



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2025

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The timing couldn't be better for recent Wonders professional development that has focused on mindfulness and well-being - for children and the educators who care for them. Program Directors and Assistant Directors participated in an introductory workshop on the Peace of Mind curriculum, which is used at some of our DCPS partner schools and teaches children conflict resolution, kindness, and self-regulation skills. We look forward to hosting a Peace of Mind training for all Wonders staff during our staff development week in August. Wonders Professional Development Consortium presented a community workshop entitled Well-being and Self Care, recognizing that self care is essential for managing stress, preventing burnout, and mitigating compassion fatigue – all common occupational hazards for caring individuals.

Thinking about how we navigate our days and care for one another is essential to our field as well as being productive community members. Here are some resources from these workshops to help you navigate these times.

[Peace of Mind resources](#) for home that families can try, like “take five breathing”.

[Mini Mediation video](#) from the Well-being and Self Care workshop.

Joanne Hurt  
Executive Director

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### April Updates

Highlights & News

**Celebrating Week Of The Young Child**



This week, Wonders Early Learning programs are absolutely thrilled to celebrate NAEYC's (National Association for the Education of Young Children) highly anticipated annual Week of the Young Child (WOYC). This week is all about celebrating the boundless energy, curiosity, and potential of our youngest learners, their families, and the incredible educators who nurture them every day. Each day is a different fun filled theme: Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. Our learners have eagerly participated in experiences that foster self-expression, problem-solving, and community. It's been a week of joy and connection!





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## Thank you to our First Friday Readers



### **Anthony Featherstone, Executive Director for WorkSource Montgomery**

WorkSource Montgomery (WSM) is the county's fiscal agent responsible for local administration of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) and coordination of the local workforce development system in Montgomery County.



### **Councilmember Laurie- Anne Sayles**

Laurie-Anne Sayles is a community activist, public health specialist, and public servant from Montgomery County, Maryland. On December 5, 2022, she was inaugurated into a four-year term as an At-Large member of the Montgomery County Council, representing the first Black woman and Jamaican-American elected to office. More info about her: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sayles/>

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## **We would like to give a warm friendly welcome to three new staff members who have joined the Wonders family**

**Francine Bobbitt**, is Wonders' new Operations Manager. Francine will be ensuring the implementation of best practices for policies and procedures.

**Trevon Jennings**, is the new Assistant Director at Murch. Trevon brings years of program leadership experience and we are excited to welcome him to the Murch team!

**Brittney Stern**, is Wonders' new Development Manager. Brittney will be leading our fundraising and community building efforts.







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## 2025 Corporate Highlights!



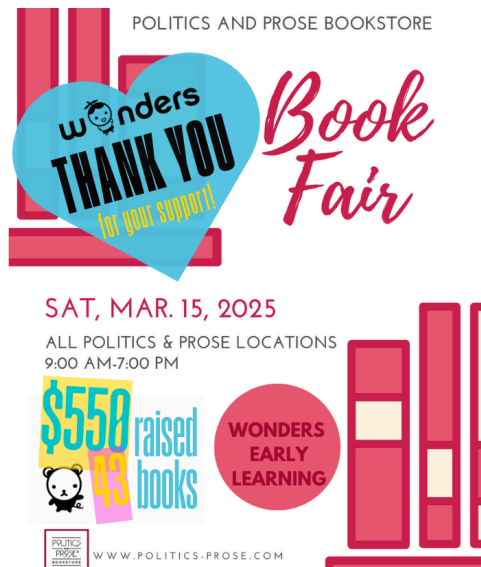


We would like to thank our current corporate donors for their generous contributions to our Corporate Giving campaign. **NFP Meltzer, Ntiva, 20Degrees and Sandy Spring Bank** are helping us to create flourishing educational programs for our students and continue doing the great work that we do for our community.

[To learn more about our corporate sponsors and partnership opportunities, please take a look at our website here!](#)

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## Community Events



**Thank you to all who participated in the Wonders Book Fair at Politics and Prose!**

**\$550 raised and 43 books donated across our programs!**

Continue to promote reading! To make books more interesting for our young readers, encourage diverse reading experiences, foster a love of reading through engaging activities, and create a supportive environment that celebrates literacy. [Take a look at our curated reading lists.](#) All of the books listed can be found at your local library and Politics & Prose.

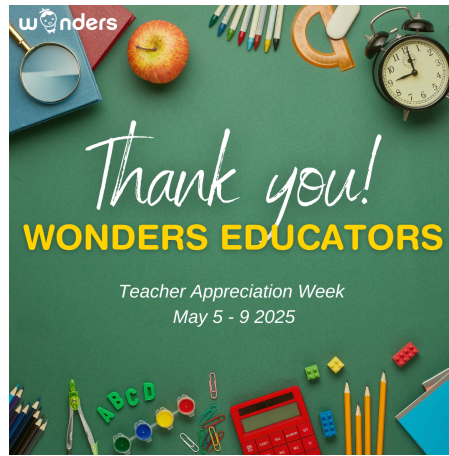
**Thank you to all who participated in the Hope for Henry Walk with Wonders!**



Our Early learning community came out for a Walk-a-Thon event to benefit the non-profit organization Hope for Henry, a non-profit organization that is reinventing how hospitals care for children and their families through innovative, scientifically tested programs that help hospitalized kids confront the challenges of serious illness, adhere to their medical plans, and thrive. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who participated, brought treats for the potluck, and enjoyed a musical performance by John Henry. Thank you!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Teacher Appreciation Week next month May 5 - 9**



**Teacher Appreciation Week is an annual event that celebrates the hard work and dedication of teachers, and the start of our Teacher Bonus Fund Campaign!**

Join the celebration early by [sharing our mission](#) with your network and [submitting a shout-out](#) for a Wonders teacher or program! Your comments will be shared with our team to give recognition for the incredible work they do.

We also welcome contributions to the Teacher Appreciation Fund (May 5 - June 10), an annual gift-giving tradition utilized to distribute meaningful teacher bonuses in mid-June. The fund is to provide our Wonders teachers with meaningful bonuses in mid-June

## **Parent & Guardian Workshop Series**



**Workshop Topic: Developing Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills in Young Children**

**Date:** Friday, May 16, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

[Register now](#)

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## **Summer is Just Around the Corner!**

**Reserve your spot in Wonders Summer Camp!**





# wonders summer camp

Calling all campers,  
rising k - 6th grade!

**June 17 - August 8**

## Camp Location + Hours

**Bethesda**  
Bethesda  
Elementary School

7600 Arlington Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 6:00 pm

## Registration Information

Registering for camp is easy! We offer weekly sessions with a different theme each week. Limited spots are available for camp weeks. Check out our website to learn more and register today!

**Registration fee: \$60 per child**

**Weekly rate: \$520/week\*\***

## What We Offer

- ✓ weekly pool visits\*
- ✓ weekly field trips
- ✓ daily snacks
- ✓ arts + crafts
- ✓ S.T.E.A.M.
- ✓ sports
- ✓ cooperative games
- ✓ camp special events

SCAN ME



**SAVE THE  
DATE!**  
**SUMMER CAMP  
OPEN HOUSE**  
2025

\*pool visits and outdoor activities can be canceled due to weather advisories.



APRIL 5, 2023

**wonderslearning.org/summercamp**

\*\*Week 1 has a reduced rate of \$416

Donate to Wonders

Teaching children through play and a nurturing and diverse community.

[Make a donation today to ensure access to quality care and education.](#)

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## Contact Us

### Our Contact Information

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