

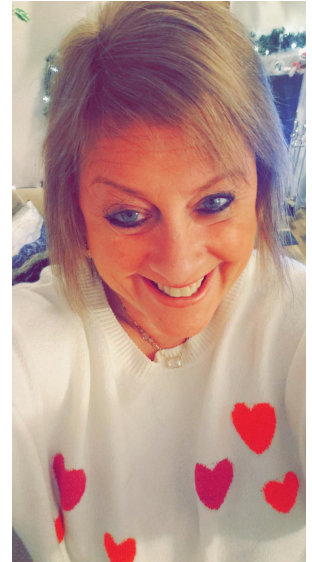


## Snow, Snow, Go Away!

I don't need to tell you that we have had active weather winter thus far especially after the last few years have been fairly uneventful. We understand that this can be disruptive to our families and that you may have concerns about how inclement weather closings or delays/early dismissals may impact preschool operations and your child's education.

We are sympathetic to how this also affects working parents and home life. I want to assure you that your child's safety and education are of utmost importance to us. When we close or have an abbreviated schedule, we adjust our instructional lessons and plans as necessary so that students will continue to meet/exceed their educational benchmarks.

As you know, we follow Montgomery County Public School's (MCPS) inclement/emergency closure policy and understand that this is not always a popular decision. However, this decision is not taken lightly and we do this for several reasons:



- No WCC executive staff live within close proximity to either campus and would not be able to manage or make timely independent weather impact assessments.
- MCPS has extensive resources to track our weather and how it impacts local transportation, roads, sidewalks, and parking lots/walkways.
- The Westbrook campus is located adjacent to Westbrook Elementary (an MCPS school) and the Circle campus is leased from the Westmoreland Congregational Church whereby we rely on MCPS and the Church's contractors for safe and accessible parking/walkways to avoid accidents and potential liabilities. Westbrook utilizes Montgomery County snow removal for the long access road/parking lot and walkways and the Church contracts with a private snow removal service for the parking areas and walkways.--both of which we have no control.
- Our policies are continually reviewed and WCC consistently arrives at the conclusion that it is best to follow MCPS' policy for financial and liability considerations, our inability to manage or assess "real time" ground or transportation issues, and most importantly, for prioritizing the safety of our students and staff.

Stay informed this winter of any closures or abbreviated schedules by following local news/social media and keep an eye out for our communications, barring any power or internet outages. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Stay warm and safe!

Best,

School Wide News

Westbrook Campus Closed May 14th

A teacher  
takes a hand,  
opens a mind,  
and touches a heart.

WCC was recently informed that we are required to close the Westbrook campus on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, for Primary Election Voting Day. The Westbrook campus will not be able to have in-class instruction. Westbrook staff will report to the Circle campus to work on student assessments. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

## Abbreviated Daily Attendance



We ask that when your child has an appointment which requires them not to attend school full day to please make appointments, when possible, first thing in the morning or late afternoon so that they do not miss vital instruction and not disruptive to your child or the class.

## 2024-25 School Year Placements

As of now, next year WCC will have two rooms of 2 year-olds, three rooms of 3 year-olds, and two rooms of 4 year olds. Placement letters were emailed February 2nd so please keep an out for information on your child's placement.



### Dragonfly Class

In January we learned about hibernation, penguins, polar bears, the Arctic and Antartica, the Great White Continent. Students completed several dictations and the classroom is filled with several projects. For science, students learned about winter weather and snowflakes.

The children did a water experiment to learn

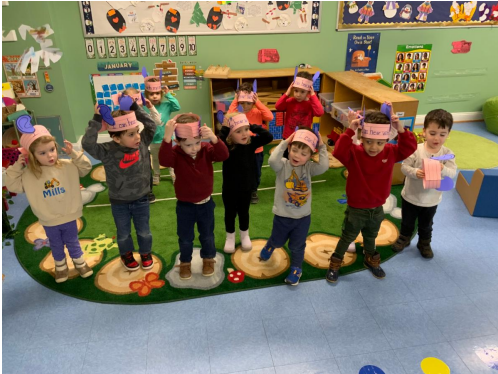


The Dragonflies enjoyed the snow with lots of snowballs and jumping and building in the snow.

In February, we will study space and learn about our amazing universe. The children will learn about planets, the Milky Way, gravity and space travel and continue working on our ABC books.



the freezing point of water with a classroom thermometer. Students continued work on alphabet books, played number and shape games and participated in daily handwriting activities. The Dragonflies also continued with 'Family Sharing' with Lucas and Mateo family sharing.



### Ducklings Class

Last month the Ducklings learned about what we wear in the winter (jackets, gloves, hats, pants, mittens, boots), and arctic animals (polar bears, penguins, seal lions, etc.).

Dragonflies will celebrate Black History month by learning about several famous African-American musicians, authors and scientists. We will also celebrate and learn about the Chinese New Year and GroundHog Day!



We created lots of snowmen and played with fake snow in our sensory bin. We worked on using our five senses and learning their importance as well as finishing learning about bears hibernating. In February, we will learn about dinosaurs and other animals that hibernate.



### Starfish Class

During the month of January the Starfish were busy learning about hibernation and created a classroom cave which they enjoyed with stuffed animals from home.

Students learned about migration and adaptation and used a writing prompt, "What is migration"? Students completed science experiments to learn freezing, melting, solids, and liquids. The Starfish observed what happens when ice



The Starfish ended the month learning about polar regions-- the Arctic and Antarctica. The Starfish set up a center in their classroom that was messy but fun using shaving cream to practice writing letters and words.

This February, the Starfish will learn about health/nutrition and inventions by exploring the food pyramid, learning about different layers of the body and organs as well as inventors and their inventions.



cubes are placed in hot water verses cold. They made predictions before the experiment and observations afterwards. The Starfish read thermometers by recording temperatures and then learned which thermometer temperature was greater.



### Bumble Bee Class

For the month of January, the Bumblebees utilized fine motor manipulatives to improve handwriting through arts and small groups. We focused on a wintry theme such as winter clothes, snowmen, and yummy wintry treats!

Along with arts, the Bumblebees focused on improving cognitive development skills when practicing letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and sorting/counting objects as our daily routine.



Lastly, we explored science by creating experiments that begin with the letters of the week (L, M) such as lava lamps and magnetic fields!

For the month of February, we will focus on letters N, O, P, & Q and heartwarming projects that fall under the Valentine's Day theme! We will also continue to focus on strengthening our literacy development through show and tell, books and other manipulatives.



### Teddy Bear's Class



February is Dental Hygiene Month so will



In January we added more math movement activities and science projects as well as "Good Morning Yoga" to our morning circle time. We also added 'Show and Tell' to our Friday circle Time and students love sharing special items with the class.

This month and next will focus on colors and flat and solid shapes. In addition, we will explore outer space and dinosaurs.



### Bunnies Class

In the month of January, the Bunnies discussed what is winter, looking at the different arctic animals and the sound they made. We continue focusing on children's fine motor and social skills.

have lessons on tooth brushing and healthy eating.



### Leopard's Class

Winter came in with a blast and the



Leopards took advantage of the snowy weather by having fun with science and exploring the snow. They did "Freeze and Melt" projects to observe the transformation of liquids to solids and to learn how ice can melt. Ice Sculpting, bringing the snow inside for snow play, ice melt painting and making ice cream were a few. We also took our third observation walk and noticed/recorded the changes we saw.

Group discussions included the water cycle, how snow and ice are formed, the freezing point of 32 degrees and where precipitation comes from. We also enjoyed a Family Sharing with Bell and grandma and had a PEACE Day to learn about the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In the math corner the Leopards counted in groups of four, worked on addition/subtraction equations with snowmen, reviewed/counted with ten frames, did numeral writing and sequencing. We will continue our math studies this month.

For language arts the Leopards are writing out their random sight words, building short sentences, doing early reading activities and their Letter of the Week projects. (J, I, N, Q) rhyming family sight words will be added to our ongoing list.



## Meet Janetta "Tia" Canty-Rivers

Janetta Canty-Rivers has been in the field of childcare and preschool teaching for 30 years. She has worked for WCC for 15 years, primarily with the two-year olds. Her favorite part of being a teacher is being able to witness student curiosity and to see little minds grow and evolve daily and quickly.

### Q&A With Tia and Westy

What piece of advice have you been given that serves you best?



Patience is a virtue

What show are you currently watching?

Empire

What artist would you most like to see perform?

New Edition

What television series are your favorites?

Chicago Fire, Chicago PD and Chicago Med

What are your lucky numbers?

5 and 55

What are some of your favorite smells?

Cookies and candles

Tell us what is something you love to do on the

weekends? Hang out with girlfriends

What are you most grateful for?

My daughter

What is your guilty pleasure?

There's nothing quite like ice cream

Tell us about one of the hardest things you have had to overcome?

Hands down the death of my father

How do you best relax?

I unwind in peace and solitude

What music genre puts you in an immediate good mood?

I love smooth jazz

Thanks, Tia, for sharing yourself with us. Let's get a double scoop together soon. I can taste the chocolate peanut butter and butter pecan on a sugar cone now! Your friend, Westy



## WCC Apparel for Every Season

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. 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.*



## Love is in the

Love is in the air and we can't wait to share it with you at WCC's Happy Valentine's Dance and Silent Auction! Join us Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 5-7:30 pm in the Circle campus social hall.

This is the perfect opportunity to show your support and help raise funds for recreational equipment. For just a \$50 immediate family members can enjoy a fun-filled evening complete with hit music,



festive decorations, delicious pizza, refreshing drinks, and juicy Chik-fil-A. A cash bar will be available.

Don't miss the chance to see our students dressed to "trip the light fantastic" and dance and spread joy while making a difference in our preschool community. Registration closes Thursday, February 8th. <https://forms.gle/qszaPqgV6tKCcHdS7>. No walk-ins will be accepted.

If you would like to volunteer and/or donate to our silent auction, please contact: [Laylamgibbons@gmail.com](mailto:Laylamgibbons@gmail.com).

*Also, Valentine's Day class parties will be held as well. Your student's teacher will provide additional information soon.*

## WCC's 2024 Summer Camp Registration Open -- *For WCC Current Families Only*

Camp Westmoreland applications are now available via [www.wccbethesda.com](http://www.wccbethesda.com) or: <https://form.jotform.com/240244568179160>

As a current WCC family, your family has first opportunity to register until February 29th. Hurry, don't delay, camp fills up fast!





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## February is Black History Month

This year's theme for Black History Month is "African Americans and the Arts". The theme promotes and displays art as a platform for social justice. Carter G. Woodson, historian and founder of Black History Month said, "Those who have no record of what their forebearers have accomplished use the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

**February 10** - Fundraiser – St. Valentine's Dance and Silent Auction, 5-7:30 pm in the Circle Campus Social Hall, See article above.

**February 14** - Valentine's Day

**February 16** - Parent-Teacher Conferences - **WCC Closed**

**February 19** - Presidents Day - **WCC Closed**

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





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

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