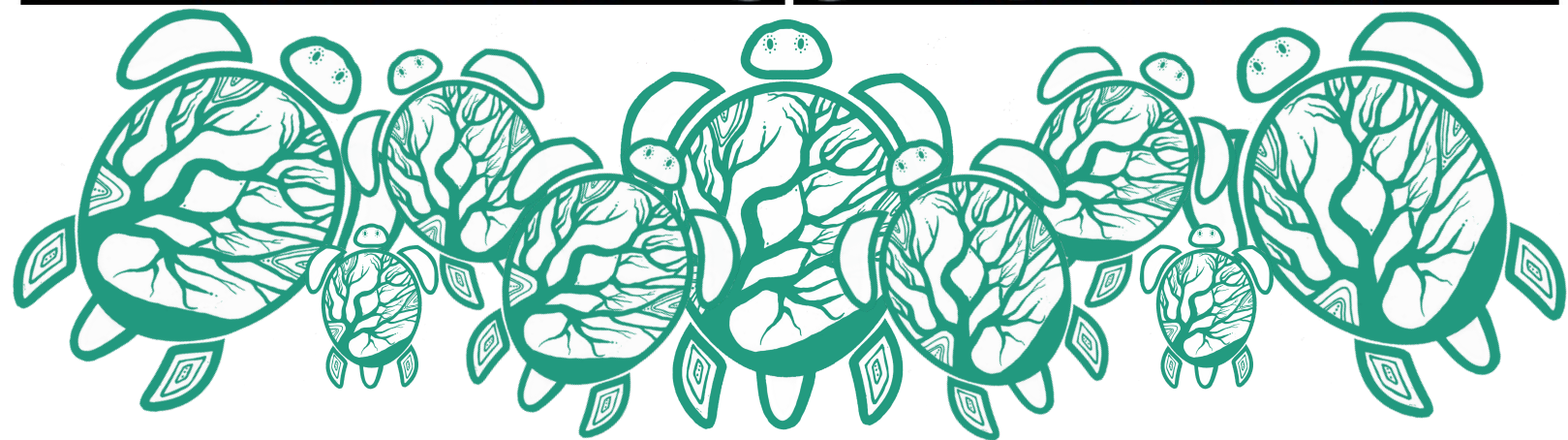


WATERSHED

Public Charter School

GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2021



TAKE A PEEK!

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

MS. LORI WIDNEY

November is an exciting month for many reasons. Our first quarter ends on November 5th. This means that all work that will be graded for the first quarter must be submitted by that day so that teachers are able to report progress in an efficient manner. While Watershed reports progress quarterly in all traditional education experiences and in alignment with BCPS grading and reporting, parents and guardians will meet with teachers to discuss progress in projects during three different sets of conference days throughout the year.

Just a community reminder to please park and walk your child to their entrance door. We have noticed that some cars are trying to drive through the front loop - this area is reserved for commercial or bus transportation only. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

November is also a month of thanksgiving. No, that is not a typo. It is a noun that means the act of giving thanks. I give thanks for the opportunity to work with the teachers and students at Watershed to help provide school choice for Baltimore County. I give thanks for the support of parents and community members from tent constructors to outside lunch volunteers - you help make our school a community. For all of you, I am thankful. Happy November!

Ms. Widney, Principal

READING CORNER

The 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start! Students are reading and writing everyday in the classroom. To help support their learning at school, here are some tips to help strengthen reading and writing at home!

1. Send a note in your child's lunchbox to let them know you are thinking about them and encourage reading even at lunchtime!
2. Utilize county resources such as RAZ-Plus to have your child access texts while at home. Children can listen, read and take a quiz after reading a book. Information to access RAZ-Plus is in your child's homeroom course on Schoology.
3. Visit the local library and find books about fall, making friends, and other topics of interest. Giving students choice will help keep them engaged in reading.
4. Create a writing station at home and fill the area with drawing and writing materials such as markers, gel pens, stickers, etc. Encourage your child to write shopping lists, thank you notes, or birthday cards!
5. Play word games on Family Game Nights. Bananagrams, Zingo, and Scrabble are some of my favorites.
6. Set up an evening routine and place where you can read to your child, or they can read to you. As you read, make sure to ask questions about the text to check for understanding.

Happy Reading and Writing, Ms. Pyzik (Reading Specialist)

SPECIAL AREAS

VOCAL MUSIC – MS. HOGAN

This month we have been talking about how musicians can use their voices to effect change. Our latest "Artists of the week" have been Whitney Houston, Earth, Wind and Fire, and Childish Gambino. We have had some great conversations about how and what we could communicate with music. We have been considering the question "What Do Watershed Turtles care about?" as we prepare to write a series of songs for Watershed about the Turtle Pride Motto, our Mission, and so much more.

LIBRARY/INNOVATION – MS. TRIOLA-SMOLINSKI

During September, our Watershed Turtles answered the questions "Who am I?" and "What does it mean to be part of a community?" Using read aloud stories, each student reflected on their personal attributes then created a representation of their place in a larger community. We are currently working on BCPS library and digital citizenship units in each grade. Follow us on twitter [@WatershedPCSLib](https://twitter.com/WatershedPCSLib) to see regular posts of all your child(ren) do in the Libratory!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – MR. MENDEL

In Physical Education we will be working on striking and hand eye coordination learning one of the most popular sports in the world...Table Tennis. Watershed was lucky enough to get access to the county's rotating supply of table tennis tables and we will start building our skills at the end of October.

DON'T FORGET

- **11/5** – first marking period ends – *½ day early dismissal – 12:15 pm*
- **11/12:** Picture Make-ups
- **11/15-11/19:** American Education Week
- **11/17:** Unit 1 project showcase (After school event) - (<https://tinyurl.com/WPCSUnit12021>)
- **11/22** – report cards/progress reports distributed
- **11/23** - Watershed Board Meeting - 6:00pm
- **11/24** – Elementary Conference Day (*no students*)
- **11/25, 11/26** – no school – Thanksgiving break

TESTING UPDATES

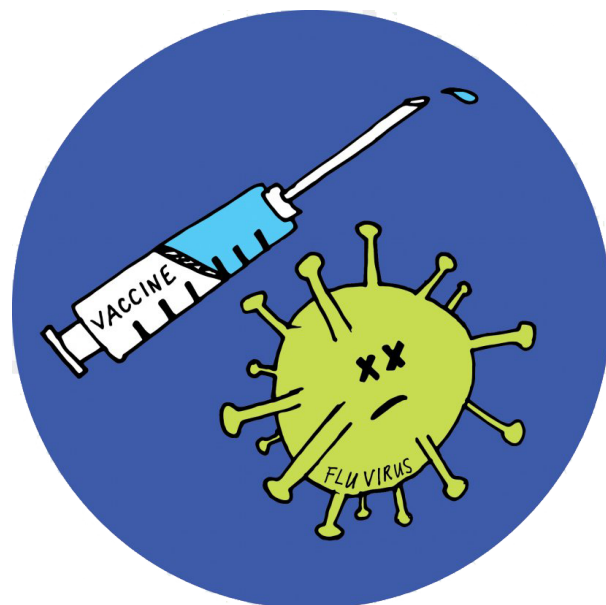
In December, students in grade 3 will be completing the CogAT assessment. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is a multiple-choice assessment that measures reasoning skills with different types of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal questions. More information will be sent to 3rd grade families as testing approaches. Please reach out to Mrs. Mejibovsky (rmejibovsky@bcps.org) with questions or concerns.

WATERSHED WELLNESS

HEALTH SUITE INFORMATION

Hello Turtles! Cold weather is around the corner, and so is cold and flu season with the pandemic. Here are some preventative measures to avoid/minimize the spread of flu in our school, based on the recommendation of the CDC:

1. Get a flu shot. (Remember, it takes two weeks from vaccine date before you're fully protected).
2. Practice Good Health habits: wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (most effective) or use hand sanitizer
3. Practice Respiratory Etiquette: cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or use your elbow when sneezing or coughing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
4. Get plenty of rest, eat healthy foods and drink plenty of healthy fluids.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
6. Stay home if you are sick.

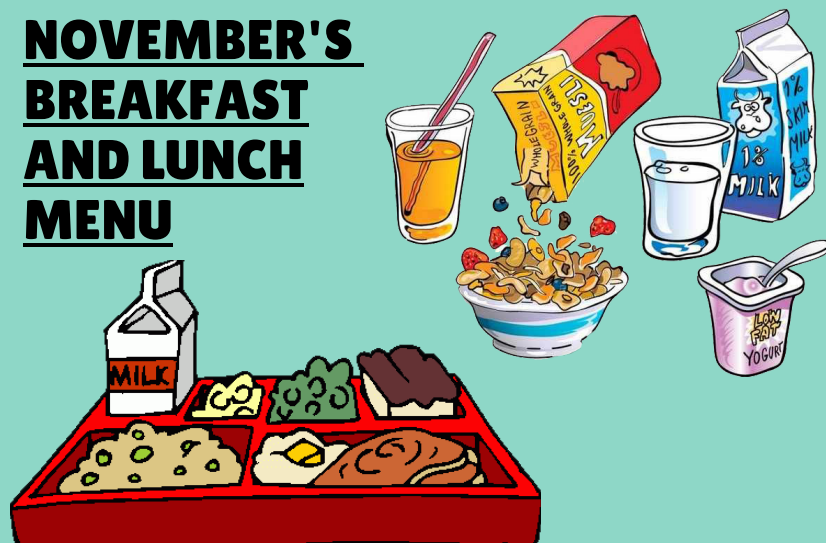


A few more reminders:

1. Do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:
 - a. Fever, vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hrs. Students must be fever-free, with no vomiting or diarrhea without the use of any medication for 24 hrs.
 - b. Continuous coughing, not relieved with cough medicine.
2. Reach out to your pediatrician or health care provider and ask for guidance if your child is not feeling well, and please the teacher or school nurse know if your student is not feeling well.
3. Please make sure that your child has an extra well-fitting clean mask in his/her bag.
4. We would appreciate it if you sent a reusable water bottle with your child to school.

Thank you! Nurse Flor

NOVEMBER'S BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENU



<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSNov2021Menu>

COUNSELING CORNER – MS. HOLMES

Hello! If you would like a deeper look and a better understanding into the Social Emotional Learning Curriculum we use at Watershed, check out the Conscious Discipline website. They have a ton of free resources for families. Click on the link below!

<https://consciousdiscipline.com/free-resources/free-for-all/>

In this month's counseling lessons your children and I will be discussing growth mindset and how important productive struggle is in many aspects of our lives. We will identify how we can use the same mindset with academics, as we do for our hobbies. Thank you all for continuing to support your child's growth both inside and outside of school!

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?

MS. GUELCHER

A great way to support your student’s writing and learn about what is going on in the school day is to incorporate a shared writing journal. All you need is a simple journal or papers folded to make a journal.

Shared writing has one person write on the left side of the journal and the other responds on the right side. It can even be a picture showing what happened and then you can scribe below what your child says is showcased in the illustration. By responding on the opposite side, you are modeling writing and increasing communication in a fun way. It’s a wonderful way to save the memories of this year and the increases in writing skills for comparison as well .

Watershed prides itself in the integrated projects that are completed schoolwide. These projects enable our students and staff to explore science, social studies, fine arts and literacy skills in an experiential way. The topics of these projects drive much of what the students enjoy each day and culminate in a writing piece for their portfolios. By incorporating a shared writing journal, you are also supporting your child/children’s success with their writing projects. Simply model the correct spelling, tenses and punctuation to keep it as enjoyable as possible. Try to refrain from correcting as they write so they see this time as a special time focused on their experiences. If you have any questions on how to get started, I’m happy to help!

Student Example

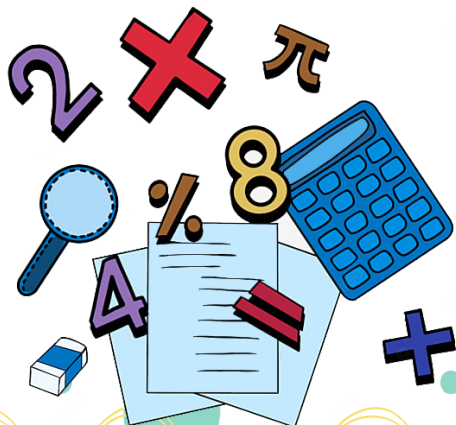
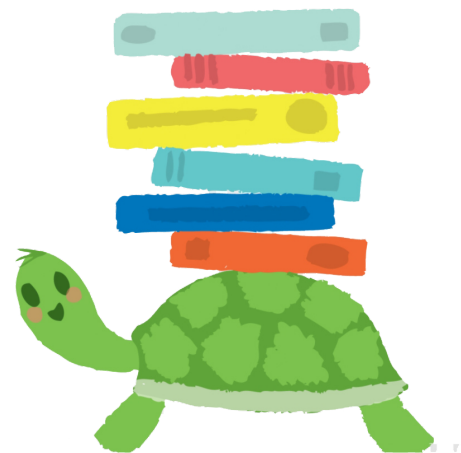
I went outsid and fond bearys with my frend. I mad a map where my bearys are. I liked being outsid

Parental Response Example

I am so glad you went outside and found berries with your friend. I can’t wait to see the map where your berries are. I like being outside, too!

A REFLECTION ON LEARNING – 4TH GRADE

In **English/Language Arts**, students have been working with the 4th grade literature and writing standards. We spent the first half of Unit 1 looking at elements of narrative nonfiction texts and comparing them to traditional fiction and nonfiction text elements. During the second of the unit, we will be doing an author study with Indigenous children’s author Joseph Bruchac’s stories, poems, and plays. We are looking forward to writing our own narratives at the end of Unit 1 that tie in to our End of Unit Projects!



In **Math**, students have been studying the relationship between multiplication and division, which builds a strong foundation for our upcoming unit: ‘Multi-Digit Multiplication & Division’. Students have been exploring efficient strategies to solve unknown multiplication and division problems including ratio tables, number lines, familiar facts, and skip counting.

WATERSHED BOARD UPDATES

Watershed Turtle Shirts for Sale!

The Watershed Board is selling our turtle shirts this fall - get one for everyone in the whole family! Adult and kids sizes available. We will be collecting orders until November 22, 2021. Please fill out the form below and send cash or a check for the full amount (in an envelope addressed to Ms. Lehson with your child's name included) into school with your child.

[Order shirts here!](#)



We want to hear from you!

The board of Watershed Public Charter School values and encourages input and feedback from the public during board meetings. Near the beginning of each board meeting, there will be an established 30-minute time slot dedicated to stakeholder comment and feedback that will be listed as such on the meeting agenda. Prospective speakers are encouraged to sign in on the Stakeholder Comment and Feedback Sign Up sheet prior to the start of the meeting, which will be available near the entrance of the room. When meetings are held virtually, those who wish to speak should email the board prior to the day of the meeting at board@watershedpcs.org. A maximum of ten speakers will be drawn at random and will speak in the order they are selected; speaker time is limited to three (3) minutes each and will be monitored by the Board President. Board members will not respond to public comments within the same board meeting except to ask clarifying questions.

When speaking, speakers are asked to give their full name and be respectful of the board and members of the public when speaking. Speakers should address members of the board and be ready to respond to questions for clarification from the board if asked. The board does not discuss personnel matters in open board meetings. Inappropriate comments or behavior are discouraged. Inappropriate behavior is defined as insults, obscenities or profanity, attacks against any person in their personal capacity, and/or physical violence or threat thereof.

PARENT COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Parent Committee would like to thank everyone that was able to attend our recent meeting. The meeting notes can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/kvs6jfe2> There are a few items we would like to call out.

- Do you have a child in any of these homerooms: Ms. Wiggins, Mr. Wexler, or Ms. McCarty? Are you interested in being a Room Representative? If so, send an email to volunteers@watershedpcs.org to learn more. Please only volunteer to be a Room Representative for a teacher if you have a child in that homeroom. Thank you!
- Please consider donating NEW water bottles for students to use while at school. The water bottles do not need to be fancy or expensive but they must be new. There is a clear plastic water bottle donation box by the front door at Watershed.
- We are excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Watershed during the week of November 15! Be on the lookout for more information about volunteering and shopping as the event approaches. We are looking forward to getting books in the hands of students while earning materials for our school!

Our next meeting is on Nov 9 at 7pm on Google Meet. <https://meet.google.com/sgv-hqyr-gse>



WATERSHED LINKS & RESOURCES

BCPS Student Handbook - (<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSHandbook>)

Attendance Policy - (<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSAttendance>)

When to Stay home - (<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSStayHome>)

BCPS Breakfast and Lunch Menus - (<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSMenu>)

Baltimore County Fire Department Annual Poster Contest - (<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSFirePoster>)

Watershed/BCPS Homepage - (<https://watershedpcs.bcps.org/>)
Use this page to find updates about BCPS initiatives.

Watershed Board Homepage - (<https://www.watershedpcs.org/>)
stay up-to-date on all things Charter!

Parent Committee Communications Signup - (<https://tinyurl.com/WPCSCCommittee>)
Want to get email updates from the Parent Committee? Fill out this form so they can reach you.

Log Volunteer Hours - (<https://tinyurl.com/WPCSVolunteer>)

How to log into Chrome with BCPS ID & Password - (<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSChrome>)

Chromebook not working? Try these tips - (<https://tinyurl.com/TipsforChromebook>)

Mind Over Matters Campaign - (<https://tinyurl.com/BCPSCares>)
Mind Over Matters Campaign is an ongoing movement to raise awareness about mental health and promote wellness for students and staff in Baltimore County Public Schools. The activities listed below are created to coincide with the various themes broken down by months/quarters. There are a host of options for the school community, including those that can be offered virtually.

ClassTag How-To Guides for Families - (<https://tinyurl.com/WPCSClasstag>)

WPCS News & Information Facebook Group - (<https://tinyurl.com/WPCSNews>)

WPCS Parents Facebook Group - (<https://tinyurl.com/WPCSParents>)

Opt-In to Receive a Paper Newsletter - (<https://tinyurl.com/GazetteOptIn>)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Phone: (443) 809-2100

Email: info@watershedpcs.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



WatershedPublicCharterSchool



@watershedpcs



@watershedpcs