



**Waters Landing**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# The Dolphin News

February 2015 Issue

[www.waterslandingpta.com](http://www.waterslandingpta.com)

A Publication of the Waters Landing Elementary School PTA

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**2014-2015  
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Dear Waters Landing Families:

As we begin the third marking period, the start of a new quarter is always a good time to review with your child how things are going in school. Please know that at any time you can make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher to discuss progress in school.

The cold weather and snow has made for many indoor recess days. If you happen to have any games that you would like to donate to our recess staff, it would certainly be appreciated. Drop off donations in our main office.

All parents are invited to attend the February PTA meeting which will be held Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00PM. Mrs. Mary Zygmunt, Media Specialist, will be presenting on the new computers or Chrome books that our students are using. This presentation was scheduled for the January PTA meeting but we were snowed out. Come and get some hands on experience with this new technology. Everyone is welcome.

National School Counseling Week is celebrated the first week in February. We'd like to recognize our school counselor, Mrs. Karen Lauren, for all she does for our school. School counselors work with students to help them achieve academic and social/emotional success and help identify community resources to assist families. Make certain you acknowledge Mrs. Lauren when you see her around WLES.

Thank you to all of the parents who have been volunteering their time. Helping out in the classroom or doing things to help instruction at home certainly has made a difference in our school.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child's education.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tina W. Shrewsbury, Principal  
Mr. Troy Clarke, Assistant Principal

***"Readers are Leaders at Waters Landing Elementary School"***

**Follow us on twitter**  
Twitter at @WatersLandingES  
**The PTA is on Facebook**  
Waters Landing (WLES) PTA

## Physical Education (P.E.) News - Jump Rope For Heart

The response has been great for this year's Jump Rope for Heart which will be held during the school day on Wed. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, for grades 1-5. Currently, 275 students have turned in permission forms to participate by jumping rope with a team of 6. Students will name their team and they will have a designated location in the gym to report to and jump on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Parents may sign up to volunteer and help with the event. 2 years ago we raised \$9,600 to support the American Heart Association in the battle against heart disease and stroke. The deadline to turn in permission forms to Ms. Miller is February 6<sup>th</sup>. No exceptions!

### This year's Jump Rope for Heart schedule is:

1<sup>st</sup> grade 9:25-10:10  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade 10:15-11:00  
5<sup>th</sup> grade 11:40=12:25  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade 1-1:45  
4<sup>th</sup> grade 1:50-2:30



*Let's Jump to It!!*

This year the American Heart Association is offering Duck incentives in addition to other prizes. Duck will be handed out as they come in. All other prizes will be ordered on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and delivered around Spring Break.

## From the PTA President ...

Dear Waters Landing Elementary School Families,

Welcome to February! We have a lot of exciting activities for this month and next month – ways to get your family out of the house during the coldest (and sometimes most boring) part of the year!

We will be having our annual Winter Dance on Feb. 6. It's a fun event for the whole family. We will have a kid-friendly DJ, and it is a great chance for the students to see their friends and get out some energy on the dance floor! On Feb. 10, students will have an assembly with Bill Wellington, American Folktales, storyteller and musician. He will encourage students to write poetry, which they will then perform for their families at an assembly for Waters Landing families at 7 p.m. that evening.

In March, we have more exciting events coming up – the book fair will return, from March 9 to 13. And, on the evening of March 13, we will have a Staff-Parent basketball game at Seneca Valley High School!

We can't do all of these events – and more ! – without the support and help from parents like you. So please consider joining the PTA and volunteering at some of our events! And most of all, please join us at a meeting!

**Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on Feb. 3 in the WLES Media Center.** It will include a presentation by Mrs. Zygmunt about the school's Chromebooks and how our students are using them in the classroom.

Thank you!

Danielle Deaver, WLES PTA President

## WLES SPRING BOOK FAIR!

March 9 - 13

WLES PTA is proud to announce our annual Spring Scholastic Book Fair! The Fair is scheduled to begin Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and run through Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to 4pm daily. Family Night will be held on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm.

Your children's classes will be visiting the Book Fair during the school day and create a "wish list" to bring home for you to review together. Please note that some items on their lists will sell out more quickly than others and may not be available for purchase, but we will do our best to restock these books quickly. Students will be allowed to purchase books during the day, but we strongly encourage you to shop together at Family Night! This year, when you shop at our Family Night Sale, don't forget to enter your family's name into our **raffle** for a chance to win an amazing prize pack of books!!



**Reminder: ALL PURCHASES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS. NO RETURNS. THANK YOU!**

Teachers will also create wish lists for books to add to their classroom libraries. You can view these lists and purchase the books for your teachers any time the book fair is open. Our book fair volunteers will then deliver the books for you, or your child can take the book to hand-deliver it to your teacher. This is an AWESOME way to give a gift to our special WLES teachers!!

We are currently seeking volunteers to set up the Book Fair, help kids fill out their wish lists and shop, as well as pack up the Book Fair at the end of the week. Our book fair cannot run without the support and hard work of our parent volunteers. If you would like to be a part of this fantastic Book Fair Crew, please contact Heather Kiger at [kigerkrewe@me.com](mailto:kigerkrewe@me.com). You can also sign up online! It's quick and easy! The link is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E054CAF2EAB9-book/8880128> Middle through high school students can also sign up to volunteer at the book fair to earn SSL hours! If you have an interested student, please email [kigerkrewe@me.com](mailto:kigerkrewe@me.com).

**Thank you in advance for making our Spring Book Fair amazing!  
We can't wait to see you all there!**

SCHOLASTIC  
open a world of possible



## Winter Dance on Friday, Feb. 6th

Baby its cold outside! Come and warm up at our annual Winter Dance on Friday, Feb. 6th, from 7:00-8:30 PM. The dance is open to K-5th graders and free for everyone (*parents must accompany children no drop-offs*).

### \*\*\*Congratulations to the January Box Top winners\*\*\*

Elshadai Jirata & Cassy Karyshyn

Please continue to collect Box Tops for the monthly drawing, winners will be announced every month.

### **GETTING TO KNOW YOU, MRS. BETH GLAD, HEALTH TECHNICIAN**

*We are fortunate to have Mrs. Glad here every day to keep us healthy! She has been taking care of us with love and smiles for many years. We hope you will get to know her better after you read this interview, conducted by students in fourth grade, Anna Lazzari and Erin McCeney .*

*How long have you been working as a "health tech.?" Since 2004.*

*Do you have a family? Yes I have four daughter, two of whom are twins.*

*Where were you born? Florida*

*What college did you attend? I graduated from University of Florida. My major area of studies were special education and child development.*

*What are your favorite hobbies? When I am not working, I like to cook, garden and spend time with my family.*

*What is your favorite food? Sushi Your favorite color? Blue Your favorite actors: Ryan Gosling and Jennifer Aniston Favorite Vacation: Hawaii Your Favorite Holiday: New Year's Your Favorite Movie: "The Notebook" Your Favorite Magazine: "Taste of Home"*

*What do you like best about your work at Water's Landing? Helping the students feel better.*

*If a fairy godmother could grant you one wish, what would it be? \$10 million dollars!*

*Where in the world would you most like to visit? Denmark and Sweden*

*What is your favorite season and why? I like summer when I can go to the beach and get a suntan.*

*Do you celebrate a special tradition from your culture which is different from American culture? We light a menorah during Hanukkah.*

*What were your favorite subjects when you were in elementary school? I liked English and Math.*

*What is the one thing in your life you are most proud of? My children.*

*If you could pass a new law in Congress, what would it be? To have everyone be able to afford to go to college and receive a degree.*

*Do you have any other message you would like to share? Be happy and live your life to the fullest!*

### **GETTING TO KNOW YOU, MRS. DIANE HOWARD, PARA-EDUCATOR - Interviewed by Genesis Deleon and Gilbert Vasquez, fifth graders**

*Waters Landing is very lucky to have Mrs. Howard, a devoted teacher and all-around helper for many years.*

*How long have you been teaching? Twenty-four years.*

*Do you have a family? Yes, I have a husband, three children and three grandchildren.*

*What is your background? I was born in New York and my grandfather came from Italy.*

*What college did you graduate from? I attended Montgomery College for two years.*

*What do you most like to do when you are not working? I like to garden and work in my house.*

*What is your favorite food? Pizza; favorite color? White; favorite movie: "Braveheart"; Books: "Number the Stars" and "Sing Down the Moon" favorite actor; Russell Crowe, favorite vacation? Florida; favorite holiday: Halloween*

*What do you like best about working at Waters Landing? I like all the kids!*

*If a fairy godmother could grant you one wish, what would it be? No more wars.*

*Where in the world would you most like to visit? Scotland*

*What is your favorite season and why? I like the Fall...I like the weather at that time of year. It is also my birthday.*

*What were your favorite subjects when you were in elementary school? Math and writing.*

*What is the one thing you are most proud of? My children.*

*What area of knowledge would you like to learn more about? Computers.*

*If you could pass a law in Congress, what would it be? One year in jail if you text and drive.*

*What is one message you have for everyone reading this? Always treat people how you want to be treated.*

## **PEACEMAKERS AND BYSTANDERS-TO-THE-RESCUE!!!**

These students have been elected by their classmates during the month of January for their kindness and caring towards their peers. *We are proud of each of these boys and girls!*

**Kindergarten:** Brian Springer; Mariano Moreno; Irina Ranaivoarison; Piero Juarez; Abby Zambrana; Samuel Jipin; Kymani Mwaura; Winn Zan; Dallas Thomas; Aidan Lisboa; Alexander Mitchell; Stefani Garcia-Vasquez; Isabelle Hersh; Nicolas Calvo; Nathaniel Williams; Arianna Macauley; Christian Galva Rios; Arianna Arthur; Taylor Tucker; Tyler Rampermyer; Ava Harris; Jason Walton; Victor "Hugo" Molina; Nicole Hernandez; Sophia Sandino; Cameron Jones; Aquinnah Moore; Brielle Taylor

**Grade:** Dashawn James; Madeleine Schully; SaNaa Huggins; Fabiano Juarez; Gabby Lindeire; Zan Bambalan; Phoenix Hybl; Jaydon Cortes; Kaily Carranza; Tracy Espinoza; Jay Garcia; Jeremiah Jones; Mathias Lemos-Madronero; Kelly Estrada; Kira Pourreza; Myles Edwards; Breoni Hilliard; Brendon Moore; Noah Merriweather; Lucy Garcia; Rachel Gordon; Vinson Muana

**Second Grade:** Samuel Corbin; McKinzie Gray; Anthony Barahona; Esther Odu; Christien Ferrel-Ward; Veronica Jandres; Steven Zavala; Ariana Johnson; Ashley Neupane; Jayson Ocon; Kate DelMar; Miguel Rodriguez; Dave Gatcham; Angie Hernandez; Jacob Garcia; Mia Ortega; Isabella Aguilar; Arnold Alvarez; Amara Bailey; Jeremiah Seaton; Brittany Smith Eli Lemus Claire Higgins; Kaleb Hucker; William Odu; Isabella Kiger; Diayan Lewis; Emily Ramirez-Avalos

**Third Grade:** Kyle Poudyal; Allison Browning; Preston Porter; Neha Sharma; Zachary Webster; Jude Hassan; Julian Haddaway; Flor Bonilla; Daniel Rainaivoarison; Leia Graves; Nariah Goldman; Romeo Riveria; Maikeiya Smith; Stephanie Deleon; Sam Humpert; Charity Velasquez; Adelai Burgess; Cristian Escobar

**LFI** (third and fourth grades) Genaro Guzman; Priscilla Cole

**Fourth Grade:** Matthew Stennett; Sarah Cil; Anissa Walls; James Martinez-Solis; Carina Madera; Malachi Fields; Stacy Owusu; Erin McCeney; Zain Syed; Caleb Umphrey; Zoe Higgins; Reilly Menjivar; Rachel Lunny; James Martinez-Solis; Leiani Butler; Natalia Caceres; Mythili Menon; Paris Murphy; Jaylin Stephens; Katie Beltran; Spencer Gordon

**Fifth Grade:** Carlos Moreno; Joanna Harris; Okan Ulug-Berter; Erica Sell; Tre Phillips; Latory Boulware; Jeffrey Garcia; Michelle Miranda; Elia Lopez; Hamza Al Najjar; Mariam Cherif; Fredy Cantillano Lara; Emme Grace McCeney; Ben Davis; Kiyah Thompson; Tylek Bright

## **Counselor's Corner – Ms. Lauren**

### **YOUTH WRITING CONTEST - DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27, 2015**

Enter the Bethesda Literary Festival Youth Writing Contest! Writers must be Montgomery County residents in grades K-8. **The topic of the essay is "My Favorite Character from a Book." Essays must be between 100-500 words in length.**

Up to 15 essay winners will be selected and featured in Washington Parent magazine. Winners will be honored, along with their teacher, at a special event held April 17-19, 2015. Winners will also receive great prizes!

**Please ask your child to submit their essay to me, Mrs. Lauren, Counselor at WLES, before the deadline.** I will ensure that it is submitted. There is an entry form I will send home for parents to sign and return before I mail the essay. If you have any questions, contact Valerie Hillman at 301-215-6660 ext. 117 or [Vhillman@bethesda.org](mailto:Vhillman@bethesda.org). Counselor resources are available for parents seeking these services outside of the school. These resources include free services for those families on Medical Assistance. Please contact Mrs. Lauren, 301-353-0915, for more information. Every month we celebrate a different character theme. In January we focused on Goal-Setting. **In February we are highlighting Honesty.**

It is important for children to learn to communicate honestly. Please review these specific points with them.

### **Communicating Honestly**

- 1. Look at the person**
- 2. Use a clear voice. Avoid stammering or hesitating.**
- 3. Respond to questions factually and completely.**
- 4. Do not leave out details or important facts.**
- 5. Truthfully take responsibility for any inappropriate behaviors you displayed. Consider the consequences of lying to others.**

**6. Apologize for any untrue statement that you make.**

**In February we highlight Black History Month throughout the nation.**

We must continue to teach our children to care equally about all people, regardless of their race, religion, or ethnicity.

Fortunately, we live in a time where diversity is celebrated. But that was not always the case. We have to be vigilant in educating our children about the history of African-Americans in our country, so that we ensure a future where we all have equal opportunity and treat each other with genuine respect and appreciation.

Join us in this partnership! Please visit the Germantown library and talk with the children's librarian, who can help identify books on African-American history that will be appropriate for your child's age and reading level. There are also many resources on the computer and broadcast programming. We are working towards our school-wide goal of reading two million minutes this year. Remember our mantra: "Readers are leaders!" Future leaders of our nation need to know American history!

**Attention Parents! Please join us! Board of Education is visiting SVHS - Thursday, February 12 at 7pm**

Why is this important to you? Show the BOE members that our community is **INVESTED in its future!**

Every 4 years the BOE members visit each county cluster. We are encouraging families from all of the Seneca Valley Feeder Schools to come out for this event. You will have a chance to see the accomplishments of our schools and we will be drawing attention to the needs of our local community schools.

Children are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

**Agenda:**

7:00PM Meet and Greet in SVHS Media Center

Enjoy a musical presentations by our talented SVHS and RCMS students

SVHS ROTC will perform the Color Guard

SVHS Vocalist to perform the National Anthem

Are you as smart as a MCPS Elementary Student? Lake Seneca's Advanced Math Class will challenge your Curriculum 2.0 math skills.

Learn how the Middle Years Program and the International Baccalaureate Program are impacting our students.

Hear from our students about their experience with the programs.

Find out why we need to push for the 9-10<sup>th</sup> grade Middle Years Programs.

Hear from our students about how they've been waiting for the "New" SVHS to be built and how they "IMAGINE" what learning will be like in the new school.

Directly hear from the Board of Education members about their plans for our community schools.

Get answers to your questions, during the Q&A session with the BOE Members.

**Seneca Valley High School Cluster Schools**

Seneca Valley High School

Roberto Clemente Middle School

Waters Landing Elementary

S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary

Martin Luther King Middle School

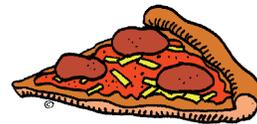
Sally Ride Elementary

Lake Seneca Elementary

**Seneca Valley High School is located at 19401 Crystal Rock Drive. Germantown, MD 20874**

**February Sprit Night!!! February 24th**

Milano's Pizza on wisteria Drive, Germantown. **Mention WLES** when you place your order for pickup or delivery. Phone number is 301-540-9191



**Family Concert – Bill Wellington**

Waters Landing Elementary School - Tuesday, February 10, 2015 ~ 7:00 pm

**Science Fair**

Don't Miss the WLES Science Fair!! - Thursday, February 19, 2015 ~ 7:00PM

Don't forget to like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WLESPTA> or visit our website at [www.waterslandingpta.com](http://www.waterslandingpta.com) to stay on top of all the fun activities going on and upcoming.

**Student Transfer Application Season Scheduled from  
February 2 through April 1, 2015**

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season—February 2 through April 1, 2015.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes for students from one school to another are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

- \* An older sibling attends the requested school in the regular program, absent a boundary change;
- \* A continuation in a feeder pattern from middle to high school, except when affected by boundary change, application program acceptance, or consortium choice guidelines;
- \* A documented, unique hardship situation; or
- \* A student selected for an exempt program

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents/guardians may request the *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* that contains the COSA form, describes the process, and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February 2015, the COSA booklet will be available in schools and online at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers). The booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Exempt programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet.

There is a different process to access elementary language immersion programs. Full information and copies of the Elementary Immersion Interest Forms are available at all elementary schools and online at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms). Grade 5 students currently enrolled in immersion programs should submit a COSA if they wish to continue in the immersion program at the middle-school level.

For information about assignments for students residing in the NEC, DCC, or MSMC areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services at 301-592-2040 or visit the website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice).

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English-speaking students and parents/guardians who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 301-309-MCPS (6277). Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish who call the ASK MCPS telephone line and identify their language will have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.

***HOSPICE CARING CAMP FOR STUDENTS AGES 8-12 WHO HAVE LOST SOMEONE SIGNIFICANT IN THEIR LIVES***

Camp Caring is an overnight bereavement camp weekend and will be held on May 29,30,31 2015 for elementary school children 8-12 years of age (second through fifth grades).

Hospice Caring will provide transportation to and from the campsite from the facility in Gaithersburg, MD. Each child will have a trained “Big Buddy” who will be a constant support for the child throughout their camp experience.

There are arts and crafts, dances, performances, a swimming pool, and many fun activities for each child. This year’s camp will be held at the Claggett Center outside Urbana. Caring Caring is provided without charge to the participants. Over 100 volunteers and donors give their time, money and talent to support this beneficial and life-changing program.

For more information or an application call:301-990-8904 and ask for Penny or Anne. You may choose to email them at [pennyg@hospicecaring.org](mailto:pennyg@hospicecaring.org) or [anneb@hospicecaring.org](mailto:anneb@hospicecaring.org)

You may also contact Mrs. Laureno, counselor at WLES, for the application. Over the years, we have had many Waters Landing students participate in this program. The feedback is “Can I go back again next year? I loved it!” This is a wonderful one-time opportunity which provides healing in a caring, supportive, fun-filled environment.



# Promoting Good Attendance All Winter Long



## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

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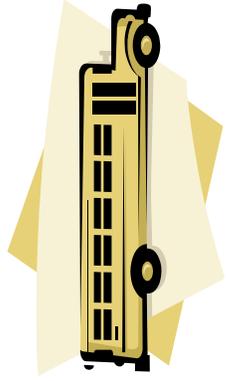
Every winter, bad weather — snow, slush, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains in warmer climates — can present challenges to getting children to school. So do the colds, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months.

### 1. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school in bad weather.

- a. Check to see if your child can get a ride with other families who have a reliable car that can manage the snow.
- b. Form a “walking school bus” with other families to get students to school safely.
- c. Join other families in a snow shovel brigade to clear the sidewalks closest to the school.
- d. Ask if school administrators have developed plans for transporting students.

### 2. Keep your children healthy.

- a. Dress them warmly for the cold weather.
- b. Stress the importance of eating a good breakfast every morning.
- c. Stress hand washing, particularly in the winter months. Send your child to school with a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Research shows that something as simple as hand washing can improve attendance.
- d. Talk to your doctor or school nurse about when a sick child should come to school. Most health providers allow a child to attend with a cold, but not with a fever.



# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 WLES PTA Mtg Media Center 7PM	4	5	6 WLES Winter Dance 7-8:30PM	7
8	9	10 Assembly with Bill Wellington	11 Jump Rope for Hearts event	12	13	14
15	16 President's Day No School	17	18	19 WLES Science Fair 7:00PM	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Student's dismissed early	28