



Everyday Heroes

Like most, I have people I look up to from all walks of life. Heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr., Billie Jean King, Jacques Cousteau, and Neil Armstrong. And then I have my everyday heroes--my parents first and foremost, not a day goes by I don't miss my biggest hero, Dr. Martin Dubner, my dad and biggest cheerleader. My other everyday heroes are teachers, especially our teachers.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week, a special time to honor and recognize the hard work and dedication of educators. Teaching is both challenging and rewarding, requiring a unique blend of skills and passion. WCC teachers play a crucial role in shaping your child's future by inspiring and educating their young mind. I think it takes an extra special person and teacher who educates and believes in play-based learning because it is a physically and mentally demanding career. It also has tremendous rewards as we watch students bloom in their cognitive and social-emotional development from engaging in effective learning experiences. WCC teachers also foster a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

Teacher Appreciation Week provides an opportunity to express gratitude and admiration for the important work our teachers do every day. As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to personally thank the WCC teachers listed below for all they do as our everyday heroes.

I would be remiss if I didn't include our other special everyday heroes--mother's! I cherish and celebrate my terrific mother Miriam, every day, and on behalf of the entire WCC staff, we wish our WCC mother's a memorable and Happy Mother's Day!

Best,



WCC's Everyday Heroes



Sasha Bouvier	Kyla Holt	Jobie Steele
Lakita Burnley	Angie Kamara	Chippi Wims
Jack Cahill	Ann Kelley	Rosario Zurita

Tia Canty-Rivers	Sabina Manda	
Cristina Diaz-Ochoa	Pina Matinata	
Sandra Dove	Madison Pewitt	

Martell Galloway	Neysa Santos	
Wendy Hensley	Alison Smith	<i>Thank you for all you do!</i>
Angela Hill	Dani Soled	

School Wide News

Tuition Reminder

This year's school year's (2023-2024) **final** payment is this month (May). WCC applies your deposit to your June 2024 tuition. Please reach out to WCC's Business Manager, Clare Cahill, with any questions at 301-229-7161 or Clare.Cahill@wccbethesda.com.

Family Satisfaction Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the annual WCC Family Satisfaction Survey. We use your feedback to make improvements and sincerely appreciate your valuable input. Surveys are due by May 30. Thank you, in advance, for your participation. Please click here for the survey link.

<https://form.jotform.com/241207344981153>

End-of-the Year Picnic

Please pack a picnic and blankets/chairs and join us on Thursday, June 6th (weather permitting) from 5-7:30 pm at the Westmoreland Hills Park to celebrate the end-of-the school year and to welcome incoming families.

WCC will provide dessert and we will once again have *Ultimate Fun and Games* on hand to engage students in games and fun activities.

Westbrook Campus Closed May 14th

WCC's Westbrook campus (only) will be closed Tuesday, May 14, 2024, for Primary Election Voting Day. We regret any inconvenience.

Few Placements Remain for 2024-25 School Year

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 today!

WCC Classroom News

Bunnies

In April, the children explored the wonderful adventures of spring and outer space. We went on nature walks to see the first signs of spring along with enjoying the beautiful weather with our friends on the playground. We did some fun activities exploring sensory skills using shaving cream. We each planted our own flowers - some friends' flowers have already begun sprouting!

The Bunnies used their their imagination to become astronauts traveling through space when learning about the eight planets through story time and songs. We transformed our dramatic play area into our own space station and pretended to walk on the moon. Our Bunnies love having family sharing's! The children enjoyed parents/grandparents visiting with fun craft projects.





Bumble Bees

We continued to focus on phonemic awareness in April, and letter recognition to encourage pre-literacy skills; while also refining fine motor/handwriting skills, when completing letters V, W, X, Y. We encouraged strengthening letter recognition and pre-reading skills through engaging literacy activities. Letter of the week and *Show and Shares* will continue throughout the school year to encourage a strong foundation in understanding the sounds of language and how they relate to letters.

The Bees will continue following the theme of *Springtime Adventures* this month. We continue to nurture early literacy and language skills through interactive phonics activities such as *Show and Share*, story time sessions, and imaginative play. Each day, our little learners will embark on new adventures in letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and early emergent reading as we come to the end of the alphabet. As last month, we will discover more about the fascinating world of insects and nature through the magical life cycle of butterflies! We will craft colorful butterflies, read butterfly-themed stories, and even observe real butterflies up close in our classroom - how cool! Other themes will focus on including the continuation of space, butterflies and transportation with a variety of engaging activities that foster curiosity, creativity, and learning!

Additionally, we'll celebrate the love and warmth of mother figures on Mother's Day with special crafts and activities that honor their boundless love and support.

Lastly, our little mathematicians will continue their number journey through the exploration of shapes, counting, sorting, pattern recognition, exciting simple math games and activities!

Dragonflies

Last month was a celebration of "Everything Spring" for the



Dragonflies! The children learned about different types of spring weather, learned to identify several types of common flowers, insects, and birds. To reinforce our topics, we did many classroom activities to help extend the children's knowledge:

- We made our own classroom rain cloud, planted, and grew green beans and grass plus learned all about the parts of a flower.
- We conducted several absorption activities to demonstrate how plant roots work and the importance of having healthy soil.
- Observed our classroom Painted Lady Butterflies, painted their own birdhouses, and had a chance to meet Mr. Jingles (Ms. Wendy's cockatiel) that came for a visit.

The Dragonflies celebrated Earth Day by reading, "The Earth and I, Recycle and Thank You World". In circle time, after reading the stories, the children offered ways in which they could help our planet! During our earth celebration day, the children created art by using plastic water bottles to make beautiful flower prints. Lastly, to highlight the importance of nature on Earth Day, we spent almost the entire day outside!

In addition to our "Everything Spring" theme in April, the children continued with the academics of our curriculum. The children worked on name writing, phonics, rhyming, lacing, cutting, following directions, self-help skills, patterns, number identification and counting plus shape recognition. We also did several group activities to help promote kindness and empathy to all living things.

Looking ahead for this month, the Dragonflies will finish their ABC books, learn about the ocean in a mini unit "Under the Sea", and celebrate Mother's Day with a Mother's Day Tea! Towards the end of May, the Dragonflies will have an end-of-the-year pizza & piñata party at Glen Echo Park on Friday, May 31st to close out a fantastic school year!

Lastly, Ms. Wendy's bird 'Mr. Jingle' (pictured bottom right) was a big hit!



Ducklings

In April, the Ducklings focused on the themes: weather, plants/flowers, insects, and birds. We discussed the weather by singing a variety of weather songs, watching educational videos about rainstorms, and reading a mountain of books. The children created many art projects such as making clouds, umbrellas,



raindrops and more.

We introduced our springtime topics by enjoying nature walks observing flowers, plants, birds, and bugs using our five senses. The children learned about the plant life cycle, were able to explore a garden sensory bin, and participate in many art projects such as making sunflowers using real sunflower seeds and painting grass using forks. During our circle time portions of the day, we read several books about plants and shared a video/song about the parts of a flower.

As we moved into the insect's theme, the Duckling team introduced our class to caterpillars and created an insect sensory bin for the children to explore. The children were incredibly excited to see the changes in the caterpillars throughout the weeks as we learned about the life cycle of a butterfly through a chart and stories. They also learned about ladybugs, bumblebees, inchworms, and ants which were all accompanied by fun art projects as well. To finish the month of April, we discussed different types of birds! To introduce the theme, Ms. Wendy brought in her pet bird, Mr. Jingle (pictured above), to share with the class. Our class was also able to feel feathers on fake birds and play in the bird bath water sensory bin. They thoroughly enjoyed reading about different types of birds and listening to the different types of sounds each bird can make.

Last month, we also celebrated Earth Day! The children learned about how trees and animals are good for the planet and how people can keep the planet safe. Everyone enjoyed a special snack (dirt pudding) as they also wore their plant life cycle hats.

Our themes this month will be bunnies, opposites, community helpers, and transportation. The Duckling team will provide lots of hands-on activities, fun stories, and art projects related to the topics. As always, we will continue to work with the children on improving their self-help skills, counting, letter recognition, patterns and more.

In April, we continued to focus on phonemic awareness, and letter recognition to encourage pre-literacy skills; while also refining fine motor/handwriting skills, when completing letters V, W, X, Y. We encouraged strengthening letter recognition and pre-reading skills through engaging literacy activities. Letter of the week and *Show and Shares* will continue throughout the school year to encourage a strong foundation in understanding the sounds of language.





Leopards

The Leopards enjoyed a variety of *Family Sharing's* starting with Ms. Anna and Sofia, who told of their exciting travels in Turkey and Italy, followed by Belle, Ms. Jessica and Mr. Jeremy, who came to share the traditions of the Passover holiday. Soon after we were visited by Lyla's family, where her grandmother shared her experiences working for NASA helping to design and build satellites. Together Lyla's family, Ms. Liz, Mr. Ian and grandma gave an exciting demonstration showing how a solar eclipse takes place.

The Leopards enjoyed a "spacey day" as they anxiously waited for the real solar eclipse to take place. Later in the month Charlotte and her mom, Ms. Clare, visited to give a fantastical presentation on the magical world of fairies. They invited the class to use their own imaginations while exploring the outdoors and creating their own fairy homes. Our final *Family Sharing* in April was given by Max and his parents, Ms. Cristin and Mr. Neal, who helped all of the children at Westbrook plant a garden in the front of our school to honor Earth Day. We can't wait to see it grow!

The children also covered themes that focused on the weather, to learn about the seasonal spring changes taking place outside, also opposites to learn about spatial awareness and improve sight word recognition. They had a fun "Nighty Night Pajama Day Party" and loved talking about how shadows are formed and the importance of the sun during the unit. Next, they had a lesson on commerce as they covered a money unit and went shopping in our classroom market to learn the value of coins and bills. We ended the month celebrating Earth Day and talking about the importance of conservation, recycling and ways we can make our planet better. We also did additional planting and recycling activities.

The Leopards continue to work on math, writing, language arts and science regularly. Our letters for the month were U, O, M and Y. We added the sight words 'Up, Down, Fast, Slow, You and Can' to our ongoing list and used them during early reading activities with the children. We had two more *STAR of the Week* celebrations and we look forward to discovering two more rhyming Family Sight Words



this month as well as completing our ten frame math activities (groups 6-10) plus learning about more spring topics including how seeds grow, what happens in the garden and a unit on polygons.



Starfish

The Starfish were very busy last month! They started off learning and exploring insects and made a class chart as a large group and came up with three criteria for insects; “what they can do”, “what they have” and “what they are”. One of the insects they focused on during this theme was ladybugs. As a language arts activity everyone wrote down one fact they learned. Afterwards, they created their own ladybugs using classroom supplies such as paper plates, fasteners, pipe cleaners and more! During their unit learning about insects the Starfish looked at the anatomy of different insects using their classroom projector.



In April the Starfish also explored space. They learned about the order of each planet by making their own 3D solar system and created their own constellations. The Starfishes wrapped up learning the space unit by launching rockets and making rocket ship fruit kabobs for a snack, yummy! April ended with “Earth Day” and the Starfish were hands-on in participating in keeping our planet green! They learned about recycling, completed a science experiment on how water filters work and wrapped up creating their own recycled art! A few other skills the Starfish learned/worked on were three new letters, three new sight words, and 1:1 correspondence counting to 30.



This month, the Starfish will learn about art/expression and shapes. They will explore the color wheel, primary and secondary colors, 3D shapes, the science behind light and color and a few famous artists; Jackson Pollock, Wassily Kandinsky and Mary Cassatt. They will begin their “Guest Reading” segment this month and celebrate all of the wonderful parents in their class this year on May 10th with a “Parent’s Day Breakfast at 9:30am. A few other skills the Starfish will work on this month are three new sight words: “and” “he” “she”. odd/even math skills, sight word sentences and a new word family- “ig”.



Teddy Bears



This month the Teddies will be busy with their Mother's Day planning and celebration. We will invite the mom's to come for coffee and strawberries and a chance to visit with other mother's in the class.

We will also take a closer look at bug/insect life and finish the month taking advantage of building sites in the area, exploring construction sites and equipment.



Pizza Anyone?

Who doesn't love a good pepperoni pizza especially when you can enjoy it for a good cause? WCC's Fundraising Committee has organized an event at Pete's New Haven Style Pizza on Monday, May 13th where WCC receives 25% of the proceeds for online and store orders (no third party applications such as Door Dash or Uber Eats) when WCC is mentioned.



There are no time restrictions since our fundraiser is eligible the entire day while Pete's is open from 11-9pm. Just mention that you are ordering for WCC whether online or in person. Online visit: <https://petesapizza.com>

Thank you for your support and enjoy your slice of heaven--whatever your favorite toppings are!

Westy wants to know--does pineapple belong on pizza? Results next month!

Yes

No

Get to Know Neysa Santos

Neysa is from Guatemala and extremely proud of her roots and to be a Latina. Neysa loves being bilingual and being able to share her Spanish language with the children and parents. Neysa is completing second year at WCC as part of the Dragonfly team at the Circle campus.



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Neysa enjoys working with children and has done so for over the past dozen years. Neysa is family orientated; comes from a big family and is an aunt to four girls and two boys. Neysa is a nature enthusiast, taking walks and exploring new trails with her fur baby Blu (see his cute smiling picture below). She is creative and enjoys painting, music, Legos, and swimming in her free time.

Westy Sits Down With Neysa

What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome?
Parasailing 800 feet over the beach! I love it now.

What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" - *Proverbs 3:5*

Is there something you like that nobody would believe you do?
Country music.

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?
Watch a classic Disney channel movie on Friday nights.

If you could have any talent or skill, what would that be?
Play the saxophone.

What is one of your favorite books?
'The Comeback' by Lily Chu.

What is the best show you binged watched in the last two years? *American Horror Story*

What would you like to tell your younger self? *Take and enjoy more naps!*

What song instantly puts you in a good mood? *Bad Bunny - Ensename a Bailar*

What's your favorite way to unwind after a long day? *A good meal with my husband and maybe throw in a blockbuster movie.*

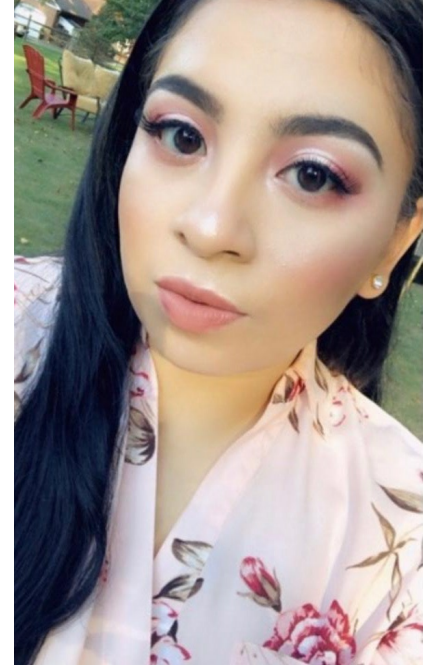
If you could see any musician/group perform, dead or alive, who would that be? *Rauw Alejandro. I have been to two of his concerts and to this day I wish I could go back to relive that experience.*

What are a few of your favorite smells? *Champagne Toast from Bath and Body Works, Daisy by Marc Jacobs, and Flowerbomb by Viktor & Rolf.*

What is your favorite bucket list accomplishment? *Whitewater tubing. It was extremely scary and I will never do it again!*

What scares you?
Definitely drowning and mice!

Which well-known person would you most like to have a drink with? *Bad Bunny.*



What is your favorite cuisine/dish?
My mother's Guatemalan tamales.

What is the most challenging and best part about being you?
I love easily.

My favorite guilty pleasure is:
Sliced honey crisp apples with fresh lime juice and a pinch of salt. Yum!

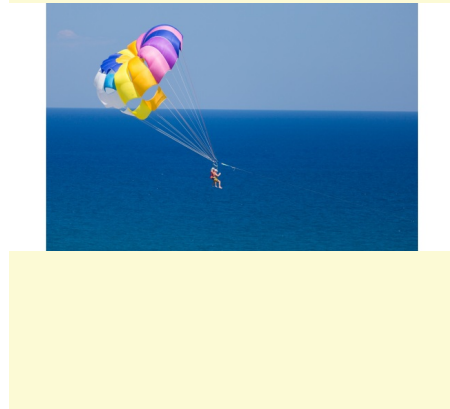
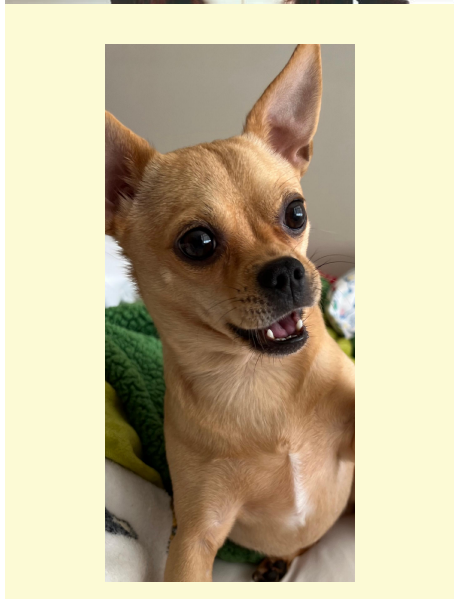
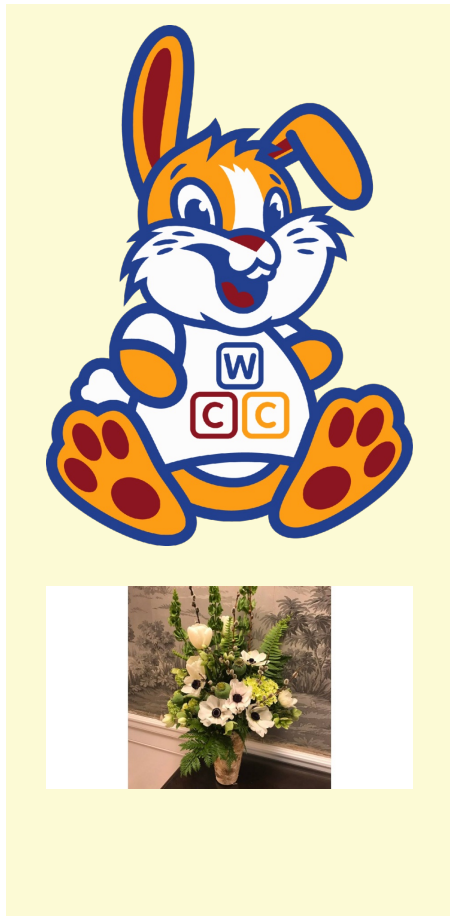
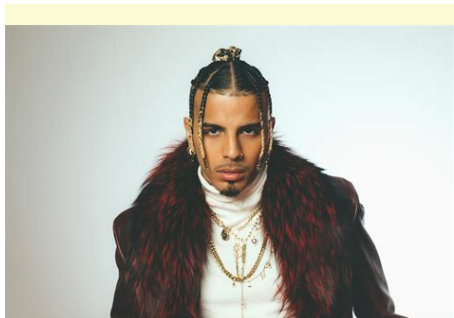
What could you not live without?
God and my family.

What tv series are your favorites?
Stranger Things, The Vampire Diaries, and Dexter.

What is a sentimental item that has no value except to you? I still have my pink flowered shirt I wore for my first day of kindergarten.

What's your favorite thing you like to do on the weekends?
Buy flowers and make my own seasonal flower arrangements for my home.

Neysa, I can sometimes be a 'Bad Bunny' :) but on most days I'm a 'Good Bunny'. Would you like to have a drink with me? Can you bring Blu with you? Your 'Good Bunny' friend, Westy



WCC's 2024 Summer Camp Registration; Final Payment Due

"Making Memories That Last a Lifetime" --Camp Westmoreland applications are now available at www.wccbethesda.com or: <https://form.jotform.com/240244568179160> The two's camper's class if full; spaces available in 3's and 4's. Enroll today to guarantee your child's placement and a summer of fun!

For those for who have already registered their camper, final payment is due by May 10th. Please send your check to WCC, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD, 20816.

Additional camp information will be provided by email next week. Also, now's the time to order *optional* WCC gear for your summer camper! If you're interested, please visit: <https://wcc-backtoschool.itemorder.com>



WCC Dates to Remember

May is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month

May 10 - WCC Closes at 3:30 pm for Teacher Appreciation Dinner

May 12 - Mother's Day

May 13 - Pizza Fundraiser at Pete's New Haven Style Pizza. See corresponding article above.

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 in article above.

June 10 - Starfish Graduation, Circle Social Hall, 10-11 am. Details to follow.

June 11 - Leopard's Graduation, Circle Social Hall, 10-11 am. Details to follow.

June 12 - WCC Closes for the School Year, 12 pm/noon.





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