

Oct. 23, 2020

## Wicoff Elementary School

### PTA

It was another amazing night to have so many of our teachers as well as our school administrators on one screen playing virtual Bingo with our kids! Our gratitude to the second and third grade volunteer teachers: Ms. Masooma Geisz, Ms. Meg Karpinski, Ms. Joanie Lewis, Ms. Liz Reil, Ms. Hailey Cousart, Ms. Maureen McKenna, Ms. Rebeca Diaz, Ms. Becki King, Ms. Katlyn Hopkins and to our school administrators, Dr. Welborn and Ms. Jablonski! A big thank you to our parent volunteer, Loi Moliga.

**Online Fall Book Fair open until October 29:** Visit the home page and [click the "Shop Now"](#) button to support Wicoff Elementary School. Enjoy a selection of over 6,000 books, with all orders shipped to your home, including FREE shipping on book-only orders over \$25. All purchases will benefit the Wicoff Media Center. If you would like to donate a book to your child's classroom, from their teacher's wish list, please [complete this form](#).

### **"I Matter because ...." is the 2020 – 21 National PTA Reflection Program's**

**Theme:** Unleash your child's creativity! The program is open to all Wicoff PTA members! Students can submit their original artwork in one or all six categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Music Composition, Literature, Film Production, Dance Choreography. All Wicoff students who participate will receive a certificate. The student winners at the local level have the opportunity to move up to the county, state and national level. **Deadline for entries is November 10, 2020.** For more information visit <https://www.wicoffpta.org/reflections>

**2020 Jack-O'-Lantern Photo Submission:** Halloween is round the corner! All students are encouraged to submit a photo of your carved, painted, and/or decorated spooky, clever, scary or silly pumpkins. Click here for more information <https://www.wicoffpta.org/programs>. All you have to do is submit the picture to [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com) with your name and grade. **The deadline for submissions is 8 p.m. October.** No entries will be accepted after the submission date. All pictures will be displayed on the school PTA social media platforms!

**Questions?** Email us at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).

**Useful PTA Links:** [PTA Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Wicoff's Twitter](#)

## SEPTSA

- Events and Notices: Visit our [website](#) to become a member and find out more about SEPTSA.
- Oct. 25: "Office Hours" from 4-6 p.m. We're pleased to restart our informal parent gatherings in a virtual environment. Bring your questions about IEPs and special education services (etc...), or just come to "hang out" with other parents. RSVP by Oct. 24 through the [registration form](#) or find it on our [website](#) which lists the upcoming dates. Contact Jen with any questions ([jenballen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenballen@yahoo.com)).

**Links:** [SEPTSA Facebook Page](#) | [SEPTSA Website](#) | [Membership Form](#)

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## School

**Virtual Learning & Screen Time:** Our current circumstances with virtual instruction have brought forth conversations around screen time. Students are spending more time on screens than ever before and it is important to consider other options during their free time. It is important to set family guidelines and to have conversations about appropriate times for other technology uses such as social media and video viewing. Our teachers continue to offer strategies that minimize the use of devices and consider other activities after instructional times have ended. Below is a brief list of possibilities:

- **Read Aloud**

There is not enough to be said on the importance of shared reading with a child. [Here](#) are some read aloud guidelines that may be helpful. You can support the PTA Book Fair at the same time. [Wicoff PTA Book Fair](#)

- **Board Games**

Board games offer opportunities for family interaction, reinforce opportunities for conversation and can support a variety of other skills, including math skills. [Math Games](#)

- **Conversations With Your Child**

Asking about the school day is always a good way to start a conversation, but it is important to ask questions that continue the conversation. [10 Questions to Ask Kids About Their Day at School](#) or [How to Get Your Child to Talk About School](#)

- **Conversations With Friends and Relatives**

Has your child spoken with a friend recently? Are there friends or relatives that they should reach out to speak with or to write a note or letter?

**Student Supply Pick-Up:** If you have not had the opportunity to pick up your child's supply bag, please email our main office secretary, Lisa Recchia, [Lisa.Recchia@ww-p.org](mailto:Lisa.Recchia@ww-p.org) to make arrangements to pick-up the supplies at Town Center School. Your child will need these supplies for learning tasks. Please note that in-person hybrid students received their supply bags from their teacher when they were in school.

**Wicoff PTA:** Your help and support is needed! PTA membership is down this school year. Our school benefits from a supportive PTA. We appreciate all they do for our students, staff and parents. If you have not already joined the PTA, we urge you to join by clicking on the link below. We are hoping for 100% participation. [Wicoff PTA Membership](#)

**School Newsletter:** Check out the [October 2020 issue](#) of the Wicoff J. Fox newsletter.

**"Choose Kind" School Theme:** Wicoff's "Choose Kind" theme will continue throughout the year. Staff and students are encouraged to wear KIND shirts or Wicoff shirts on Fridays.

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**District:** [WW-P District Website](#) | [Academic Calendars](#) | [Events Calendar](#)

### **Reminders**

- **The week of Oct. 26 is Hybrid Week 2.** Please click [here](#) for the Oct./Nov./Dec. Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade level Sample Rotations and Schedules.
- **All-Virtual Instruction Nov. 3.** In accordance with [New Jersey Executive Order #177](#), all WW-P Schools will be closed to in-person instruction Nov. 3, 2020, (Election Day). Instruction by WW-P staff will be conducted virtually on Nov. 3, 2020. This change to all-virtual instruction is ONLY effective for Tuesday, Nov. 3.

- **Thursday, Nov. 5 and Friday Nov. 6.** Per the 2020-21 school year calendar, all WW-P schools will be closed Thursday, Nov. 5 and Friday, Nov. 6. To view the 2020-21 school year calendar, please click [here](#).
- **Health Screening:** Please remember to complete the Daily Health Screening form for your child(ren) on the days they will be in-person. The form is located under the Forms tab in [Genesis](#).
- **Masks:** Please also be advised that neither neck gaiters or valve masks provide appropriate protection and are not permitted for use on school or district grounds. Please use a mask with two or more layers that fits snugly over the nose and face. If a student does not have an appropriate mask, one will be provided by the district upon request.
- **Contact Information:** Is your contact information up-to-date in Genesis? If your email or phone numbers have changed, please make sure to update your information in Genesis. If you would like to opt-in to receive SMS text messages from the District, please text "Yes" to "67587" from a cell phone that is listed with your contact information in Genesis. Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).
- **#WWPStrong Spirit Day:** In honor of American Education Week (Nov. 16-20) on **Nov. 16**, the district will be participating in a #WWPStrong Districtwide Spirit Day. Staff, students and the community are invited to wear your #WWPStrong T-shirt, your school colors/spiritwear, or anything in navy blue. Share your pictures on the [#WWPStrong Facebook page](#) and use the hashtag #WWPStrong on Twitter.
  - If you would still like to purchase #WWPStrong spiritwear, a few schools have limited stock: [Village School](#), [Grover School](#), [Millstone River School](#), [Maurice Hawk School](#), and [High School North School](#).
- **HSN PTSA SPONSORED:** Support the HSN Senior Celebration/Post-Prom Committee, Halloween Boos! Surprise your friends and family this Halloween season by "Booing" them throughout the month of October. Cute ghost lawn signs and a bag of goodies from Robinson's Chocolates delivered to their home will bring a smile to their face. Please fill out the [Google form](#) and you will be contacted with pricing and available dates. Available districtwide.
- **HSS PTSA SPONSORED:** It's the HAPPY BIRTHDAY LAWN SIGN! The HSS Post-Prom Committee wants to help celebrate birthdays so they can celebrate their graduating seniors. Dates are currently available through November. For more information and to reserve your date, please click [here](#). Available districtwide.
- **HSN Popcorn for the People:** North students from Ms. Bard's class are working on a sales project this marking period. They are working with Popcorn for the People, which is a non-profit organization that employs people with Autism. If you are interested in supporting HSN students, please use their class

code which is **WWPSD** and place it in the discount code section at checkout. This is how they will get credit for the sale. [www.PopcornForThePeople.com](http://www.PopcornForThePeople.com)

## Health and Safety

- The next Health and Safety Update will be sent later this afternoon, Oct. 23, to the WW-P school community.

## Athletics

- **Attendance at Sporting Events:** No students will be permitted to attend neighboring Colonial Valley Conference (CVC) games to comply with social distancing policies and the State Order regarding the number of individuals at gatherings. Should you have any questions regarding the attendance policy, please reach out to Kate Dobinson, Athletic Director, [Katharine.Dobinson@ww-p.org](mailto:Katharine.Dobinson@ww-p.org).

## Counseling and Wellness

- **Virtual Parent University:** “Coping with COVID: The Impact of Social Media” will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For more information and to register, click [here](#).
- To view past Parent University presentations, click [here](#).

## Curriculum and Instruction

- Have a question about Google Classroom? Not sure how to use Zoom? Check out these [resources for support](#) in the Families and Caregivers Tutorial Helpdesk. New videos have recently been added.

## Community Education

- **Extended Day Program:** EDP is being offered for K-5 students. Morning and afternoon care is available five days a week at your child’s school. Full-day care is also available for your child’s non-in person week. Care is available until 3:45 p.m. or 6:45 p.m. For more information, check out the offerings: [EDP General Information](#).
- **EDP Drop-in Days:** Need care only once in a while, register in [Community Pass](#) under *2020-2021 EDP Drop In Days* for the type of care that is needed. Full day, before or after school options available. Registration closes each day at 12 p.m. for the following day.
- **Virtual Winter Afterschool Enrichment:** Registration for Virtual Winter Afterschool Enrichment is coming soon! Community Education has added early evening and weekend classes to better suit your child’s schedule.

- **Family Fun Fridays:** Register your family to take part in different events or crafts such as crochet, yoga, game nights and more! Check out the program guide on page 11 to learn more! To view the fall guide, click [here](#).
- To register for Community Education programs, visit the [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Anthony Jones has been named the new diversity, equity, and inclusivity coordinator for the district. Mr. Jones has 10+ years of experience working in higher education and non-profit organizations including Columbia University, Princeton University, and Rutgers University. Mr. Jones is excited to work with students, faculty, staff, families, and the WW-P community to cultivate the environment of inclusion that is required to unlock the richness of diversity. Click [here](#) for an article that highlights the positive outcomes of equity in the classroom. Mr. Jones is currently working on the following projects:
  - **Equity Audit and Listening Tour:** Visiting schools and meeting with school and district administrators and staff, to discuss current initiatives, challenges, and opportunity gaps related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
  - **Developing relationships and supporting Student Affinity (Advocacy) Groups at HSN and HSS.** Meeting with Student Affinity groups to listen, learn, and reflect on the experiences of group members.
  - **Focusing on making sure students and staff have safe spaces to discuss equity and inclusion.** Mr. Jones is available to provide support and resources for all members of the district.

## Food Services

- Distribution for WW-P students who currently receive food benefits will now occur on a **weekly basis**. The distribution will be held Mondays at High School North from 3-6 p.m. Families who receive benefits will continue to receive emails asking for a response regarding participation for the coming week. Completing the registration form in the weekly email is required prior to pick up.
- In conjunction with the federal government and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, a waiver has been issued that allows school-aged children access to nutritious meals. As a participant in the National School Lunch Program, all WW-P students are extended the opportunity to receive free breakfasts and lunches due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency. Click [here](#) for more information. Please register [here](#) by 12 p.m. Oct. 28, for the Nov. 2 distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Oct. 26 distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the Oct. 26 meal kit pickup, it will be held from 3 -6 p.m. at High School North.
- To view this month's menus, please click [here](#).

- Send Hunger Packing WW-P (SHuP WW-P) is a program of the Mercer Street Friends food bank. During a normal school year, SHuP WW-P raises funds for the Friday afternoon placement of weekend food bags in the backpacks of food insecure students in grades K-6. This year has been anything but normal, and now more than ever, families throughout our communities are facing food insecurity. During this pandemic, SHuP has worked tirelessly with WW-P Food Services to supplement the weekly meal kits that students receive through the National School Lunch Program.
  - In order for SHuP to continue to supply much-needed food staples to food insecure WW-P families, SHuP is working with WW-P Foods Services on a grocery gift card food drive to help families in our communities. For more information on this gift card food drive and to donate, please [click here](#). Any amount, small and large, is welcomed and appreciated.

### **Technology**

- WW-P students who need to request a device or with Chromebooks/iPads that are damaged or in need of repair should complete this [Google form](#) (students must log in to their Google account to access the form) and then come to High School North on Tuesday or Thursday from 12:45-3:15 p.m.

### **District Communication**

- WW-P uses SchoolMessenger as our [district communication tool](#). It is important to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Genesis.

### **WW-P Education Foundation**

- The WW-P Education Foundation Youth Committee will hold a [Halloween Craft Fair](#) 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Oct. 24. The afternoon will be packed with fun virtual activities and a live Halloween show. This event is FREE for students in grades pre-K-5. Donations are appreciated! Please sign up using this [link](#). All funds raised will go toward supporting our WW-P teachers to bring creative and innovative ideas to the virtual/hybrid classrooms. Donations may be made [here](#) or please visit the [Foundation website](#), and click on the Donate Now button.

### **Virtual Community Events**

- Click [here](#) for upcoming virtual events and activities from community groups and organizations.

### **WW-P Board of Education**

- 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.

**Follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.**

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