

May 1, 2020

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Update

A Message From the Wicoff Administration

Dear Wicoff Parents & Guardians,

As we move into May and finish our 6th week of virtual learning, we continue to be reminded of the importance of taking care of ourselves and our families. Besides the disruption in our lives and uncertainty of the future, each of us has our own unique circumstances and challenges which contributes to our stress level. It can be really difficult to try and balance our own job responsibilities with our family responsibilities, including the educational needs of our children.

Now more than ever, it is critical that we model for our children how to be emotionally resilient during this time of uncertainty. The article, [*Resilience and Routines for Families During the Pandemic*](#), offers some specific suggestions around six basic routines to consider for how to keep ourselves as well as our kids strong. These include focusing on staying resilient, particularly around our physical routines which impact our mental health; creating structure and routine; taking care of our family and our community; staying vigilant with respect to online schooling; staying realistic but reassuring about COVID-19; and considering mindfulness practices. We have included the link to the article above as well as at the end of this letter.

Next week marks National Teacher Appreciation Week, with National Teacher Appreciation Day celebrated on Tuesday, May 5. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate our staff for all they have done to teach and support our students since the start of the school year and, particularly, in these past weeks of online learning. Our staff are finding creative ways to connect with their students in order to support them. Besides teaching curricula, they have demonstrated and taught our students important life traits through their actions including kindness, flexibility, resiliency, empathy, optimism, respect and persistence. They are dedicated to our mission and strategic goals, which include a shared focus on student voice and choice, global competency, and social emotional learning. While these goals guide our work and unite our focus, it is their passion and knowledge for teaching and learning that yields

the dynamic outcomes for our students. Mark Sanborn offers, "Passion makes the difference between something common and something special." The passion that our WW-P staff brings forward, day in and day out, is truly inspiring. We feel very grateful for all that our staff does every day on behalf of our students, and we thank them for their service.

Finally, next week also marks another special day on Wednesday, May 6 as National School Nurse Day. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our school nurse for all that she does throughout each day to care for our students, particularly when they aren't feeling well. We appreciate the extra attention and support our nurse offers to our elementary school children when they are sick and sometimes feeling scared. We thank each of our K-5 school nurse's for making their office a place where students come for both band-aids and love.

Please join us in recognizing and celebrating our amazing staff as well as our school nurses next week for all they are doing to support our students.

Warm regards,
Michael Welborn and Lindsay Jablonski

Article: [Mindful Schools: Resilience and Routines for Families During the Pandemic by Dr. Mark Bertin](#)

We continue to be here to support you and want to assist you as needed. We have resources available to families in need.

- Families who qualify for free or reduced meals are being supported by bi-monthly food distribution. If your circumstances have changed and you need assistance in this area, please contact either the guidance counselor, nurse or building administrator.
- Technology is another resource available. Families who are having difficulty with their school-issued device or for those families who need access to a device for their child, please complete this [form](#). Once you complete this form, you may report to High School North on Tuesday or Thursday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to get the tech support or sign out a device. Please note: The form must be completed prior to going to High School North. You will not receive a notification

to report to the high school; please go to High School North on the next Tuesday or Thursday following submission of the form.

- In addition to the curriculum that is being provided virtually, we also support any student who is struggling with the circumstances and loss of being at school with peers and teachers. If your child is experiencing difficulty, please reach out to his/her teacher, guidance counselor, CST, or building administrator for support.
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School Updates

- **Assistance:** If your child needs assistance, please email us at we@ww-p.org.
 - **Attention Parents of Current 3rd Graders:** Parents are reminded to login to Genesis in order to select their child's music ensemble choice for the 2020-2021 school year. Specific details and instructions were sent to parents via email on April 8.
 - **Absences:** If your child is ill, please note it in Genesis as usual. Please take care of yourselves and your family.
 - **Grades K through 5 e-Learning Plans:** Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers will share links to the e-learning plans with their classes via email.
 - **Spam Folder:** During this period of virtual/remote learning, our teachers will be reaching out via phone and email to students and parents. Please check your spam filters to ensure that emails sent from your child(ren)'s teachers are being directed to your inbox and not your spam folder.
 - **Athletics:** Check out the latest edition of the [WW-P Athletics newsletter](#) featuring highlights of some of our amazing senior spring athletes, fall registration and more.
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District Updates

- [District Website](#) | [COVID-19 Information](#) | [Virtual/Remote Learning Website](#)

Virtual Experiences and Activities

- Dr. Aderhold wanted to provide you with some fun educational activities to enjoy at home. Check out this list of [virtual experiences](#).

Counseling and Wellness

- **School Counselor Corner:** District K-5 school counselors have created a [grid](#) of activities to keep our students talking and thinking mindfully while the district is implementing virtual/remote learning.
- **Health Resources:** WW-P district nurses have pulled together [important health information](#) for families. Please check it out.
- **Counseling and Wellness:** The WW-P District Wellness Committee has created a [website](#) to promote the understanding that wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. Students, families, and staff are encouraged to embed these self care resources into their daily routine.

Dual Language Immersion Kindergarten for 2020-2021

- The mandatory virtual WW-P Dual Language Immersion Parent Information Session is now live. Children entering kindergarten in September 2020 are eligible. [Check out the virtual session for information regarding the registration process](#).

District Facilities

- **Playground Equipment and Athletic Fields:** As WW-P continues to sanitize our facilities and practice social distancing, all school playground equipment/athletic fields/courts/tracks/etc remain closed until further notice.

Food Services

- If your child(ren) receives food benefits, please check your email for instructions.
- If your financial situation has recently changed and you would like information on food benefits, please click [here](#) for details and to download the application.

Registration

- At this time, all student registration for incoming kindergarten students for the 2020-21 school year, as well as students moving into the WW-P Regional School District will be done by appointment and virtually until the district reopens. Please [click here](#) for more information and to begin the process.

State Information

- **State of New Jersey:** www.covid19.nj.gov has been created as the official **COVID-19** information hub for the State of New Jersey. The website includes up-to-date information, services, where to find assistance, job opportunities, and more.
- **New Jersey Department of Education:** Governor Murphy [announced on March 24](#) that NJ is cancelling all statewide student assessments for the spring 2020 testing window.
- **A Program of Center for Food Action - Hunger Free New Jersey:** This non-profit organization is working with its partners to inform citizens of rapidly developing changes to address hunger during this crisis. For information and resources on programs such as NJ school meals, SNAP, WIC, and more, please visit the [organization's website](#).

Communications

- WW-P uses SchoolMessenger as our [district communication tool](#). SchoolMessenger integrates with Genesis. It is important to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Genesis so that you may receive emails/texts/calls from WW-P.

West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation

- It's Teacher Appreciation Month! Show your appreciation to our heroic teachers and staff for their phenomenal work during this unprecedented time with a STAR. During the month of May you can honor your child's teacher, guidance counselor, principal or a staff member who makes a difference in their life via [STAR Campaign](#). Your donation helps fund grants that enrich your child's education.

Board of Education Meeting

- Check out the upcoming [Board of Education Meeting](#) dates. Agenda and materials for Board meetings are published after 3:30 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting.

Make sure to follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Youtube](#)