toys. Magnets and button batteries are dangerous if swallowed.
5. Program 1-800-222-1222 into your mobile phones. Text "POISON" to 797979 and save the contact card.

Follow the MPC (Maryland Poison Center) on Facebook & Twitter

#### Did you know that...

- Children under 6 years old accounted for 36% of cases in 2019 at the Maryland Poison Center (MPC)?

- 85% of calls to the MPC involving children under 6 years were managed at home?

Have a safe and joyful holiday season.

- Bernadette Rogers, RN

### PTO Message

The WMEEC PTO Presents: Disguise the Gingerbread. "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" But not for our friends the Gingerbread people. To help keep the Gingerbread people safe this holiday season, the PTO is asking you to help disguise a Gingerbread person! Once your Gingerbread person has been cleverly disguised, send them to either: ptowestmeade@gmail.com or share them on the Parents of West Meade Facebook page.

Also, we still have PTO Board member positions open. If anyone would like to join and/or volunteer, please email us at [ptowestmeade@gmail.com](mailto:ptowestmeade@gmail.com)



*Welcome to Basecamp YET! Where we build skills, celebrate mistakes and explore our world.*

Happy Holidays Wildcats! As we enter this season of celebration West Meade is reflecting on the past, counting our present blessings and preparing for the future by paying it forward! Please join us as we support Sarah's House on Fort Meade with our annual Wildcat donation drive. Sarah's house is a shelter that helps the AAC community. This year Sarah's house is making donating even easier through Amazon Wish-list, which can be found on their Facebook page: Friends of Sarah's House or on the WMEEC counselor site (link below). Helping those in need by donating safely, now that's a winning combination! West Meade will also have a donation box in front of the school from 14-18 December during school hours for towels, washcloths and twin sheets. For more information visit the WMEEC counselor website:

<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/mrslacovara/home>

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SPECIAL FOR THOSE AT SARAH'S HOUSE.**

Since 1987, Sarah's House has been the Emergency Shelter and Project Based Housing Program for families experiencing homelessness in Anne Arundel County.

In a unique partnership, the U.S. Army, Anne Arundel County, and Catholic Charities of Baltimore have teamed up to provide not just a shelter, but a home. Through intensive case management, employment and life skills workshops, childcare, transportation services, and much more, the team at Sarah's House strives to embody the mission of Catholic Charities of Baltimore: to love, serve, teach, and to work for justice.

Mrs. Theresa Lacovara  
School Counselor

Ideas shared by Literacy Teacher, Katie Saxe



The **Power** and **Joy** of a **Read Aloud**

*Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house all the wild-cats were reading all snug in their beds...*

Did you know that reading aloud to children and a child's time spent reading books are some of the most powerful tools to help build great readers and overall educational success? With the current screen time overload, it is important to balance technology with actual books in hand and this includes taking advantage of the benefits and pure joy that an effective read aloud story can provide. Read on for some great tips and **enjoy!**

**Helpful Tips For Reading to Kids** from ideas posted by Vanessa Levin <https://www.pre-kpages.com/reading-aloud-to-kids/> Shared by Literacy Teacher Katie Saxe

**Let the Child Pick the Book** This is an excellent way to get your child involved in the reading aloud process.

**Don't Be Afraid of Wordless Picture Books!** They provide a great opportunity for your child to analyze picture clues, develop vocabulary and oral language, make predictions, and answer comprehension questions like *What do you think is happening here?*

**Start Small** The younger the child the shorter the attention span. Gradually select longer stories when your child seems ready for them. Stopping mid-book and using a bookmark is okay, too.

**Be Creative With Your Voice** Use different voices for different characters and unleash your inner drama king or queen! Have fun with the sound effects, too.

**Read It Again** This can help develop language skills and improve reading comprehension.

**Read Aloud to Big Kids, Too** In *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, Jim Trelease says "...kids usually listen on a higher level than they read."

**Explain Some New Words** Listening comprehension develops first and then supports speaking, reading, and writing vocabulary.

### WMEEC Café

#### Lunch Prices:

Lunch (Full Prices) \$2.75

Milk- 1/2 pint (A La Carte) \$ .55



**Please Apply for free/reduce meals:**

<https://aacpschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>

West Meade is a meal site. We are providing **free breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack** to children, ages 2-18 during the 2020-2021 school year. **There are no income or registration requirements.** Children will receive breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack each day schools are in session and can pick those meals up from 12-12:30 pm here at West Meade. Families can pick up meals without their children present, but must register by calling 410-222-5900. **Please remember to wear your mask when picking up meals!!**