



WESTERN SALISBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3201 Devonshire Road, Allentown PA 18103
(610) 797-1688 www.stsd.org/WSE

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Western Families,

We are certainly being kept on our toes with the unpredictable weather. Late starts and closures have us all listening for those early morning phone calls from Dr. Ziegenfuss. **This Friday, February 16th, will be our first Snow Make-Up Day. Please remember that the children have a 1:00 PM dismissal on that day.**

February is a busy month for us at WSE. Our 5th grade has been studying body systems and as part of their work, they created projects and reports. A visit from, Dr. Fitzsimmons enhanced their understanding. Their work was on display at WSE on Thursday, February 8th. I hope you had a chance to visit. In conjunction with their academic study, the 5th graders organized a community blood drive. They created posters, sign-up sheets, and a commercial for the district's RCN television network publicizing the drive. What an outstanding job they did!

Meanwhile, our kindergarteners were making a splash in the fashion world. To celebrate the 100th day of school, kindergarteners created a costume of 100 items and then modeled their costumes in a 100th Day Fashion Show on February 9th. Their families were very proud of their outfits and the program of songs and chants the children presented. The Kindergarten 100th Day Fashion Show is always a highlight, not only because it showcases our children's imagination, but also because it marks the fact that we are a little more than half-way through the school year. Where has the time gone?

Second grade concluded their study of animals and their habitats with the annual Penguins on Parade event on Friday, February 2nd. Ask a second grader about penguins and you will be surprised at what you learn!

On Thursday, 2/21 our first graders will celebrate their unit on America, particularly their study of the American Presidents, Washington and Lincoln, by re-creating log cabins. Be sure to ask a first grader about these presidents!

Third grade has been using an App called See Saw to share their work with Ms. Saxman, Mr. Somishka, their parents and their peers. Receiving online feedback on their work is a new experience for this age group and something about which they have been very excited.

Something unusual that fourth grade was been involved in was a Virtual Field Trip to Philadelphia with the author of the amazing "I Survived" book series to learn more about the American Revolution. Teachers and students reported, "We had a blast!"

Our Student Lighthouse Team took center stage at the PTA Potluck Dinner meeting on Tuesday, February 6th. The team created a presentation about the Leader in Me initiative in which our district elementary schools have been involved for several years. They explained that one component of the Leader in Me is to encourage families to create a Family Mission/Purpose Statement. You may be familiar with the idea of a Purpose/Mission Statement as a corporate tool that helps a company focus on where they are going and how they are going to get there. A Family Mission/Purpose Statement is similar. It is a statement that helps children learn and remember the ideals and values that are important in their family. Most children learn what their parents think is important by watching their parents interactions with others, or because a specific event

warranted a conversation between parent and child. However, sitting down as a family and having the conversation outside of the emotions of an event is a valuable experience for children. You may wish to set aside a special time for the conversation, but a more reasonable approach with today's fast-paced families' schedules may be to make this a dinner table conversation across several evenings. Experts recommend beginning with questions that get everyone thinking and synergizing, such as:

What are 3 adjectives we hope people use to describe our family?

How is our family unique?

What are 2 strengths each of us contribute to our family?

When is our family at our best?

When is our family at our worst?

What are 3 ways we could improve as a family?

How do we help people outside of our family?

After a few dinner conversations around these topics, you will have a sense of how to frame your Family Purpose/Mission Statement. Ultimately, it should reflect the most important principle(s) you want to instill in your children. It might be a phrase, a sentence, a list or a paragraph. As long as it captures what is important in your family, it is right for you.

Our Student Lighthouse Team is asking all WSE families to take time this month to create a Family Purpose/Mission Statement. If you feel comfortable sharing your Family Purpose/Mission Statement with us at WSE, please make a copy of it and send it to your child's teacher by the end of the month. We would love to display them around the school (with or without your family name – your preference).

All students will have the opportunity to participate in our Valentine's Day class parties on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 14th. If you prefer that your child not participate in the event, please notify his/her teacher. An alternate fun program will be provided.

Of course, a 2018 February Newsletter would not be complete without a mention of the Eagles' Super Bowl win on Sunday, February 4th! The children were so excited. On Thursday, February 1st Eagles' green was the predominant color at our Sports Jersey Fun Day. And on Friday, February 2nd, the children predicted the Eagles' victory in a school wide vote. We have smart students at WSE!

Multiplicity/Twin Day was another Fun Day for students. They dressed in outfits that matched a friend or teacher. Our Student Lighthouse Team is very creative with Fun Day ideas. Everyone is waiting to learn the theme of the next Student Fun Day!

Congratulations to Mr. Brian Pritchard, our school custodian. Mr. Pritchard was named Salisbury Staffer with the Super Power of Grit in the January voting. Mr. Pritchard keeps our school clean, attractive and healthy through a lot of hard work and high standards. He is always kind to the children and a positive person to be around. Thank you, Mr. Pritchard, for all you do for Western.

Ms. Anderson and Mrs. Wied are currently running the 24 and K'nex Challenges at WSE. Students who were interested signed up for the training and elimination trials that are being conducted in the coming weeks. The winning team will go on to represent WSE at the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit competition in May. Good luck to all the teams!

On Wednesday, February 21st, we will hold Kindergarten Registration for students who wish to be enrolled in kindergarten for the coming year. Since this is an information session, only adults need to attend. Enrolling children are invited to a follow-up session in August, which will include a school tour and a chance to meet the teacher. Parents/guardians are asked to bring birth certificates, immunizations, and 3 proofs of residency on February 21st. The event will begin at 9:30 and finish by 11:00 AM. Please share this information with neighbors and friends.

Please be sure to read the notice sent by Mr. Bill Brackett, Director of School District Facilities, which may be found at this web address: <http://www.salisburysd.us/salisbury-township-school-district-emergency-response-plan/>

It describes the district's Reunification Plan should an emergency warrant a closing of one or more schools.

Read Across America Week begins on Monday, February 26 and culminates on Dr. Seuss' birthday, Saturday, March 2nd. Please make reading a priority in your family. Whether you set aside time for the entire family to read individually, or to read as a family, the rewards are great. As the poet, Jane Baskill writes:

Open a book and you will find
People and places of every kind;
Open a book and you can be
Anything you want to be;
Open a book and you can share
Wondrous worlds you find in there;
Open a book and I will too
You read to me and I'll read to you.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Grace McCausland-Hartman

Grace H. Hartman, Ed.D., Principal

*Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without
leaving happier. ~ Mother Theresa*

HAPPENINGS AROUND WSE

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be held on Wednesday, February 21st from 9:30AM-11:00AM.

1. Students must be 5 years of age on or before August 31st.
2. Registration will include an introduction to WSE, initial paperwork completion, and immunization record review by the school nurse.
3. Please bring your child's Birth Certificate & most recent copy of immunizations.
4. Two proofs of residence will be required.

Any questions? Please contact the school secretary, Mrs. Rothrock at (610) 797-1688.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Thank you to all parents for supporting your child's fundraising efforts with Pennies for Patients. We presented the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with \$2265.46, far exceeding our goal of \$1500! It was a record-breaking year. Your generosity to support medical research in this area shows your caring and follow-through in supporting this worthy cause.

DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Please inform the school of any information that may change (i.e. phone numbers, addresses, or emergency contacts). Also, make sure the school has all of your emergency contacts on file. **We will not** release your child to an individual who you have not given us written permission to do so. This is for the safety of our students.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2/14 Valentine's Day Parties

2/16 Snow Day makeup
Early Dismissal 1pm

2/19 School Closed,
Presidents' Day

2/21 Kindergarten
Registration 9:30-11am

2/21 Curriculum &
Technology Cmte. Mtg @
SHS at 7pm

2/23 Early Dismissal 1pm

2/28 WSE PTA Joe Corbi
Fundraiser pick up 3:30-
5:30pm, WSE Gym

2/26 Read Across America
Week Begins

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES



Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held **Tuesday, March 13th through Friday, March 16th, 2018**. Conference sign ups will begin on Monday, March 3rd and will be conducted using www.signupgenius.com. The sign up link will be sent home through School Messenger and posted on the WSE website.

FACULTY SPECIAL FEATURES By: Mrs. Gaston, Music Teacher



Elementary Music, February 2018

The 5th Grades have been studying about Broadway and how the performers audition and prepare for a part in a musical. The featured song was “Seize the Day” from the Broadway Show, “Newsies”. They watched an interview with the 14-year-old actor who played Les, the youngest in the cast with a major role. They are now watching the movie (which is based on historical facts) and also learning about what a strike and a union are. They will soon use what they have learned about musicals to write their own review as it might be read in a newspaper.

The 4th Grades have been studying about Chinese music. They learned a ribbon dance to perform along with a song called “Mo Li Hua” which means Jasmine Flower. They worked with musical phrasing and were able to identify legato melodies, and reinforced their learning by using ribbon movements to the phrases. In contrast, they have worked with another song entitled, “Feng yang hua gu” which is a Chinese folk song about vendors selling their wares. This was a festive song where the students played bourdons on melodic barred instruments, boom whackers and piano, and rhythms on the triangle and drum. They learned about the different timbres of the instruments and compared them to the Chinese folk instruments of similar genres.

The 3rd Grades are busy learning how to play their recorders and are improving every week. They are eager to show off their new musical skills during their concert in May. There will be more details about that in the next newsletter.

K, 1 and 2 are preparing special songs for their concerts, which are coming up in March. The dates and times are: **WSE-March 28 @ 9:30 am**.

March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) for the observance of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®), the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation. This year, the students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will be invited and encouraged to perform on an instrument, sing or dance and will be videoed and played during the daily announcements. Please speak with your student if they study a band instrument, take piano lessons, sing or study dance. We want to showcase the talents of our young students!

**GRAB YOUR HAT, AND
READ WITH THE CAT!!**
READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK
February 26th-March 2nd



WE IS CELEBRATING!

MONDAY

"The Cat in the Hat"

Wear your favorite HAT



TUESDAY

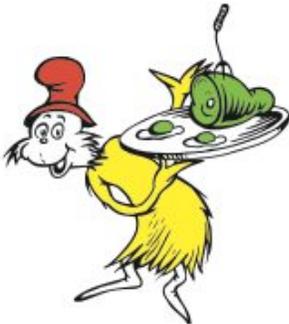
"I Can Read with My Eyes Shut"

Wear a shirt with a SAYING or LOGO
that others can read

WEDNESDAY

"Wacky Wednesday"

Wear MISMATCHED clothes



THURSDAY

"Green Eggs and Ham"

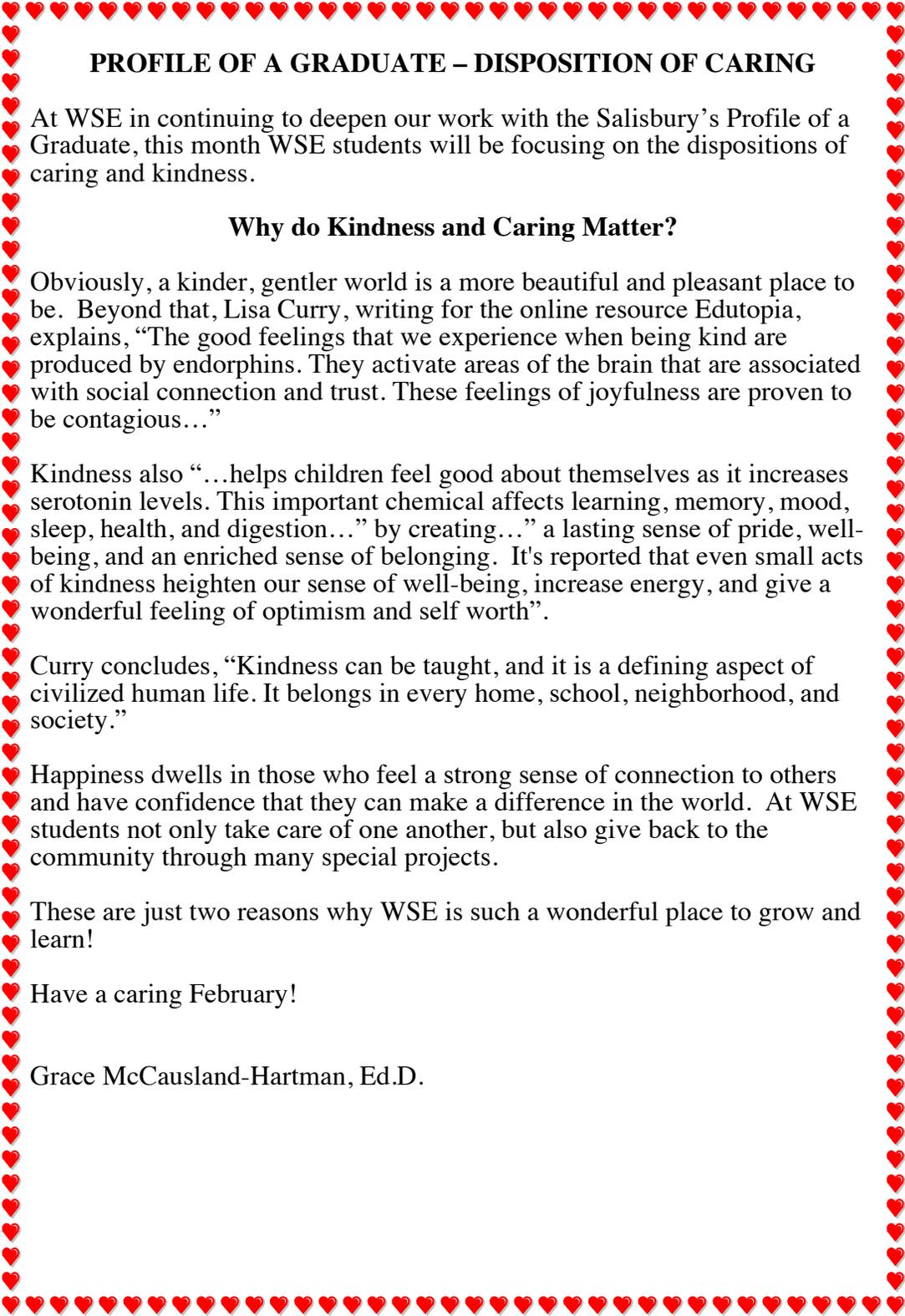
Wear GREEN

FRIDAY

"Fox in Socks"

Wear CRAZY socks





PROFILE OF A GRADUATE – DISPOSITION OF CARING

At WSE in continuing to deepen our work with the Salisbury’s Profile of a Graduate, this month WSE students will be focusing on the dispositions of caring and kindness.

Why do Kindness and Caring Matter?

Obviously, a kinder, gentler world is a more beautiful and pleasant place to be. Beyond that, Lisa Curry, writing for the online resource Edutopia, explains, “The good feelings that we experience when being kind are produced by endorphins. They activate areas of the brain that are associated with social connection and trust. These feelings of joyfulness are proven to be contagious...”

Kindness also “...helps children feel good about themselves as it increases serotonin levels. This important chemical affects learning, memory, mood, sleep, health, and digestion...” by creating...” a lasting sense of pride, well-being, and an enriched sense of belonging. It’s reported that even small acts of kindness heighten our sense of well-being, increase energy, and give a wonderful feeling of optimism and self worth”.

Curry concludes, “Kindness can be taught, and it is a defining aspect of civilized human life. It belongs in every home, school, neighborhood, and society.”

Happiness dwells in those who feel a strong sense of connection to others and have confidence that they can make a difference in the world. At WSE students not only take care of one another, but also give back to the community through many special projects.

These are just two reasons why WSE is such a wonderful place to grow and learn!

Have a caring February!

Grace McCausland-Hartman, Ed.D.



WSE PTA Pride

Every Child; One Voice



Western Salisbury Elementary School Parent Teacher Association:
A strong advocate and valuable resource for the education and well-being of our students.

Upcoming Events

*Thanks to all who participated in the Joe Corbi fundraiser! Students earned a pajama day at school, and overall, it was a big success!

*Our next restaurant night is February 22nd at WSE family-owned restaurant, Jack Slice. Have dinner any time between 4pm to closing, and a portion of your bill will go to the PTA. *Mark your calendar for March 29th too, when we will be dining at Texas Roadhouse in Trexlertown.*

*Our next fundraiser is Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, just in time for Easter! Paper sales will be collected on February 28th but you can continue to sell online until March 25th! And, from now until February 28th, any sales done online will have the choice to be shipped directly to the customer or combined with the group order to be distributed at the school. Pick up will be mid-March.

*Purse Bingo is rapidly approaching! One of the biggest WSE PTA fundraisers, this event will be held on March 11th from 1 to 4 pm at Salisbury Middle School. Doors will open at noon. Tickets are \$20 in advance, and will cost \$25 at the door. Designer purses, such as Coach, Kate Spade, and Vera Bradley, will be bingo prizes, and there will also be a 50/50 raffle, auction, and door prizes. Food will be provided by Johnny's Bagels - pre-order or buy the day of the event. See the flyer sent home in your child's Lighthouse folder. We hope you can join us!

*The We Sell Everything (WSE) event is on Saturday, April 14th. This is an outdoor yard sale event (inside if rain). You can buy table space to sell your items! Food and drinks will be available for purchase too. More information coming soon!

Save the Dates

*February 22nd ~ Restaurant Night at Jack's Slice Pizza, 5-9 pm

*February 28th ~ Joe Corbi order pick up, 3:30-5:30 pm

*February 28th ~ Gertrude Hawk paper orders due

*March 11th ~ Purse Bingo, 1-4 pm, Salisbury Middle School

*March 25th ~ Gertrude Hawk online orders due

*March 29th ~ Restaurant Night at Texas Roadhouse, Trexlertown, 4-10pm

*April 14th ~ We Sell Everything event at WSE

· *April 17th ~ PTA General Membership Meeting & Ice Cream Social

Our 2017-2018 PTA Board

Kenneth Kaough

President

kkaough1010@gmail.com

Dana Graham

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danadeppner@gmail.com

Sarah Nemitz

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**Western Salisbury Elementary PTA's
new free online portal!**

<https://westernsalisburyppta.membershiptoolkit.com>

⇒ RSVP and order/pay for event tickets

⇒ Sign up to volunteer

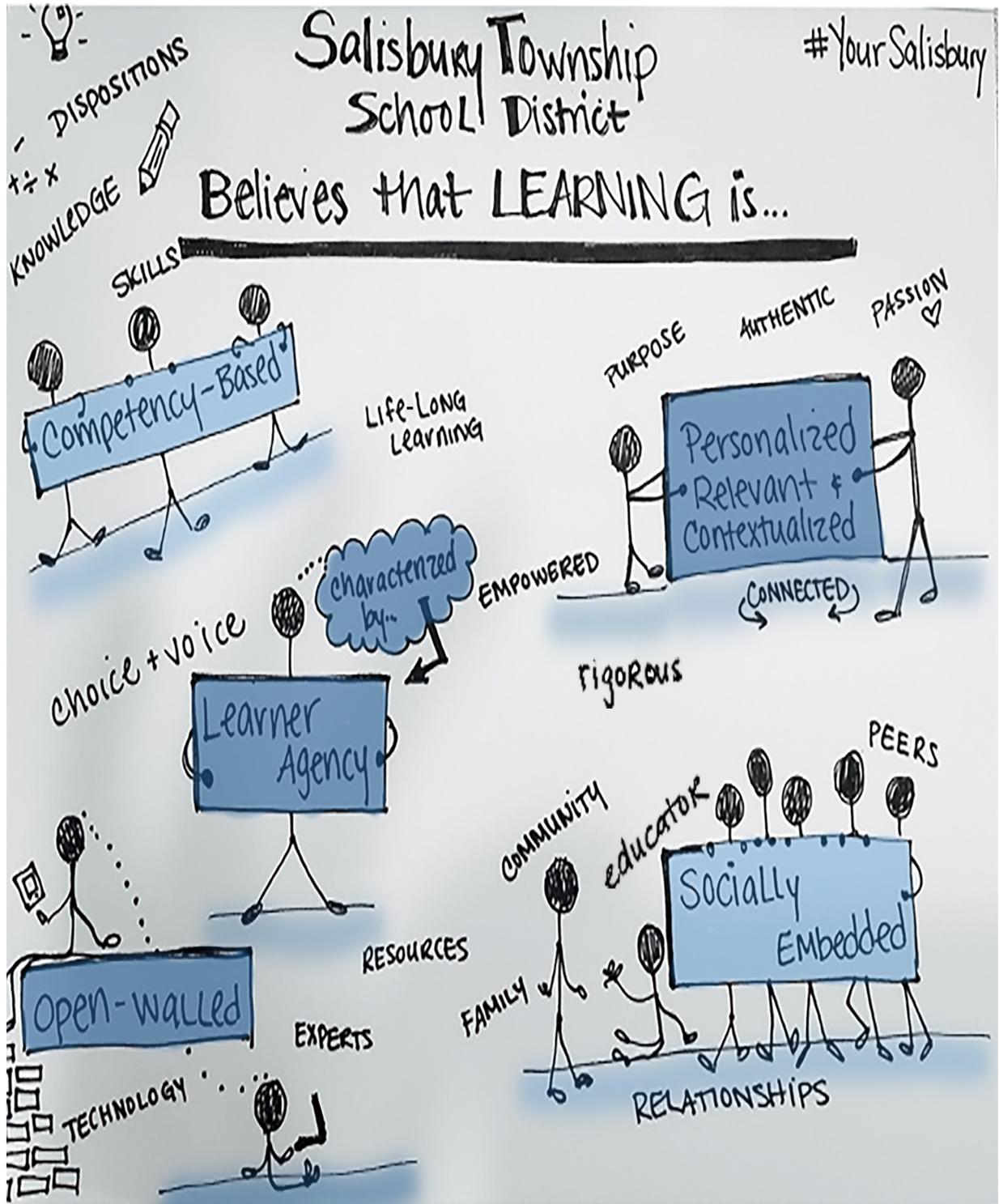
⇒ Paperless family directory & class lists



LIKE us on Facebook at "Western Salisbury Elementary PTA" for details on all PTA events and activities, fun photos and messages.

SALISBURY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE



Profile of a Graduate

#YourSalisbury

Salisbury
Township
School District



Profile of a GRADUATE

Knowledge + Literacies



Global
Competence

CORE
Curriculum



Digital
Literacy

Financial
Literacy



Health
Literacy

Dispositions

- persistent
- curious
- risk-taker
- caring
- compassionate
- entrepreneurial
- resilient
- tolerant
- accepting

Skills

Think
critically

Communicate
effectively

create bravely

COLLABORATE
WITH
OTHERS

Christy Brennan

Growing Tomorrow's Leaders TODAY!

"THE LEADER IN ME" INITIATIVE

Western Salisbury Elementary School is proud to be a Leader in Me school, but what does that mean? Perhaps you have heard of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey? The *Leader in Me* is the process of taking those habits, making them developmentally appropriate for children, and integrating them into the school environment. We use the "Seven Habits of Happy Kids" as our guide.

The Leadership concept is not about creating future CEO's of companies. It is about "personal leadership" with a fundamental belief that every child can be a "leader of their own world." We teach children the 7 Habits of Happy Kids!

Imagine what would be possible if our school and community was filled with students who were responsible, who showed initiative, who were creative, who knew how to set goals and meet them, who got along with people of various backgrounds and cultures, and who could work effectively as a member of a team, resolve conflicts and solve problems?

Following this page you will find a chart of the 7 Habits explained in the "kids friendly" language we use with our youngsters. Please see the WSE website for more information about this exciting approach and resources you may wish to use at home.

The *Leader in Me* is not a curriculum; it is a way of thinking and talking about growing and learning and is an integrated part of our daily life at school. Whether the staff is coaching children to plan ahead for tests or projects or to make positive choices when possible conflicts arise, the *Leader in Me* informs our language and goals for our children. As you review the 7 Habits, you will see that they align nicely, in child friendly language, to our district's *Profile of a Graduate*.

Thank you for partnering with us on this exciting journey!



Habit 1: Be Proactive

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision.



Habit 3: Put First Things First

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and achieve my goals. I am disciplined and organized.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives. I look for ways to be a good citizen.



Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

Habit 6: Synergize

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I work well in groups, even with people who are different than me. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than can anyone of us alone. I am humble.



Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I take time to find meaningful ways to help others.