

# WILDCAT PRESS

November 13, 2020



## November

- 13 - Parent/Teacher Conferences Scheduling Opens
- 16- 20 - American Education Week
- 16 - 1st Quarter Report Cards Issued
- 18 - Educational Support Personnel Day (ESP)
- 18 - WoES Wired Wednesday Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety 7-8 PM
- 19 - Parent/Teacher Conferences Scheduling Closes
- 23 - Professional Work Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences: School ends 3-hours early at 12:45 PM - *There will be a modified schedule. The day is designated as a YELLOW day.*
- 24 - Professional Work Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences: School ends 3-hours early at 12:45 PM - *There will be a modified schedule. The day is designated as a YELLOW day.*



## November

11/9	Jackson Halstead Elliott Maheu	11/13	Youssef Mineya
11/10	Zachary Foreman Ella Malinowski	11/14	Urvi Patil Ethan Zhou
11/12	Zainab Ahmed Chineuma Ewoh Aayan Paudel	11/15	Fiona Barrio Koyal Medapally Violet Pittman

# MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATORS

Dear Worthington families,

We are celebrating American Education Week from November 16–20, 2020. Every year we look forward to honoring public education and the many individuals who make a difference in ensuring that every student receives a quality education.

American Education Week is a wonderful opportunity to encourage our collaboration and partnership with families. This year, during this time of virtual learning, unfortunately we will not be able to hold all any traditional American Education Week activities.

We want to invite you to join our classroom Google Meet sessions to see our incredible teachers and students in action. To ensure student safety, please understand that outside email addresses will not be allowed into Google Meet sessions.

Parents/guardians should sit with their child and use their HCPSS email account to log into Google Meet sessions. In addition, we ask that all parents/guardians adhere to these Google Meet privacy guidelines:

- Do not video record, audio record, photograph, live stream or transmit in any other way any part of a Google Meet, including not posting on any social media platform.
- Any confidential or personally identifiable information related to students participating during Google Meets should not be collected, discussed or shared.

During this incredibly unusual and often stressful school year, it is even more important that we celebrate the team of people at our schools, including our teachers, administrative and support staff, food and nutrition employees and so many more. At the same time, our families are working closer with us to ensure our students succeed with virtual learning.

As part of American Education Week, Wednesday, Nov. 18 is Educational Support Personnel Day (ESP). ESP staff includes secretaries, health room staff, paraeducators, custodians and food service staff. In addition, next week we will focus on “Kindness in Action at WoES” throughout the week ([Kindness Week Guide](#)). We encourage our students and families to recognize a staff member (or a few) by completing a [#WoESSTRONG Staff Shout Out](#). Please visit our [website](#) to see our full staff roster. We know words of support, sharing gratitude and/or expressing thankfulness for a staff member will surely brighten a staff member’s day!

We look forward to our families getting involved in the spirit of the week. Together, we can move forward in empowering each of our students to achieve and thrive.

Sincerely,

**Kelli Jenkins, Principal**

**Jason Morton-Ortega, Assistant Principal**

## SCHOOL NEWS/UPDATES

### **GRADING FOR QUARTER 1**

This has been a challenging 1st quarter of school for many of our families. Due to the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and transition to virtual learning, the Howard County Public School System has made some changes to 1st quarter grading that you may see reflected on your child's report card. Students in primary grades will earn an I (Independent) or W (With assistance) if they have engaged in synchronous instruction. Students in intermediate grades will receive A, B or C grades if they have engaged in synchronous instruction at least 60% of the sessions. As a result, Canvas grades may not align with Quarter 1 report card grades. These changes are in place for 1st Quarter report card grades only. Asynchronous assignments complement and support synchronous learning, please support your child with task completion and with attending support sessions during Quarter 2 as needed.

### **Contactless Media Center Checkout!**

We are happy to announce that our contactless checkout has been going well! The books will now be available any day of the week from 8 - 4pm either out in the front of the school or right inside the blue doors. However, please wait for an email from me letting me know the books are ready before stopping by! Check out the link to request a book: <https://forms.gle/mUjKQw8x2EF4jsrt8>

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Howe ([emily\\_howe@hcpss.org](mailto:emily_howe@hcpss.org))

## **MAP ~ FALL HOME REPORT**

For students in grades 1-8 who participated in the October MAP assessment the results are now available for parents. They are located in the same place that you access the report card. Please follow the steps below to access your child's results.

To access previous test scores:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Standardized Test Scores from the middle

Detailed PDF home reports are available in Synergy. To access home reports:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Report Cards from the middle
4. Select the applicable report from the Student's MAP Reports section.

Please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher or me if you need any additional information.

## **WOES Wired Wednesday**

### **Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety**

**Date: November 18**

**Time: 7-8pm**

**Code: [meet.google.com/bei-pynm-mqk](https://meet.google.com/bei-pynm-mqk)**



Join us to see what students are learning about participating safely and responsibly in the online community. Learn about resources available to support families navigating the complexities of the digital world.

## **Greetings from the WOES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force**

In honor and in recognition of the many cultures that represent the United States and their contributions to our nation, past and present, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force would like to continue our "Monthly Heritage" Discussions. During this activity, you will have the opportunity to learn and share information about different cultures.

Last month we kicked off our series with Hispanic Heritage Month. Second in our series is ***Indigenous People Heritage Month!*** The entire month of November has been designated to recognize this amazing group of individuals.

Listed below are resources and events that can be used to add to your toolbox of knowledge and share with others.

### **Great conversation starters:**

"I learned that ..."

"I really enjoyed when..."

" I would like to learn more about ..."

### **Pre-K - 12th grade Resources**

(books, videos, printable activities, and more)

From Scholastic -

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/native-american-heritage-0/#History%20of%20Native%20Americans>

Smore Newsletter from Howard County that highlights virtual events you can attend with your family.

<https://www.smores.com/7pxzy-native-american-heritage-month-2020?fbclid=IwAR1x2LA4-o3QemUQNukZD91MvN0C4Efvnl54hcemr6vqt3bSi6D0T0RkccI>

Best regards,

Ms. Nicole Thomas

*Fourth Grade Teacher*

*WOES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chairperson*

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Howard County has an amazing variety of resources available to support families. Every year the Association of Community Services of Howard County publishes an updated guide to help residents navigate and find the best resources to address each individual or family's unique needs. You can access this guide and step-by-step directions to walk you through it on their [website](#). [Mrs. Southern](#) also has a PDF of the guide if you would like it emailed to you.

### School-Wide Kindness Week

"Kindness in Action" at WOES - November 16-20

Kindness Week is back!! Let's come together (virtually) November 16-20 for a week of "Kindness in Action". Check out our gratitude events calendar below and our [Kindness Week Guide](#) for fun participation ideas each day.

We'll kick-off the excitement on Monday by sharing a printable "Turkey Trot" race bib and a Flipgrid link so you can share pics and video highlights from your week. We can't wait to see all your hard work! We will use student submissions for our grand-finale slide show, so make sure they are school-appropriate. Let's show our WOES Kindness in Action! Make a plan to do one small (or big!) act of kindness each day.



# INFORMATION WORTH REPEATING

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Open for Parents to Schedule: Nov. 13 - Nov. 19

### How to Schedule a Virtual Parent Conference

- Conference scheduling will open on Nov. 13th and close on Nov. 19th
- Schedule your conference through [HCPSS Connect](#).
- Conferences will be scheduled with your child's homeroom teacher.
- Note: Mr. Welsh & Mr. Chen will be available to meet with the parents of their 4th grade GT math students.

### Register for a Conference

1. Log into [HCPSS Connect](#). Please access the attached link, [Parent Conference Set-Up Information.pdf](#), for step-by-step instructions for scheduling parent/teacher conferences or view the short [video](#).
2. In the Navigation pane, select Conference and click the Parent Scheduled Conferences link in the top right corner to schedule conferences.
3. Select a time option for each class listed. The conference will be saved automatically. Once you select a time option, all other time options for that class will become unavailable.
4. To select a different time option, clear the first checkbox and select a new option.
5. If you have more than one student, select the next student in the banner across the top.

***NOTE #1: Keep in mind the conference times you selected for your first student when selecting conference times for any additional students.***

***NOTE #2: If you log into Synergy and DO NOT see the Conference option you are most likely logged in as your child. You should log out and log back in under your parent account.***

If you have any difficulty, please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher.

### **Dates and Times for Virtual Parent Conferences**

- Monday, Nov. 23rd 1:30-7:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 24th 1:30-7:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 25th 8:20 a.m.-3:40 p.m.
- *Please note that not all teachers may be available for all dates and times.*

### **Logging onto Google Meet for your Conference**

- You will use your child's HCPSS credentials to join the conference.
- To prevent "overlap" of conferences, teachers will be using Google Meet room joining security features. You may have to wait to be admitted into the Google Meet room.
  - Please do not "knock" to enter. If you "knock" multiple times the system will kick you out.
- Google Meet Links: You will see the meeting link for your conference in Synergy when you sign up for a conference. You will receive a reminder email with the meeting link from Synergy, our student information system, a few days before your conference.

### **Related Arts Teachers Conferences and Offices Hours**

- Related Arts teachers will be available for conferences by request during the conference days/times
- *Please note not all Related Arts teachers may be available for all dates and times.*
- Please email the teacher directly to set up a conference.

# PTA NEWS



## **Contents:**

- ***WoES Spirit Wear: 1 more week!***
- ***PTA Membership update***
- ***Teacher appreciation event being planned***

## **WoES Spirit Wear: 1 more week!**

WoES Spirit Wear orders are open for 1 more week! NEW items for sale this year to show school pride in comfort and in style! Spirit Wear orders will be processed electronically. Upon arrival, orders may be picked up via contactless pick-up from school parking lot on the designated date (TBD). ORDER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 20th. Instructions are below, and also nicely summarized on our PTA website:

<http://www.worthingtonpta.com/shop-and-support/spirit-wear-sy20-21>

Option 1: **Fill in** the Google form, and **pay ONLINE**.

Option 2: **Fill in** the Google form, and also **print** the PDF order form and **pay by check** - write check for the EXACT payment amount in an envelope and mail it to the school:

Attn: Spirit Wear  
Worthington Elementary PTA  
4570 Roundhill Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

[Google form]: (use for both Option 1 and Option 2)

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1uKSTNxUD8\\_c\\_ohhYXx\\_KWMI1m1Hmhn4tGkzsm5Pn6K6\\_HA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1uKSTNxUD8_c_ohhYXx_KWMI1m1Hmhn4tGkzsm5Pn6K6_HA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

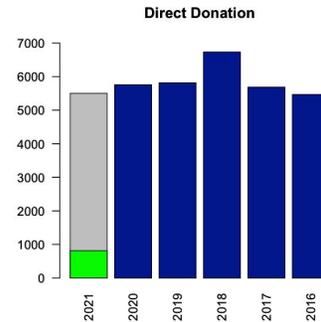
[Order form]: (use for Option 2; print and mail this PDF order form with your check)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qo-nZQtijsMnSyGouPIKRdCYnTrNAp1a/view?usp=sharing>

To find exact sizing beyond the guidance at the bottom of the Google form, see the particular item at [www.companycasuals.com](http://www.companycasuals.com) . If you have questions or need assistance, please call Francesca Graham at 410-259-7219. WE ARE EXCITED TO SHOW OUR WORTHINGTON PRIDE NO MATTER THE DISTANCE!

### **PTA Membership update**

The graph at right shows our direct donation intake thus far this year (green), compared to the budget for this year (grey), and previous year actual amounts (blue). This year we have 44 members and \$814 in direct donations. Last year, we had 237 members and \$5,251 in direct donations. For this year, our budget already cut and reduced many items in the PTA budget in efforts to maintain our support to WoES at normal levels. The plot begs for action, but the PTA executive committee has found themselves occupied with the more mundane duties required by the PTA, and more volunteer help would be greatly appreciated.



### **Teacher appreciation event being planned**

Traditionally the WoES PTA has provided a teacher appreciation meal during parent conferences. WoES PTA is planning to continue this tradition, but it will take a little more planning. Our Staff Appreciation Committee is working on that planning, but may need a little assistance implementing it. Their contact information, as well as any other PTA board members, is available at our website: <http://www.worthingtonpta.com/home/board-of-directors>

Questions and Comments? contact:

John Gallagher

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