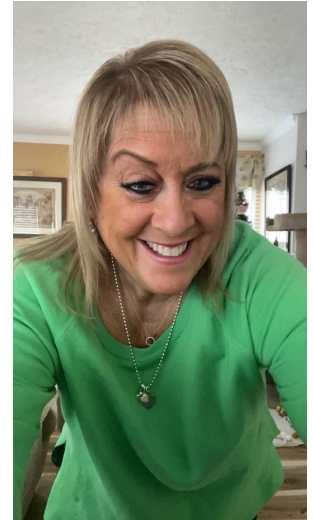




The Village of WCC in Action

Trite as it may sound, it really does take a village to build and foster a community. Ours is the **Village of WCC**. Staff's primary jobs are as administrators and educators. We are not professional fundraisers, event planners, IT specialists, etc. We rely and sincerely appreciate when the **Village of WCC** helps us to fill in our needs/gaps and with such glad hearts.

Case in point: the Valentine's Day Dance and Silent Auction was a tremendous success with the oversight and assistance of the WCC's Fundraising Committee comprised of Layla Gibbons, Mara Weinstein, Christine Roddy, and Neal Kumar and a host of hands-on volunteers which made the event successful and fun for all who attended but most especially for our students. With your item donations and bidding on the items, the Silent Auction raised \$2,100 for outdoor recreation equipment and needs. We could not do this without your never ending support and help. I also wish to thank the staff volunteers who helped plan, execute, attend, and work the party. Our students love to see you in "party form" dancing and playing games.



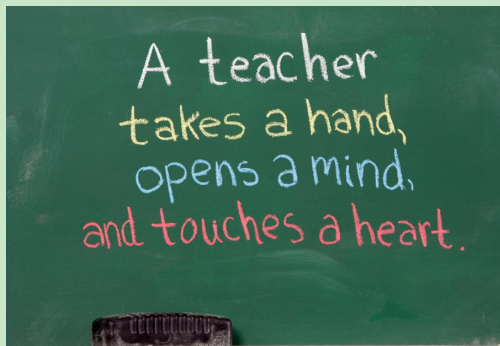
The games, dancing, music and food/drink all added to the fun and your children looked A-DOR-ABLE! Check out some event pictures below. We may have budding John Travolta's and Beyonce's in our midst.

On a much sadder note, I would like to thank the entire **Village of WCC** for their support and understanding as we shared in the sorrow of our teacher Sabina Manda whose young son Khalid died tragically late last month. Your cards, donations, flowers, and well wishes mean a great deal to Sabina. And it keeps coming--a Meal Train has been established to help Sabina and her son Justin for the next few weeks at: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/mo802k>. Your continued support of Sabina and her family has been something in awe to witness and we are humbled by your generosity and outpouring of help. YOU are the **Village of WCC** at its finest.

Best,



Valentine's Day Party Pictures



School Wide News

Westbrook Campus Closed May 14th

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 Enrollment-- Limited Spots Remain



We are near full capacity for next school year with only a few open positions available. If you or your friends/neighbors have yet to register, it is suggested to do so by visiting our website for registration as soon as possible.



Dragonfly Class

To recap February, we ventured into another world, the Milky Way. We read non-fiction space books, played with space manipulatives, played a solar system game where the children replicated the planets that orbit the sun, watched real space travel and planetary footage from NASA--we even transformed our classroom into a planetarium! The Dragonflies have been so enamored with space that we truly believe, in the years to come, one of our Dragonflies will become an astronaut!

The Dragonflies celebrated the Chinese New Year, Ground Hog Day and Valentine's Day with a class party. We celebrated Black History month by reading pre-k books about



Dragonflies continued...

During the month, the children also continued working on letter recognition, phonics, rhyming, writing, number recognition 1-20, subsidizing 1-10, simple patterns and shape recognition. As an extended learning experience, the children continued to observe the freezing point of water with our playground water experiment plus learned about rainbows and we grew a rainbow for an experiment!

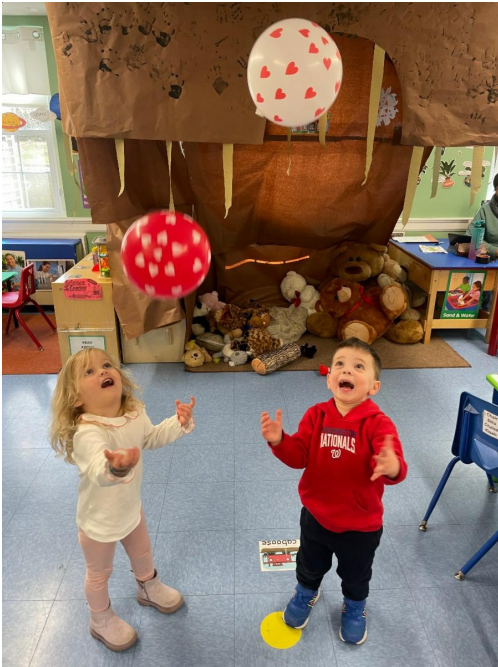
The Dragonfly teachers on February 16th met with Dragonfly parents to discuss mid-year reports from the Creative Curriculum. Looking ahead to March, the Dragonflies will become paleontologists and learn all

inclusion and also about several famous African American's. We listened and danced to music by Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington to name just a few.

about the giant lizards of the past, Dinosaurs!

We will also celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with a "Cat In The Hat Party" and the children will share stories with classmates that they have "written" and illustrated . Mid March, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with holiday crafts and a leprechaun treasure hunt.

Pictures above.



Ducklings Class

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 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.



Ducklings continued...

To celebrate Black History Month, the Duckling class did lots of dancing to multiple African beats and were able to choose which songs they enjoyed the most. They also looked at images of African musicians playing their instruments to make music during circle time.

We are happy to say we have also been able to spend the majority of February outside for free play! In March, we will celebrate Dr.Seuss week, St. Patrick's Day, and learn about space!

Pictures above.



Starfish Class

In February the Starfish were very busy! They explored two themes - Health/Nutrition and Engineering and Inventions and learned about the food pyramid and explored the six major food groups.

The Starfish expanded their health/nutrition theme by learning about the human body and explored the skeletal and cardiovascular systems by looking at expanded x-ray images. Starfish also learned about engineering/inventors such as Alexander Graham Bell and the invention of the telephone. They created their own cell phones and used addition problems to decode a special telephone number. Our Starfish also learned about Garrett Morgan and the invention of the traffic light along with Thomas Edison and the light bulb. As budding inspired inventors, they created their own inventions in the classroom with toothpicks and marshmallows to make their own houses!



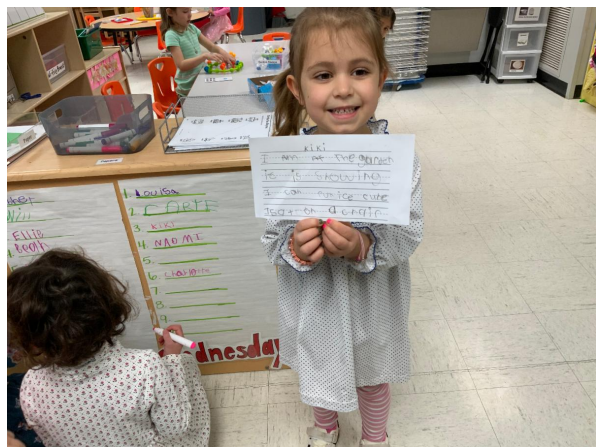
Starfish continued...

Starfish learned three new letters; Jj, Gg and Kk, three new sight words: is, stop and go and a new word family "op". They continued working with 1:1 correspondence and practiced skip counting by 5's and 10's.

This month students will learn about the rainforest by exploring the four layers which makeup the rainforest, which plants and animals live there, and learn new science words: organisms, biodiversity and habitat.

In addition, Starfish will learn three new letters: Yy, Uu and Ww. They will learn two new sight words: like and you and a new word family "og". They will learn about different types of measurement and continue working with patterns.

Pictures above and below.





Bumblebee Class

For the month of February the Bumblebees are completing their letters N, O, P, and Q. We focused on phonics, letter recognition and improving handwriting skills! We created heartwarming Valentine's Day projects and relative activities.

In March, we will continue to focus on strengthening our literacy development through show and tell, books and other manipulatives. In addition, the Bumblebees will explore St. Patrick's Day, Community helpers, plant life cycles, and caterpillars life cycle. We will encourage more family sharing during these thematic weeks to get the involvement from our community.



Bumblebee's continued...

The Bumblebees will continue focusing on phonemic awareness, letter recognition, improving fine motor/handwriting skills, and alphabet letters R, S, T, and U. We will do this while also incorporating math into our lessons.

Pictures below.





Teddy Bear's Class

The Teddies were busy this February exploring outer space and identifying and comparing flat and solid shapes. We had a Lunar New Year party complete with Teddy Bear sized chop sticks.

After spending the week week of Valentine's with all things hearts in our learning centers, we reinforced color recognition and color mixing. We finished the month with the ever popular unit on Dinosaurs.

In March we plan on celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday and St. Patrick's Day.

Pictures above, below, and on right.





Bunnies Class

In the month of February, the Bunnies focused on identifying various shapes around the classroom with their friends. We started to incorporate phonics, along with number sequencing in our daily circle time routine. The Bunnies enjoyed celebrating our Valentine's Day party in the classroom with other heartfelt arts and craft projects.



Bunnies continued....

Lastly, the Bunnies focused on recognizing all the five senses by incorporating engaging activities.

Photos above.



Leopard's Class

February brought more festivities as the Leopards celebrated the Chinese New Year during a Family Sharing with Josie and her mom, Ms. Layla. Leopard's also had a Family Sharing with Ellie and Ms. Sarah, who brought the meaning of LOVE to the Leopards and encouraged us to spread love everywhere!

There were two corresponding units, "Love Is Grand" and The Polar Regions, followed by a fun party hosted by room mom Ms. Emily. The Leopards enjoyed learning about which animals inhabit each region, what a polar climate is and how life sustains itself in the coldest parts of our planet. They made creative arctic animal projects, had an igloo building contest to work further with measurements (non-standard) and sizes, and learned the similarities and differences between the Arctic and Antarctica.



Leopards continued...

In the math, science and language arts, the children worked on building their own equations, adding with groups of six, writing At Family Sight Words and more. We recently acknowledged the literary works of Dr. Seuss and celebrated two additional STARS in the Leopard's class. We are excited about the fun spring days ahead and will enjoy a treasure hunt for St. Patrick's Day and learn the science of colors and 3-Dimensional shapes.

Pictures to the left, above and below.



Meet Ann Kelley

Ann Kelly (pictured above from a Dr. Seuss birthday celebration last year) has been a teacher at Westmoreland Children's Center for almost fifteen years. She is the Teddy Bear lead teacher. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland in English Literature. Later she achieved her Children Development Associate (CDA) certificate in 2010. Ann and her husband have

raised three children and have two granddaughters.

Q&A With Ann and Westy

What is one thing you wish you knew when you were younger?

Say yes to new opportunities!

If you could go back in time and do something you used to love to do, what would that be?

Swing on a tire swing.

What talent would you like to have?

To fly!

What is your road trip essential?

A good mystery book on Audible.

Tell us one of your favorite smells?

The back of an infant's neck.

What is your favorite cuisine?

Italian.

What can't you live without?

Coffee.

What's a sound that drives you crazy?

Home generators in use, especially in the summer when power goes out in our neighborhood.

Where would you love to travel?

I would love to travel to Australia/New Zealand, Scandinavia and Patagonia.

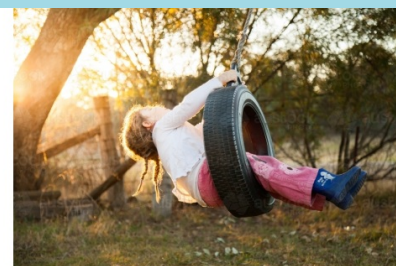
What is the most challenging/best part about being you?

That I'm getting older. It stinks to feel physically diminished but it's great to be smarter.

What's your favorite thing to do on the weekends?

Reading books by FaceTime to my Granddaughters.

I love a good double decaffeinated cappuccino. Let's meet at the coffee station for a "coffee clutch" soon! Your friend and fellow coffee lover, *Westy*





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. 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's 2024 Summer Camp Registration

Camp Westmoreland applications are now available via www.wccbethesda.com or: <https://form.jotform.com/240244568179160> Leap Day, February 29th, was the last day that current WCC families had advance opportunity to register for WCC's highly sought after summer camp. Registration is now open to the general public so if you are interested, hurry and register today!



March is Women's History Month

WCC Dates to Remember

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day (class party information will be provided by classroom teachers)

March 22 - Professional Day (WCC Closed)

March 25 April 1- Spring Break (WCC Closed)



April 2 - WCC reopens

April 15 - Westbrook Picture Day (Details to follow)

April 16 - Circle Picture Day (Details to follow)

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



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