

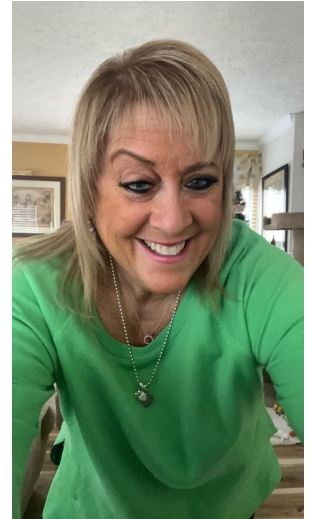


## Shake It Up

Every once in a while we like to "shake it up" (cue Taylor Swift) to have a break in our schedule for special learning opportunities for students and staff.

Before spring break we had lessons on fire safety complimented with a visit from our local Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Squad. Students were in awe of the trucks and of the firefighters "costumes"! There was no shortage of questions or comments for our wonderful visitors. They marveled at the gear and the equipment. I won't be surprised if we have a few future first responders among us! Some pictures of the day are below.

Staff had our "shake it up" the Friday before spring break with in-house staff professional development training by Train Educational Workshops. Training seminar topics were Focused Art and Outdoor Play and our presenter was Phuong Hoang. We learned a great deal to better provide play-based instruction for students. See pictures below.



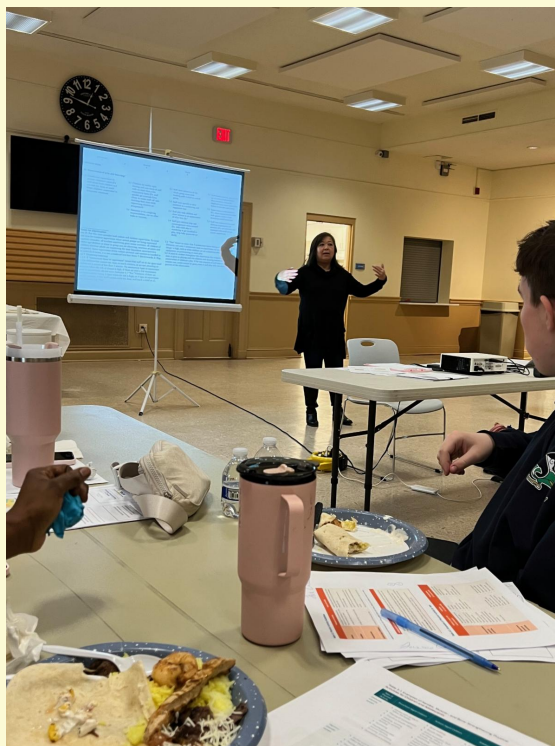
Now on to you. How about you "shake it up" by joining our Board of Directors? We need your skills and talents and have a few vacancies for next school year. We value and need parent volunteer contributions on our Board. If interested, please complete this form by May 15th <https://form.jotform.com/221388381310148> or feel free to contact me with any questions at 301-229-7161.

And finally, some events worth highlighting this month are the Week of the Young Child®, April 8-12, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) with the purpose of focusing public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The other event is April 22nd for Earth Day to help create public awareness and action in protecting our environment. We will spend time with our students in the coming weeks focusing on these important events.

Best,



## Fire Safety Visit



## School Wide News

### Solar Eclipse, Monday, April 8th

As much as we would have liked to share in the solar eclipse with students, it is not in the best interest of students to participate in the viewing of the Total Solar Eclipse in a preschool setting. The students are too young to guarantee certified screening glasses will stay on their faces as required and the student/staff ratio will not allow for individual monitoring.

For Maryland residents, the highly anticipated total solar eclipse begins in the afternoon at 2:01, with potential maximum visibility at 3:17, and ends 4:30 pm. Cloud cover will play a factor, of course. Therefore, we suggest picking up your child before 2 or after 4:30 to reduce any exposure.

### Westbrook Campus Closed May 14th

WCC was informed that we are required to close our Westbrook campus (only) on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, for Primary Election Voting Day. Therefore, the Westbrook campus will not be able to have in-class instruction. We regret any inconvenience.

### 2024-25 School Year Enrollment Limited Spots Remain

We are near full capacity for next school year with only a few openings available in the 3's and 4's. If you or your friends/neighbors have yet to register, please visit [www.wccbethesda.com](http://www.wccbethesda.com) today!



### Dragonfly Class

We cannot believe we already bid adieu to March. The Dragonflies had a busy March with a flurry of activities! We started the month with our new unit: Dinosaurs. The children learned about fascinating creatures that once roamed the planet.

We read many non-fiction dinosaur books, classified dinosaur by carnivores, omnivorous and herbivorous, did several dinosaur crafts, danced and marched to "We Are The



*Dragonflies continued, pictures above.*

The Dragonflies were invited to join the Bumblebee class to meet local community

helpers - firefighters and police officer,

Dinosaur”, and rode on our very own triceratops and created edible dinosaurs with veggies!

When we return from Spring Break in April, the Dragonflies will be paleontologists and will dig for dinosaurs plus make their own fossils. We will end our dinosaur unit on Friday, April 5th with a dinosaur party.

In addition to our dinosaur unit and our preschool curriculum, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday with a 'Cat in The Hat' party, had a St. Patrick’s Day party, and hosted several family sharing events. We also went on a spring time scavenger hunt.

Commander Johnson. See pictures above. We practiced our own classroom fire drill with the Dragonflies by exiting our first floor window, (which is our fire exit) to reinforce fire safety.

Looking ahead to our next unit in April: "Everything Spring", the children will learn about the life cycles of some insects and some amphibians, learn to identify a variety of local birds and common flowers/ plants plus learn about the water cycle. We will grow our own butterflies, Painted Lady Butterflies, and release them when the weather is warm. Toward the end of April, we will celebrate Earth Day with a garden party and create art with recycle material.



## Ducklings Class

In March, the Ducklings enjoyed celebrating both Dr. Seuss week and St. Patrick’s Day. During Dr. Seuss week, we read books written by Dr. Seuss and participated in lots of activities related to the stories such as painting the Berenstain Bear outfits, creating wockets, and doing activities with putting fish in a bowl.

For St. Patrick’s Day, we enjoyed a lucky charms and grapes snack, created St. Patrick’s Day hats, and read the stories “Curious George: Happy St. Patrick’s Day” and “Hooray for St. Patrick’s Day”. In addition, the leprechaun destroyed our room while we were outside playing! The class was full of shock and excitement as they put the room back together very nicely. Following our fun celebrations, we moved into our ‘Space’ unit.



*Ducklings continued, pictures above*

Following spring break, the Duckling class will discuss and learn about the seasons of the year, weather, bugs/insects, and springtime (plants, flowers, trees). We will also continue working on meeting the expectations of the creative curriculum such as letter recognition and counting.

In February, we learned about animals hibernating during winter, the meaning of love, and the history of dinosaurs. The children were able to explore bear and dinosaur caves that we created for our classroom in our dramatic play area.

The children participated art projects individually and in groups. By doing this, the Duckling teachers were able to help children practice a proper pencil grip for writing and coloring. We also continued to work on patterns, counting, learning to use

The class learned about all the different planets, rocket ships, and astronauts by participating in lots of art projects, watching educational videos, and reading books targeted towards our theme. Every child was able to wear a spacesuit, walk on moon rocks, and explore the rocket ship that was built in our classroom. In addition to all of our fun activities, we have continued to practice identifying letters in alphabetic order, identifying numbers out of numerical order, creating patterns, using fine motor skills to complete tasks, and becoming more independent with self help skills.

scissors, and spelling names. For science, we watched different videos about dinosaur fossils and completed lots of experiments such as making dinosaur eggs with flour and water and created different shapes of fossils using cookie dough.

In addition to our dinosaur unit and our preschool curriculum, we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with a Cat in The Hat party, had a St. Patrick's Day party, hosted several family sharing events. We also went on a spring time scavenger hunt.



*Starfish continued, pictures to left and above.*

## Starfish Class

In March the Starfish were very busy! They learned all about the rainforest and explored the four layers that make up the rainforest by examining different pictures and looking at the different animals and insects that live in each part.

Starfish learned the word "equator" and used their class globe to locate which hemisphere the rainforest is located. They learned the word habitat and explored 9 different habitats. Afterwards, the class each picked one habitat to recreate and then completed a writing activity to describe it. They also

Our Starfish ended the month welcoming the new season of spring by planting spring flowers. The Starfish learned three new letters; Yy, Uu and Ww, two new sight words; "like" and "you" and one new word family- "og" (log, dog, frog).

This month the Starfish Class will continue exploring the season of spring, learning and exploring Space/Solar System and celebrating Earth Day with a Recycled Art project and how to make water filters at homes. They will learn three new letters; Ss, Qq and Xx, three new sight words; "off", "on", and "me" and one new word family- "ill" (fill, spill, hill). They will also learn about opposites and odd and even numbers

writing activity to describe it. They also learned about length, height and weight and used different materials around their classroom to measure each.

## Teddy Bear Class

The month of March was a busy time in the Teddy Bear Classroom. We are already into our second week exploring our five senses. The children are expanding their descriptive vocabularies and gaining awareness of how our bodies can teach us all about our wonderful world.

The Teddies are becoming much more self sufficient, putting on their socks and shoes and their outdoor gear. They can clean up after meals and pack up their nap time bedding. The children are finding success using the communication strategies we taught them to use when asking for a turn with a toy or book. They are all joining in on the chants, finger plays and movement songs. Most of the Teddies enjoy having jobs to do in the classroom and can follow directions with 1-2 steps.

In April, our weekly themes will include Hometown Heroes beginning after spring break. The first two week units will be springtime and transportation. We will continue to add number recognition and letter sounds to all of our learning centers and experiences.

*Pictures on right*



## Bumble Bee Class

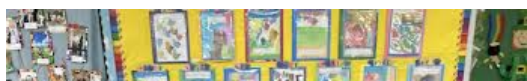
In March, the Bumblebees dove into themes that supported St. Patrick's Day, Dr. Seuss, Community Helpers and seasonal changes. The Bees completed a variety of activities that centered to



variety of activities that catered to strengthening cognitive, language, motor, and creative development. For example when exploring Dr. Suess, The Bees discovered a better understanding of rhyming words, alliteration, cause and effect, decision making, and more! Lastly, we completed letters R, S, T, and U to continue supporting our letter recognition practices.

With the arrival of Spring, the Bumblebees will be embracing all things spring from budding flowers to chirping birds this April! The Bees will continue focusing on phonemic awareness, letter recognition to encourage pre literacy skills; while also refining fine motor/handwriting skills, when completing letters V, W, X, Y.

The Bees will also explore a diverse range of activities that follow the theme of spring, plant life cycles, space, and Earth Day! This month will encourage more outdoor learning, and adventures. Lastly, The Bumblebees will continue exploring number development through simple math activities, including one-to-one correspondence, sequencing, sorting, and classifying.





## Leopard's Class

The Leopards were busy in March as we closed out the winter season with a unit on Migration, Hibernation and Adaptation. They discussed creatures that migrate, including monarch butterflies and various birds which return in the spring. They also made a diorama project using a shoebox to represent the process of hibernation. Each Leopard wrote dictations to describe what they learned during the unit.

With spring on our heels, Josie and her dad, Mr. Jeff, kicked off our St. Patrick's Day fun with a St. Patrick's Family Sharing, followed by a Family Sharing with Evan and his two grandmothers, plus an eventful St. Patrick's Day celebration which was full of shamrocks, leprechauns and the color green. The party was hosted by our room mom Ms. Ashley who did a terrific job!



## Bunnies Class



*Leopards continued, pictures above.*

Our final two units of the month focused on colors and 3-dimensional shapes. Through several color mixing experiments the Leopards learned about the color spectrum within the rainbow and how colors are formed. They explored primary and secondary colors, they learned how to create their own hues and did colorful self-expressive art activities including splash art inspired by Jackson Pollock, shape/color collages and 3-dimensional structures using cubes, cones, cylinders and spheres.

The Leopard's continued their language, sight word and early reading development by adding a new family of rhyming words to our list (OP Family). We also began reading basic sentences from an AT Family sight word book and practiced syllable identification. We celebrated three additional STARS and had a great month!



*Bunnies class continued, pictures above*



In the month of March, the children were eager to learn all about animals hibernating during the winter time. They were excited to bring in their own teddy bears to live in the classroom for a week.

The children also enjoyed going on a bear hunt around the classroom. We created Dr. Seuss art and crafts and read some of his more famous books.

Lastly, we enjoyed celebrating St. Patrick's Day by dressing in green and participating in some fun activities and family sharing.

## Meet Clare Cahill - WCC's Business Manager

Clare Cahill, pictured right, has worked at WCC for over 21 years as WCC's business manager. As such, Clare manages select programs such as Camp Westmoreland, finances, vendor relations, facilities management, contractual agreements, and managing day-to-day operations to ensure WCC operates smoothly. Clare is not all business. She says the best part of my day is when she see students. She says, "They make me feel young and happy and remind me why I come to work everyday!"



Clare is the proud mother of Rosemary, a recent political science grad from the University of Dayton. Clare grew up in Bethesda and loves to spend time with Rosemary and her family and friends. She spends her leisure time gardening, traveling, boating and reading.

## Westy Sits Down With Clare

**What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome?**  
Losing both my parents to cancer within five months.

**If you could go back to being a kid for a day, what's the first thing you would do that you did when you were a kid?**  
Kiss and hug my mother and this time, never let go.

**If you could have any talent or skill, what would that be?**  
To be pianist at a piano bar.

**What is one of your favorite books?**  
That's a tough one but off the top of my head, 'B is Betsy series', 'To Kill a Mockingbird', and 'The Game of Life and How to Play it'.

**What is the best show you binge watched in the last two years?**  
Any well documented/researched true crime documentary.

**What song instantly puts you in a good mood?**  
Van Morrison's Wavelength!

Van Morrison's wavelenght!

What song is your Karaoke "go to"?

Frankie Vallie and the Four Seasons 'Oh, What a Night'

What are a few of your favorite smells?

Homemade bread, newborn babies, and hugging my mom before she would leave for a night on the town.

What's your favorite bucket list accomplishment?

It has to be my three-week trip spanning three countries: Peru, Argentina, and Chile, followed by a land/water Seabourn cruise of Antarctica.

Have you lived in other countries?

Yes, in my 20's I travelled Europe extensively and later lived in London and in Nice, France.

What would you like people to know about you?

That's an easy one! I am the second youngest of 13 children which made for a lot of fun growing up!

Who do you think is your doppelganger?

I haven't a clue but others say I resemble Princess Diana.

I can't stand the smell of cooked corned beef and cabbage but love the smell of cut grass in the spring time.

What is your favorite cuisine?

Indian food especially made in London. Chicken korma is my favorite dish.

I'd like to be fit but not if I have to workout daily!

What is the most challenging and best part about being you?

My struggle with ADHD is most challenging for me but I utilize strategies to make it less so. The best part about me is being Rosemary's mother and that I know that I am loved by a host of family and friends.

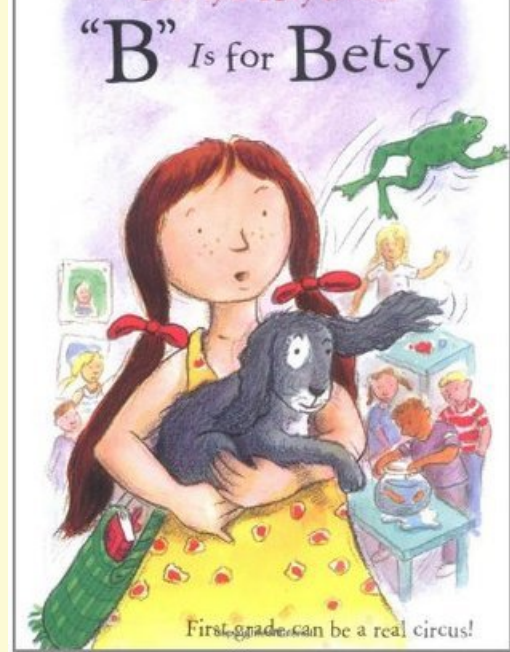
What is a common misrepresentation about you?

At WCC, parents and students often think I'm a teacher or an aide since I love spending time in the classrooms with the kids. I don't need a cup of coffee or a chocolate bar to give me a lift throughout the day, I have your children!

Oh, Clare, I love the "B is for Betsy" books too! Can you please read them to me? Pretty please? Your friend, Westy

*p.s. It's a great picture below of you and Rosemary from your recent trip to London. I'm so "jelly"!*





*"B is for Betsy"*

*"Van the Man" Morrison*



*Indian Food Extravaganza*

## WCC Apparel for Every Season



Need a few new t-shirts for the warmer weather? Spring/summer WCC apparel\* is available in youth and adults sizes ranging from tee shirts to sweatshirts making them perfect for each season. Accessories are available as well. There are non apparel items such as ball caps and sports bags. Here's our very own Angie Kamara (left) sporting a WCC hooded sweatshirt for colder weather.

Samples are on display at the Circle Campus foyer. Order today:  
<https://wcc-backtoschool.itemorder.com>

Thank you for your support of WCC!

*\*WCC receives a percentage of sales with proceeds benefitting WCC's programs and resources.*



## WCC Apparel Store

### Adult Apparel

[View Category Page](#)



## WCC's 2024 Summer Camp Registration

"Making Memories of a Lifetime" --Camp Westmoreland applications are now available via [www.wccbethesda.com](http://www.wccbethesda.com) or: <https://form.jotform.com/240244568179160> Enroll today to guarantee your child's placement and summer of fun!



## WCC Dates to Remember

*April is Parkinson Awareness Month*

**April 8 -12** - "Week of the Child"

**April 15** - Westbrook Picture Day (Details to follow)

**April 16** - Circle Picture Day (Details to follow)

**April 22** - Earth Day

**May 14** - Primary Election Voting ( **Westbrook Campus ONLY Closed** )

**May 27** - Memorial Day, **WCC CLOSED**

**June 6** - WCC's End-of-School Year Picnic; 5 - 7:30 pm, Westmoreland Hills Park, Details to follow





Westmoreland Children's Center | One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816  
www.wccbethesda.com 301-229-7161

[Unsubscribe dorothy.mcdonald@wccbethesda.com](mailto:dorothy.mcdonald@wccbethesda.com)

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