



Week of  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**



## Walter J. Mitchell Bulldogs!

Dear WJM Parent/Guardian,

We are so thankful to our outstanding bus drivers! Due to their dedication, our students were not impacted by bus shortages last week. Thank you to our amazing PTO for your generous contribution to our drivers as we celebrated National Bus Safety Week. Our drivers loved the pizza surprise!

Thank you to all of our students for showing their support last Wednesday by wearing Orange! Our building was decked out in Orange! Our students and staff had fun reinforcing kindness throughout the day! Please continue with our school spirit by joining us this week for Red Ribbon Week.

### Quick reminders for events coming up!

- 🍁 **October 25** – Spirit Day – Kick off to Red Ribbon Week- **Wear Red!**
- 🍁 **October 29** – Fall Picture Day & PTO sponsored Trunk or Treat from 6-7:30 (Mitchell families only)
- 🍁 **November 1** – Storybook Character Parade & October PBIS Celebration
- 🍁 **November 3** – First marking period ends
- 🍁 **November 4** – Second marking period begins



***Mitchell PTO is Awesome! You are SO APPRECIATED!***

We want to THANK our wonderful PTO, parents, and Mitchell community for the continuous support of our students and staff with all of the dazzling donations!!



Join us for our

## Storybook Character Parade

When: Monday, November 1 at 1:45p.m.

Where: Mitchell E.S. Field

Students are encouraged to bring their storybook character costumes to school. They will have time to change before the parade. Students will receive a token of participation if they bring the book their character is based on. Please keep in mind that violent or frightening costumes are not acceptable. **No look alike weapons, fake blood, or masks will be permitted.**

Parents are welcome to come watch the parade from the "Parent Cheer Zone" in the field behind the school. Please limit each family to 2 visitors.

### CCPS Updates:

Charles County Public Schools will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all second and third grade students and new to Charles County/nominated fourth through eighth grade students. This is one of several screening tools to identify students who qualify for gifted education services. All third and new to Charles County/nominated fourth and fifth grade students will take the CogAT between November 1 and December 17, 2021. Second grade students will take the CogAT between January 24 and February 25, 2022.

The Cognitive Abilities Test is used nationally, as well as by several Maryland counties, as a tool in the identification of academically gifted students. CogAT is a group-administered test, which measures students' reasoning, and problem-solving abilities. These abilities are assessed on three subtest using words (verbal subtest), numerical concepts (quantitative subtest), and spatial/figural drawings (nonverbal subtest). The general abilities measure by this assessment reflect the overall efficiency of cognitive processes and strategies, which enable an individual to learn new tasks or solve problems. If students receive a qualifying score during the initial administration of the CogAT screener, additional subtests will be administered during the testing window. CogAT results will be mailed March 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Holly Smigal, Mitchell's Learning Resource Teacher by email at [hsmigal@ccboe.com](mailto:hsmigal@ccboe.com)

### Reminders from Previous News to Know Newsletters

- A message from our PBIS Team: Congratulations to all of our bulldogs as we celebrated their 'BARK'ing behavior in September! All students earned participation in our big event celebration for great behavior in the first month of school. Students enjoyed popsicles delivered by Mr. Adam, Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Bostwick, and Mr. Berchtold! For our next celebration, students can earn participation in our 'BARK or Treat' event! Students who are referral free in October will take a trip through the atrium and receive a 'treat' from various staff members including Mr. Adam, Mrs. Carrington, Mr. Berchtold, Mrs. Bostwick, and Nurse Holly! The event will take place on November 1, following our Storybook Character Parade.

- Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will be closed on Friday, Nov. 12, for all students, teachers and school system staff. The Board of Education at its Oct. 12 meeting unanimously voted to change the 2021-2022 school year calendar and close CCPS on Nov. 12. Schools are already closed for students only on Thursday, Nov. 11, for teacher professional development and planning. The Board's vote to close Nov. 12 shifts the last day of school for students by one day to Thursday, June 16. The last day of school for teachers now shifts one day to Friday, June 17. These dates also assume CCPS uses four inclement weather days this school year. Parents, staff and community members should make a note of the change to their copy of the printed 2021-22 Parent Handbook/Calendar.
- [CLICK HERE](#) to access the CCPS Parent Handbook/Calendar online.
- **Phone calls will not be permitted as a method to change your child's dismissal routines. We require this notification in writing by 12:00 PM (noon) to both office secretaries, Deanna Gomez ([dgomez@ccboe.com](mailto:dgomez@ccboe.com)) and Deborah Williams ([ddwilliams@ccboe.com](mailto:ddwilliams@ccboe.com)). Please also include the classroom teacher.**
- If for some reason you must send someone else to pick up your child, you MUST send a note each day/occurrence (with your signature) giving the school permission to release your child to that person.

