OCTOBER
12  Westy Wellness Walk - 6:00 PM - Outside Grounds
    Crazy Hat and Sock Spirit Day
14  WTES Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold
20  National School Bus Appreciation Day - Thank A Bus Driver!
17-21 Bully Prevention Week
21  Schools Closed for Teachers and Students - MSEA Convention
22  PTA Clothing for Cash - Bus Loop - 10:00 AM - PM
24  Systemwide PD Day - School Closed for Students
25  Star Lab
26  Green School Club Meeting - 8:10 AM
    Pumpkin Run - Grade 4 and 5 - 9:45 AM
27  Pumpkin Run Rain Date - Grade 4 and 5 - 9:45 AM
    Grade 4 Fall Celebration - 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM
28  Fall Picture Day - All Students Will Be Photographed
31  Grade 5 Colonial Activities and Max Museum
    Grade 3 Fall Celebration - 2:00 PM
    Grade 2 Fall Celebration - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
    KG Fall Celebration - 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM

A LOOK AHEAD TO NOVEMBER
4   First Marking Period Ends - All Schools Close 3 Hours Early -
    WTES dismisses at 1:05 PM
8   Election Day - Schools and Offices Closed
9   Favorite Color Spirit Day - Wear It from Your Head to Your Toe
14  Report Cards Distributed
14-18 American Education Week
15  PTA Planning Meeting - 6:30 PM - WTES Library
18  WTES Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold
21  Elementary Conference Day - Schools Closed for Students
    BCPS Calendar Change
23  Thanksgiving holiday begins at the end of the day. Schools and Office Close 3
    hours Early - WTES dismisses at 1:05 PM BCPS Calendar Change
Fall has arrived and we have completed our first full month of school! As the weather turns cooler and we move through the second month of the school year, the students have adjusted well to their classroom procedures and are focused upon learning. The teachers and staff are providing the students with a comprehensive instructional program to help them make strong progress. We just passed the midpoint of the first quarter, and it is important that families remain informed of their children’s class work, homework, test performance, and attendance. I strongly recommend that all families set up an account in FOCUS, so that they can access students grades and class information. This is an effective way to carefully monitor the children’s progress in school. As we head toward the end of the first quarter, it is important that students are completing assignments and handing them in a timely manner. This year, the first quarter ends on November 4, 2022. All students in grades one through five will receive a first quarter report card on Monday, November 14, 2022.

American Education Week is just around the corner, November 14-18, 2022. Thank you to all who have completed the volunteer application and training process. Please remember that volunteer training must be completed before parents can perform any volunteer activity at school, including chaperoning field trips. In addition, thank you to all the families who have joined the West Towson Elementary PTA. A portion of the PTA membership dues and the funds collected through their fundraising efforts, help to enrich our students’ academic program and elementary school experience.

We are so fortunate to have such a caring, supportive community. We appreciate your continued efforts as we work together for all “our” children. Thank you for the important role you play in our Community of Learners! Happy Autumn!

PRIVATE SCHOOL REQUEST FOR RECORDS

Occasionally, West Towson Elementary School receives requests from parents to send their child’s records to private educational institutions for consideration of placement. As per Board Rule 5230, Student Records, this request must be received in writing along with a signed copy of the BCPS Consent for Release of Records form to release any information to another school or educational institution. Transcript requests are processed on a first come, first served basis. All requests will be processed within 15 business days after receipt of the completed form and payment in the amount of $5.00.

Please do not send these requests to your child’s homeroom teacher. Instead, please send all requests to the main office to be processed.

GETTING TO SCHOOL ON TIME

We need your active support to ensure that our students attend school on a consistent basis, and your children need your help to get them here every day and on time. Creating a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment for your child is paramount. We appreciate all that you do for your children, and we look forward to working as a team to improve achievement for all students. The doors to the school open at 9:05 AM, and students must be in their classroom and ready for instruction by 9:20 AM, to be considered on time.
Irvin Simon will be at West Towson Elementary School on Thursday, October 28. All students will be photographed. The fall pictures will be returned in time for the holidays for those individuals who wish to give them as gifts.

---

**New Picture Day Info**

- Great News! No order form or payment is due on picture day!
- Every student will be photographed.
- Approximately two weeks after picture day, families will receive information from the school or an email from us with a link to view their online gallery.
- Browse your child’s proofs and order through our online store. We offer many packages that consist of various print sizes; individual prints and digital options are also available!
- Once your order is placed, it will be processed, printed, and shipped directly to your home!

**Picture Day has never been so easy!**

---

**Tips for Parents on Picture Day**

- Dress to Impress! Make sure the outfit of choice shows off your child’s personality, while also making them look their best!  
  *Try to avoid distracting logos, slogans and big patterns.
- Images are captured using a greenscreen. To avoid any issues with greenscreen removal, please refrain from wearing green.
- Not only do you want to send your children to school neat and well groomed, but you also want to send them with a positive attitude.

---

**Don’t Forget to Smile!**
NEWS FROM MRS. RUOCCO NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. “Every October, schools and organizations across the country join STOMP Out Bullying™ in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage schools, communities, and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying and put an end to hatred and racism by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying on all children of all ages.” To support this initiative all Westies will participate in Wear a Color for Character week.

This will take place the week of October 17, - Oct 21, 2022, at West Towson Elementary School.

Please have your children participate by wearing each color on their designated days. The Character Crew will be on the announcements to explain why we are wearing each specific color and why. If you choose to share your student’s photos during this event, please do so on social media using #BCPSCares.

### Bullying Prevention Week October 17 -21

**Monday- October 17, – WEAR TIE DYE, PEACE SIGNS OR BLUE SHIRTS**

Wear blue today to show peace and civility among us! Or choose to wear Tie Dye or Peace sign apparel! We can be peaceful and civil with one another to prevent bullying.

*Word of the day: civility  Color of the day: Blue*

**Tuesday– October 18, BE A “JEAN”-IUS**

Stand up to bullying by using your "Jean-ius" ways to be an amazing upstander. Wear a pair of your favorite jeans!

*Word of the day: Equity  Color of the day: Green*

**Wednesday– October 19, INSIDE-OUT DAY**

Take a stand against bullying from the inside, out! Wear your shirt/dress inside-out!

*Word of the day: Unity  Color of the day: Orange*

**Thursday– October 20, MISMATCHED SOCK DAY**

Wear two different socks to show that we accept EVERYONE even if they are a little different than you!

*Word of the day: respect  Color of the day: Red*
Friday– October 21, STOMP OUT BULLYING

Wear any kind of boots...cowboy boots, dress boots, rain boots, etc. at home to show that we are going to stomp out bullying at West Towson!

Word of the day: Positivity Color of the day: Purple

Please reach out to Mrs. Ruocco at eruocco@bcps.org if you have any questions.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in the WTES PTA sponsored Book Fair. The PTA reports that the sales were over $11,000.00. The success of this event would not have been possible without our dedicated book fair volunteers.

Our Westies sure like to read and that is music to our teachers’ ears.

HEAD LICE

When children return to school each year, there is the chance that they will be exposed to head lice. As a result, please check your child(ren)’s hair from time to time. It is important to note that head lice do NOT jump or fly. However, they can move very quickly. The first thing you may notice is the nits (eggs) attached to the side of the shafts of the hair, usually near the scalp. The eggs hatch in 7-10 days after being laid and in another 7-10 days these nymphs are mature and will lay eggs. The key is being vigilant in picking out all the eggs even after treatments. Remember it is important to talk to the parents of your child’s friends so they can examine their child’s hair as well.

CHANGING FROM AIR CONDITIONING TO HEATING

To prepare for the winter season, the Department of Physical Facilities will be converting schools from cooling to heating beginning Monday, October 24, 2022. It is necessary for the Department of Physical Facilities to shut down the cooling system because, unlike residential systems, most school mechanical systems cannot automatically switch from cooling to heating.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the semi-annual changeover takes place with as little inconvenience as possible.
West Towson Elementary School is participating in the Clothing To Cash® Recycling Program

Clothing & Shoe Drive
Saturday, October 22, 2022
10:00am - 2:00pm

Clean Out Your Closet & Help our School PTA Raise Money!

Our goal is for every student to bring in 2-3 bags of clothing. Bring in as much as you can! Our school will make thousands of dollars if everyone participates.

West Towson Elementary School PTA will be paid for every pound collected. All materials will be Reworn, Repurposed or finally Recycled.

Look for our white truck in the school parking lot
October 22, 2022 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Help Support Our School & Save The Environment One Bag At A Time.

WE ACCEPT NEW & GENTLY USED:

Clothing
(Women’s, Men’s & Children’s, Clothing, Coats. Etc.)

Footwear
(Shoes, Sneakers, Boots, Cleats, Etc.)

Textiles
(Bedding, Sheets, Blankets, Towels)

Accessories
(Handbags, Backpacks, Gloves, Scarves, Jewelry, Wallets)

ACCEPTED ITEMS MUST BE
CLEAN, DRY, IN BAGS and TIED CLOSED

WE DO NOT ACCEPT
Furniture, Food, Cushions, Plastic / Glass Items, Carpet, TV’s, Electronics, Books or Toys.