

# West Friendship PTA

*The overall purpose of PTA is to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.*

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome Spring! It's hard to believe we've already started the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter! It has been a year of change for West Friendship Elementary School with our new principal and my first year as PTA President. But can you imagine how much has changed since the school first opened its doors?!

As you may know, WFES first welcomed students in 1925 and we are proud to be the oldest (and the best) school in all of Howard County. We will be celebrating our **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** at the start of the next school year and are very excited about the possibilities this brings to the school and our community. It would be terrific to involve as many people as possible and have the celebration last all year long. We are forming a committee to "party plan" so please contact any PTA Executive Board member if you are interested in joining.

It will be summer before we know it, but the year still boasts a few very exciting PTA events. Community Outreach Projects will continue through the school year, we will celebrate our amazing WFES Staff the **week of May 4<sup>th</sup>**, and the Spring Festival is **Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**. This year, the Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever with new activities, games, and vendors. Look for information to come home in the next few weeks.

In addition, the PTA will also sponsor the annual Science Fair on **Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** and the Tiger Trot Fundraiser on **Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**. Rounding out the year, we are excited about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Day coming to WFES on **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**. There is a wonderful lineup of speakers from our area as well as parent volunteers that will bring amazing presentations and hands-on activities to each grade. So much to look forward to!

Lastly, I'd like to direct your attention to a request for your opinion via a survey on Page 5 of this newsletter. We are working on something very exciting and would like your input. Thank you! - *Dana Keiner*



## Upcoming Events

Spring Wednesdays -  
**"Walking Wednesday"**

**May 4-8 - Staff Appreciation Week**

**May 5 - General PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Media Ctr.)**

**May 8 - SPRING FESTIVAL!**

**May 21 - Science Fair**

**May 27 - Tiger Trot**

**June 5 - STEM Day**

## Looking Ahead

It will soon be time for us to start filling open PTA Executive Board and Committee positions for next year. Please consider getting more involved with these worthwhile opportunities.

For information, please contact PTA President Dana Keiner at [wfesptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:wfesptapresident@gmail.com) or our Nominating Committee Chair, Valerie Eshleman at [veshleman@healthlawyers.org](mailto:veshleman@healthlawyers.org).

*"I will always be a friend at West Friendship!"*

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Please consider donating items to this month's Community Outreach project which runs until April 30<sup>th</sup>. We are supporting the **Love on a Leash Dog Rescue Program**, a non-profit foster-based rescue organization. You can assist **Love on Leash** with their dedicated mission by donating items to help them care for needy dogs:

Items that can be donated: canned adult and/or puppy food, dry puppy food (except Beneful™ due to a recall), gently used/new bath towels, beach towels, or small blankets, dog treats, puppy pee pads, ceramic dog bowls, puppy formula, doggie sweaters and t-shirts, laundry detergent (high efficiency variety), bleach, printer paper, and newspaper (without shiny ads).

Boxes will be placed in front of the office for collection.

Questions? Contact Hina Naseem at 410-531-1538 or [hnaseem@mac.com](mailto:hnaseem@mac.com). Your support is always appreciated!

## STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK – MAY 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

The Staff Appreciation Committee needs your help treating our staff to an **Out of This World** week of appreciation! More details will come soon, but please put this week on your calendar and look at the list below to see what day(s) you will be asked to help based on your student's grade.

**Monday – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** – Twilight Zone Make-your-Own Trail Mix Bar

**Tuesday – 4<sup>th</sup> grade** – Blast Off Breakfast (simple breakfast items)

**Wednesday – 1<sup>st</sup> grade** – Supersonic Snacks Popcorn Bar

**Thursday – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** – Galactic Goodies Candy Bar

**Friday – 5<sup>th</sup> grade** – Interstellar Lunch

**Friday – Kindergarten** – Goodie Bags

The staff always loves this week and they are so grateful for all the hard work we put into it, but we can't do it without your help! Please look for e-mails to go out with more details along with a google.doc for sign-ups the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>.



## GIFT OF THANKS

The End-of-Year Gift of Thanks Program is here. The deadline is Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at midnight. A reminder e-mail will be sent.

You can pay by **credit card or check**. If paying by check, your order must be completed online by midnight (5/12) and your check needs to be delivered to school by *Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30*. If it is not received by this date and time, we will be forced to delete your order.

Thank you for following these necessary guidelines!

Use this link to get started:

<http://www.wfespta.com>

Please consider using this program. The WFES Staff really appreciates it!



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## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

You've done it again! With outstanding participation in the latest Box Tops for Education Race, not only did we raise about \$600 for our school, but we had fun watching the neck-and-neck collection race with lead changes and last-minute surges. In the end, 4<sup>th</sup> grade held on to finish at the top, making it nice that 3 different grades took home prizes this year. Very soon, **re-usable glow-in-the-dark beach balls** will make their way home with the victors. We'll have one last race before year's end, so keep clipping! Questions - Contact Lisa Cumberland - [lisa@vikingcustomhomes.com](mailto:lisa@vikingcustomhomes.com)

### A few things to keep in mind:

- Please take a few minutes to trim your Box Tops before submission. We're not looking for surgical precision but a little extra time taken at home will make processing much faster and easier. 😊
- Remember that Box Tops do expire. We can't submit expired box tops and they don't convert to funds raised for the school.
- We don't currently have a collection program for the Campbell's Labels for Education. Many churches and other non-profits will happily accept and put to good use your donation of these labels.

## SPRING FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and invite your friends! The WFES Spring Festival is right around the corner. This event has always been a favorite for our school community and it's shaping up to be another great year. Featuring games, prizes, food, plant sales, entertainment, the famous Cake Walk, and SO MUCH MORE, there is truly something for everyone!

**Ticket pre-sales will begin in Mid-April.** Please be on the lookout for this and also for information/signups for a variety of **volunteer opportunities** that need to be filled to make this event great for our students.

## WALKING WEDNESDAY

**Walking Wednesday** is a great way to get the kids moving after a long and snowy winter. We are in need of volunteers to assist the Wellness Committee. You can sign up during your child's recess to mark laps, help the kids stay on track, and hand out small awards for laps completed. Only 40 minutes of your time is needed and you can join us as many times as you're able. We welcome anyone that would like to participate that has completed volunteer training. Use the following link for sign-up.

<http://vols.pt/x5jdx>

## SCIENCE FAIR

The WFES PTA will be sponsoring the Annual Science Fair on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Fair is open to all students in all grades. Students will present to judges from MRHS National Science Honor Society, teachers, and classmates during the school day. Science Fair projects will be on display for the community at the Evening of Excellence that evening. All participants will receive a ribbon and certificate.

To register for the Science Fair, please go to the PTA website at [wfespta.com](http://wfespta.com) and follow the link to the Science Fair on the left-hand menu. Once there, click on "Online Registration Form" at the top of the page.

The WFES PTA Science Fair page also has information and suggestions on conducting your experiment and preparing your display board.

**Registration deadline is on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**, but don't wait! Register today! We hope to see you all at the WFES Science Fair. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elizabeth Burns at [elpego@mac.com](mailto:elpego@mac.com) or 410.489.6785.

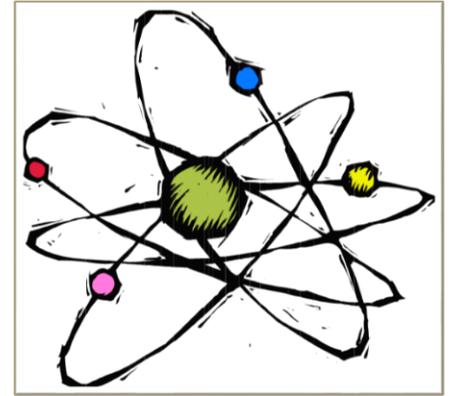
## STEM DAY

The West Friendship Elementary School Annual STEM Day is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. A great lineup is being formed and we are always looking for parents and special guests to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. If you are interested in volunteering for STEM Day or if you have any questions, please contact Annmarie Ottman at [wfesstemday@yahoo.com](mailto:wfesstemday@yahoo.com).

## WARHAWKS FOOTBALL

Registration is now open for the Western Howard County Warhawks Football and Cheer Programs. Become part of the sport with the most-watched TV event in history and become a Warhawk for Life.

1. Go to [www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP)
2. Click on "Register Now"
3. Click on the Search Toolbar
4. Type in RP5305 for Warhawk Football or RP5304 Cheerleading
5. Go to the appropriate age/weight for your child.



Registration is now open for the fall, 2015 soccer season. Western Howard County Soccer, a recreational program with approximately 1,200 players provides teams for boys and girls aged 4-14. All players registered by July 5<sup>th</sup> are guaranteed placement on a team.

**Register Early!** For every WFES student registered, Western Howard County will make a \$10 donation to our school's PTA! Last year, this resulted in \$430 for our school, so don't delay. Visit [whcsoccer.org](http://whcsoccer.org) for more information and to register.



## YOUR OPINION IS APPRECIATED

WFES is considering a partnership with an organization called FLEX Academies to provide trusted afterschool program management. Afterschool activities allow children to experience culture, art, recreation, and develop life skills that they don't experience during the school day. These activities allow them to develop new talents and interests that they may not have otherwise discovered. Having these experiences builds children's self-esteem and helps increase their academic success.

FLEX Academies' proven afterschool programming model provides streamlined coordination, high-quality instruction, easy registration for parents, and zero cost to our PTA.

We greatly value your input as we work together with FLEX Academies to build a strong afterschool program at our school. Would you please take a few moments to complete the following survey that will help us do just that?

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eau09saei89g7fe8/a0115i8gapdba/greeting>