

# washington WEEKLY News



## President's Message

The holiday season is in full swing as we just finished our WES Holiday Shop and Alternative Gift Market. These were a remarkable success thanks to our amazing volunteers and committee chairs. Watching our kiddos shop for loved ones and contribute to meaningful charities was a heartwarming start to the holiday season for many of us. As 2015 comes to an end, I am pleased to say that Washington parents remain one of the most active and involved parent groups in our district. Many thanks to all those that volunteer to help make our school a magical place for our children.

Often at this time of year, parents are looking for a memento to give our teachers and staff. Have you considered the Washington Scholarship Fund or the Washington Library Tree? Both are great avenues to recognize and honor your child's teacher. It was our WES Teachers that started the Scholarship Fund. Every year they give a Washington Alumni Senior a scholarship award toward their higher education. If you would like information, and the form to complete for either idea, please [click here](#). Print the form and return it with your contribution to the WES front office.

Lastly, may I wish all of our Washington Families and Faculty a wonderful holiday season and peaceful New Year!

~Julie Toussaint, PTA President

## Important Dates

### December

- 13** Washington Spirit Day at Barnes & Noble
- 17** (DEAR): Best Holiday PJ Day
- 18** Variety Show Sign Up Deadline
- 22** Washington Band, Chorus and Orchestra Winter Concert, 2:30 pm
- 23** Holiday Party, 2:45 - 3:20 pm

**December 24- January 1 No School:** Holiday Recess

### January

- 11** Lunchtime Clubs Session I Begins, 12-1 pm
- 13** 5th Grade Parent Middle School Transition Meeting, 2:00 pm
- 18** **No School:** ML King Day - Teacher In-service
- 20** PTA Meeting, WES Auditorium, 9:00 am

## What Day Is It?

**12/07:** Day 5  
**12/08:** Day 1  
**12/09:** Day 2  
**12/10:** Day 3  
**12/11:** Day 4

## Weekly News

**Editors:** Soncerae Yeager &  
 Jamie Bissot  
[WashingtonWeekly@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonWeekly@gmail.com)

**Deadline to Submit:**  
 Tuesday, 5:00 pm

**To sign up for the electronic Washington Weekly News, please contact:**

Natalie Kukla  
 at  
[nats98@yahoo.com](mailto:nats98@yahoo.com)

or click on the button below:

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## Quick Links

[School District Website](#)

[WES Website](#)

[Washington PTA Website](#)

District Calendar:  
[2015-2016 Calendar Website](#)

Lunchroom Menu  
[November](#)

## District Links

[High School Renovation Website](#)

[PA State Health Requirements](#)

[Volunteer Clearance Policy Info.](#)

[Emergency Medical Contact/Release Information](#)

## PTA News

### Lunchtime Club Volunteers Needed



*Calling all Volunteers!*

Do you want to help with Lunchtime Clubs? Does your child love Lego or Bingo Club? Culture, Fitness or Yoga? Whatever club they like, we need your help!

Lunchtime Clubs provide our students in Grades 1-5 with additional recess options during the winter months of January, February, and March when the temperatures dip. Lunchtime Clubs cannot operate without parent assistance. Last year we had over 70 parent/teacher volunteers for the Lunchtime Clubs, so if you have any availability between 12 noon and 1:00 pm, just once a week for 4 weeks please consider volunteering to help with a club. Help us to continue the wonderful WES tradition of the Lunchtime Clubs and become a parent volunteer. We are looking to find the club that you are interested in and which day and session you can head the club.

Some of the favorite clubs from past years Fitness, Lego, Operation Thanks, Craft, Bingo, Yoga, Book Club, Chess, Sign Language. One new suggestion for this year would be a game club such as Minute to win it. Lunch time clubs run in two sessions January 11- February 5 Second Session starts on February 8-March 4.

Mt. Lebanon School District requires all volunteers who may have contact with a student without a teacher/staff member present to obtain background clearances. To remain in compliance with this policy, all volunteers of WES Lunchtime Clubs will need to provide proof of clearances prior to volunteering. The School District has set up a webpage with all of the volunteer clearance information, including links on how to apply for the clearances, <http://www.mtisd.org/parents/volunteerclearances.asp>

To structure our Lunchtime Clubs appropriately, please have all clearances completed by December. Clearances that have been obtained in the past will be accepted by Mrs. Davis if they have been completed with in the last two years.

Any questions about Volunteer Clearances or want to sign up to be a Lunchtime Club Volunteer? Contact Heather Damron at [Damrongirls3@gmail.com](mailto:Damrongirls3@gmail.com)

### Meeting Minutes for November PTA Meeting



The meeting minutes for the November 19, 2015 PTA meeting can be found [here](#).

### Washington FUN-draiser at Barnes & Noble

## School Flyers/Blogs

Counselor's Corner:  
[December](#)

FLES Newsletter:  
[Diciembre](#)

FLES Blog:  
[Noticias](#)

Art Studio:  
[Art-BEAT](#)

[Crossing Guard Information](#)

[Crossing Guard Information](#)  
2 Hour Delay Schedule

[Playground Safety Guidelines](#)

[eShare Parent Instructions](#)

## PTA Forms & Flyers

[2015-2016 PTA Calendar](#)

[PTA Membership Online Form](#)

[Recycling](#)

[Traffic and Safety Information](#)

[November 19, 2015 PTA Meeting Minutes](#)

[Variety Show Sign Up](#)

## Community Flyers

**Mt. Lebanon Rec Center**  
[Junior Tennis Clinic](#)  
Ages 5-8

[Dance Program](#)  
Ages 4-12

[Holiday Craft Class](#)  
Ages 4-4th grade

[Canvas Creation](#)  
Ages 4-14 - **New**

[Basketball Program](#)  
Boys & Girls, 1st Grade - **New**

**Mt. Lebanon School District, Public Library, & Recreation Department**  
[Adult Education Survey](#)

**Mt. Lebanon Percussion**  
[Holiday Bells, Mallets and Drums Concert](#)  
-**New**

**Mt. Lebanon Winter Guard**



Washington Spirit Day at the South Hills Village Barnes and Noble is on Sunday, December 13! Please join us for a fun day filled with holiday activities. WES students' art work will be displayed and we will enjoy the beautiful music of the 5th Grade Orchestra at 11:00 am and the 5th Grade Band at 11:30

am. Story time with some of our WES teachers begins at 12:00 pm. There will be cupcake decorating, holiday crafts and an Angry Birds Tournament at 2:00 pm. Get some holiday shopping done (and wrapped!) all while Washington earns a portion of the proceeds. Any child who stops by the front table wearing a holiday shirt receives a prize. We hope to see you there.

Parents, we need your help to make the Washington Spirit Day at Barnes and Noble a success. Volunteers are needed to help at the main greeting table, a craft table, cupcake decorating and a gift wrapping table. There will be lots of fun activities for the family. If you can spare an hour on Sunday, December 13, bring the kids and help out our school.

We're using VolunteerSpot (the leading online signup and reminder tool) to organize our upcoming activity.

Please sign up for Washington Spirit Day at Barnes & Noble!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/UqYeN4>
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

~Stephanie Fedro-Byrom, Kelly Latona, and Rosie Pesacreta-Ways and Means Coordinators

### Variety Show Sign-Up

It's time again to start thinking about the Variety Show!

Sign up using this link:  
<http://forms.mtlsd.org/DisplayForm.asp?FORMID=81561>



The deadline is December 18.  
 ~Allison Carey, Shirley McElhattan & Ameer Oaks, Variety Show Chairs

## School News

### Technology in the Classroom Survey

A message from the Director of Technology, Chris Stengel:

[Pancake Breakfast with Santa](#)  
 - New

**WES Scholarship Fund & Library Tree**  
[Gift Form](#) -New

**Outreach Teen & Family Services**  
[Website](#)

### Collections Corner

[Keep on Collectin'](#)

[Loyalty Card Registration](#)

[Box Tops Process](#)

Hello Washington Parents,

Beginning this year, the district will be assessing the impact of technology on our students' learning using Clarity's BrightBytes survey tool. The results of this survey will be used to help us continuously improve how we utilize technology in our classrooms and in your child's learning. The survey results will be tied to specific suggestions that are research-based and intended to help us understand where we can utilize our resources to bring about the best outcomes for our students. You can learn more about the survey at <http://www.brightbytes.net>.

Thank you in advance for the 10-15 minutes it should take to complete this survey. We intend to offer it every year. If you have children in multiple schools, you will receive this email with a different survey link for the other schools. If you care to fill it out for each of the schools for which you have children attending, that would also be appreciated.

I am excited to gather this data and share the results with our teachers, parents, and students. Thank you for your contribution!

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY PARENT SURVEY:

<http://www.BByt.es/TU4LP>

Students in grades 3-12 are also being surveyed. Please ask them to check their @mtlstudents.net email for a similar invitation from me to complete the BrightBytes student survey for their building.

### Kleenex Boxes for the Library



The library is in need of your used tissue boxes again this year. You may be wondering what the library is doing with all of your tissue boxes. Well, we are using Kleenex boxes as a "backstop" for the books on the library shelves. You can see the before and after photos. These backstops put an end to the frustrating problem of small books sliding out of sight toward the back of the shelves. A backstop keeps

all of the books pushed to the front edge of the bookshelves so students and teachers can easily read the spine labels.

Basically, we need 3 Kleenex boxes for every bookshelf in the library.

That equals a ton, but, with your help, we are getting there! Every one that is sent in helps. If a student brings a Kleenex box to school, he/she can drop it off in the library. Parents can drop them off in the office. Both Mrs. Shetter & Mrs. Jones know I'm collecting them & will send them to library. Thanks so much.

~Mrs. Mascoko, Librarian



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## Community News

### Adult Education Survey



LIVE. LEARN. STAY. PLAY.

The Mt. Lebanon Public Library, The Recreation Department and The School District Adult Education Department have teamed up. We're taking the community's "adult education pulse" to discover what

types of programs spark your curiosity.

Help us put together a comprehensive cultural, educational and recreational community-wide Adult Education Program Schedule by clicking on the link below and taking our brief survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VDNVLNC>

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## Keep on Collectin'

Check back next week for more information.

### Washington Elementary School

**Principal:** Mary Kay Davis

**PTA President:** Julie Toussaint, [julietoussaint@gmail.com](mailto:julietoussaint@gmail.com)

*By allowing contact information to appear in this newsletter, permission is given for it to be viewed as part of the newsletter on Dashboard.*