



Waters Landing
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Dolphin News

December 2015 Issue

www.waterslandingpta.com

A Publication of the Waters Landing Elementary School PTA

Srelyne Harris, Principal
Christine Troffkin, Assistant Principal
13100 Waters Landing Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
Phone (301) 353-0915

**2015-2016
PTA Contact
Information**

PTA President
Danielle Deaver
wlesptaprez@gmail.com
PTA Vice President
Chantal Falade
wlescommunication@gmail.com

PTA Treasurer
Sheri Schully
sherischully@gmail.com
PTA Secretary
Lauren Higgins
wlesptasecretary@gmail.com

Dear Waters Landing Families,

I hope everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving holiday. Not only is this a time to celebrate our families and friends, it is also a time to say 'thanks' to others for the extras they do for you. We would like to thank PTA for organizing the staff appreciation "Pie Day". Thank you to everyone who donated pies for the staff. The WLES staff greatly appreciated your generosity in providing them with this wonderful dessert.

We hope you had the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher during parent-teacher conferences earlier this month. While these two days are set aside by MCPS for conferences, please know that you can make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher at any time to discuss your child's progress in school.

It seems like winter arrived this past week with very cold temperatures. Please make certain your child is appropriately dressed for the weather. We go outside every day for recess unless the temperature is below 32 degrees or it is raining. Also, check our Lost and Found for those coats, etc, that seem to get left behind.

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, commonly known as "Saturday School", at Northwest High School is still enrolling students. If you feel your child would benefit from the extra support and enrichment, you can register either online at www.saturdayschool.org or in person at Northwest HS. Applications are available in the Main Office. There is a one-time registration fee of \$50 (non-FARMS) and \$30 (FARMS) with no monthly tuition or additional fees to attend Saturday School. A payment plan option is also available. Families in need of financial assistance may request a waiver of the registration fee through a request in writing to the Saturday School site Center Director.

I hope you had a peaceful and restful Thanksgiving Holiday to all of our WLES families! Thank you for everything you do for your child and for Waters Landing Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Ms. Srelyne A. Harris, Principal

Mrs. Christine Troffkin, Assistant Principal



Don't wait! You can your yearbook now and preserve this year's memories!
Simply go to <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com> and enter 12291216 to order your yearbook.

The winners for the monthly Box tops Drawing for the month of November are:

Maya Brown-Delacruz, 4th Grade and Sydney Parsons, 2nd Grade

Remember, every 10 box tops equals 1 entry in the drawing. That means a dollar for our school! Simply clip, verify the expiration date on the bottom left corner, and label with your name, and homeroom teacher. Entry forms are available in the classrooms, next to your collection container, or use a Ziploc bag including your info in a slip of paper.



The Next Drawing will be held on December 15th. Good Luck!

*** Save the Date***

Come warm up at our Winter Dance on Friday, January 22, 2016, 7 pm - 8:30 pm. All grades are invited! We will have a DJ mixing the tunes, food for sale, and lots more.

From the PTA President ...

Dear Waters Landing Families,

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I would like to take this time to wish all WLES families a wonderful and joyous holiday season.

As we all know, cyber/internet safety is a serious concern when it comes to our children. The PTA will be presenting a session on cyber safety on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30pm in the media center followed by the PTA meeting at 7:30pm. The presentation will be given by George Simms, Assistant State's Attorney for Montgomery County on Cyber Safety.

As always, please consider joining the PTA, joining does not obligate you to attend meetings or volunteer – it just means that you want to be a member of the organization that helps your children and their school. Once you turn in your membership form, you're done! Our forms can be found on our website at www.waterslandingpta.com.

Danielle Deaver
PTA President

Follow us on Twitter: @WatersLanding

Find us on Facebook: Waters Landing (WLES) PTA

Book Fair News

Thank you all for attending our Fall Book Fair. We had record breaking sales this year. The event raised \$4,700 for the school to spend in the media center! Mrs. Zygmunt was able to purchase lots of books, headphones, and other technology that the students have been asking for in the media center. We hope to see you at our Spring Book Fair March 7-11, 2016.

The generosity of Waters Landing Elementary PTA has made it possible to add 194 new books to the library. The additions to collection include favorites such as DIARY OF A WIMPY KID and DORK DIARIES series, to non-fiction selections such as a new AMAZING SNAKES series and MAX AXIOM'S SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES set. Also purchased were readers for those students who are ready for beginner chapter books. Titles purchased for these students include the BORIS books, RICKY RICOTTA MIGHTY ROBOT books, THEA STILTON books, and even a set of MY LITTLE PONY FRIENDSHIP readers. I can't wait to present these books to our students! Thank you again PTA for your dedication and willingness to provide great materials for all our students!

Sheri Schully, WLES PTA Treasurer
Mrs. Zygmunt, Media Center

COUNSELOR'S CORNER- Ms. Lauren

Getting to Know You – Ms. Sae Jang - .5 Art Teacher – Interviewed by Karen Cortez and Sarai Garcia-Vasquez (5th graders in Mr. Chechik's class)

How long and what grades have you been teaching? I have taught art for 5 years.

Tell us about your family. I have one brother and I live with my parents.

What is your cultural background? I was born in South Korea. In our culture, we place a high value on respecting our elders.

What college did you attend? What was your major area of study? I graduated from University of Michigan where I studied painting.

What do you most like to do when you are not working? I like to watch movies, draw and go ice skating.

Tell us some of your favorites: Food: Sushi Color: Blue Book: "Help" Actor: Rachel McAdam Vacation: San Francisco Holiday: Christmas Music: Holiday songs

What is your favorite quote or slogan? "Seize the day!"

What do you like best about teaching at WLES? I learn new things every day.

Where in the world would you most like to visit? I would like to visit Europe, especially Paris, where there is great art.

What is your favorite season? I like the summer because I can go on vacation and enjoy the warm weather.

Do you celebrate a special tradition from your culture? Yes, we celebrate the Chinese lunar New Year.

What is your proudest accomplishment? Becoming an art teacher!

Name one thing you would like to improve upon? I would like to become better in using technology.

Why do you like teaching art? Because I like kids!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU, MR. COBBINS – OUR NEW MUSIC TEACHER WHO JOINED MR. BAEZ TEACHING MUSIC THIS YEAR

INTERVIEWED BY ZOE HIGGINS AND PARIS MURPHY, FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

How long and what grades have you taught? I have been teaching music for twenty years.

Where were you born? I was born in St. Louis, Missouri

What colleges did you attend? I went to St. Louis University, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. I studied piano performance and music education.

What are your hobbies? I like to exercise and workout.

Favorites: Food – Seafood; Color- blue; Movie- “The Others”; Book- “The Outliers”; Actor- Jack Nicholson; Vacation- Paris; Holiday- Christmas; Music- Classical/Jazz

What do you like best about teaching at Waters Landing? I like the student personalities!

Where in the world would you most like to visit? I would like to visit Italy. I have heard good things about it.

If you had one message, what would you most like to teach your students? I would tell them to always use a respectful tone when speaking to others.

What is your favorite season and why? I like the autumn. I like the colors and the chilly weather.

What is your proudest accomplishment? I am proud of all my college degrees.

If you could pass a new law in Congress, what would it be? I would like to see universal health care for all.

What is one thing you would like to improve upon? I would like to work out more.

COUNSELOR’S CORNER – Ms. Lauren

Each month we celebrate a character trait which fosters good values in our students.

In December our character education theme is “Caring and Sharing.” This time of year we are celebrating family-centered holidays. We gather together and give thanks for our comfortable way of life. We give generously to each other with a kind spirit in our hearts towards those who are not as fortunate.

We, the staff at WLES, wish each and every one of you a joyous, delicious holiday! It is a worthy goal to ensure the special camaraderie and merriment we feel during the holidays continues throughout the year. Conflicts inevitably arise. But, maintaining strong family relationships is fundamental to building a strong, productive society. Holding family meetings each week, on a regular basis, is one way to effectively promote family unity. Discussions can occur which focus on organizing the equitable distribution of household tasks, involving kids in decision making and giving them practice in communication skills. **The following is a blueprint any family can use to hold a family meeting.**

Review the ground rules: Everyone gets a chance to talk. No interrupting or blaming, no put-downs. Turn off the phones! Try to avoid “parent as boss” role. The setting should be comfortable, seated so that everyone is facing each other. The same setting should be consistently used, if possible, weekly.

Write down everyone’s feelings and concerns: “Does anyone have a problem they wish to discuss?” One person can be the designated secretary, the position rotating each week. As the parent, do not evaluate or negatively comment on anyone’s thoughts or feelings. **Address one problem at a time.** Make sure everyone understands the problem expressed. The problem should be stated as an “I message.” I feel.....when.....I need.

Brainstorm for solutions: “Does anyone have a solution to suggest?” All solutions are welcome. No one should be judging, criticizing, ridiculing, or rejecting ideas. Be willing to compromise. Look for solutions that everyone can agree to. All solutions are written down on chart paper.

Choosing solutions: Go through the list. The individual with the problem goes through the list and decides which suggestions they like, which they don’t, and which they believe they can follow through on. They can ask for support from family members where needed. Family members need to think through what they are willing and able to do to be helpful and commit to the plan.

Each family member brings up their problem, one at a time, and continues the same steps mentioned above.

Celebrate Accomplishments! Share good news from this week. Share solutions that worked. Return to the drawing board to update a plan that did not succeed to solve a prior problem. End the meeting with an encouraging statement and ritual refreshments, adjusted seasonally. Family meetings are a template for collaboration and kindness, team work at its finest. They are a wonderful vehicle to strengthen the ties that bind the family together.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PEACEMAKERS AND BYSTANDERS- TO- THE RESCUE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER!

During the month of November, our character education theme focused on one of our three core values: SAFETY: TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR OWN AND OTHER'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

The following students were elected by their classmates as November's peacemakers and bystanders-to-the-rescue. We celebrate them and recognize their important contribution to our school.

Kindergarten: Naomi Brewster, Reece Parsons, Brielle Asafu-Adjaye, Luke Marshall, Cathlynn Gesse, Jaisen Correia, Sophia Garcia, Treyvon Stanback, Anwi Dinga, Jay Dieudone Allen, Annett Cervantes, Jaden McDonald, Shianne Frazier, Jordan Yahaya, Kaylee Grimes, Mawusse Ekby, Marcus Dancik, Kiara Leigh, Akira Kauzlarich, Anaia Ameenor, Samuel Arthur, Autumn Golden, Alphonso Baka

First Grade: Adrian Andrade, Isabelle Hersh, Mayah Enaholo, Jason Walton, Abby Zambrana, Nickolas Calvo, Beverly Munroe, Shane Beebe, Nate Williams, Valerie Majano Ali Porter, Brian Springer, Jeff Martinez, Nicole Hernandez, Olivia Hamilton, Luka Sandoval, Adriana Hanson, Mariano Moreno

Second Grade: Ulyana Kazhamiakina, Bryan Martinez Reyes, Minnah Anifowoshe, Myles Edwards, Demonte Thomas, Jayden Garcia, Ava Walls, Jayden Garcia, Milagro (Milly) Garcia Campos, Rachel Gordon, Hunter Preston, Jayden Delacruz, Marguele Kuitchoua, Frank Hernandez, Kamryn Jackson, Isaac Davis, Tatiana Dozier, Miley Bolivar Velez, Devin Rodriguez, Tracy Espinoza, Fabiano Juarez, Victoria Saavedra, Dashawn James, Trayvon Checkley, Navaeh Bishop

Third Grade: Kennedy Brokenborough, Joseph Dean, Brittany Smith, Kenneth Chavez, Diba Karodeh Deh, Hamzah Alangurli, Ashley Neupane, Nathan Ayele, Chase Williams, Eva McCeney, Valerie Badger, Jacob Garcia, Tristan Enaholo, Michelle Espinoza, Ari Wigglesworth, Stella Ward, Claire Huggins, Kell Maglo, Chris Uzwiak, Thomas Bangura

Fourth Grade: Wesley Diaz-Flores, Carlynn Molina, Flor Bonilla, Jackson Kaminski, Nicole Hernandez, Kaelan Maines, Kimberly Mejia, Ali Mazhar, Katie Ogando, Nariah Goldman, Matthew Lucas, Sam Humpert, Olivia Lar, Daniel Ranaivoarison, Romeo Rivera, Maikeiya Smith

Fifth Grade: Aya Bouchti, Thomas Brown, Sarah Cil, Reilly Menjivar, Anissa Walls, Spencer Gordon, Oscar Teruel, Rachel Lunny, Angelina Chan, Daniel Salgado, Jeremiah Brewster, Audrey Gnapo, Zoe Higgins, Zain Syed, Karen Cortez, Daniel Tejada

GETTING TO KNOW YOU, MS. BARRERA – KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Interviewed by Karen Cortez and Amaya Johnson-McNeil (Fifth grade students in Mr. Chechik's class)

How long have you been teaching? I have been teaching one year.

Do you have a family? Yes, I am married and I have two sons, Sebastian, age 12 and Giorgio, age 6.

Where were you born? What is your cultural background? I was born in California. My family ancestry is French and Italian.

What college did you graduate from? I graduated from University of California at Irvine. I majored in Public Health Sciences.

What do you most like to do when you are not working? I like to go to the beach and surf. I also enjoy hiking, eating and cooking! My favorite food is pizza.

What are some of your other favorites: Color: Purple; Vacation: Belgium; Holiday: Christmas; Season: Summer

What do you like best about Waters Landing? I am enjoying all the students and meeting their families.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you most like to visit? I would like to go to Peru.

If you had one message, what would you most like to teach your students? I would tell them to treat each other with respect.

What were your favorite subjects when you were in elementary school? I liked math and science.

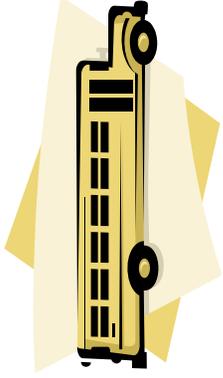
What is one thing you would like to improve upon? I would like to improve my writing.

What is your proudest accomplishment? I am most proud of my college degree and my family

The holidays are coming...don't forget to support WLES! WLES PTA REWARDS PROGRAMS

Target REDcard - Use the REDcard in store and online, and Target donates 1% of your purchases to help WLES. You can sign up by going to: <http://www.Target.com/TCOE> OR call 1-800-316-6142. Shop at Target and using your RED card. Target WLES School ID: 58240

AMAZON - Make contributions to WLES by shopping on Amazon.com. Visit: <http://www.amazon.com/?&tag=walapt-20&camp=212677&creative=384113&linkCode=ur1&adid=0PYIED184AS15RSXVZQ0&camp>



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Cyber Safety Presentation 6:30PM WLES PTA Mtg. Media Center 7:00PM	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 - No School 	26
27	28 Holiday Break No School	29 Holiday Break No School	30 Holiday Break No School	31 Holiday Break No School	January 1 Holiday Break 	