

Nov. 13, 2020

Wicoff Elementary School

PTA

It was a busy Thursday night for 40 little bakers baking with Ms. Wendy Rosenthal. Thanks so much to Ms. Rosenthal for volunteering her time and baking talents virtually. We got to hear so many science facts and learn a few decorating tricks too! Many thanks to the event chair, Ms. Chittal Sundaram, and Ms. Marjory Oher for taking the questions of our little bakers and making it such a fun event!

We received 35 entries for the 2020-21 National PTA Reflections program. Every entry is innovative and creative. If you have questions concerning the Reflection's program, reach out at wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com.

Turn Meals into Money! Let the festivities continue by ordering delicious meals from Romeo's Pizzeria. Please mark your calendar!

When: Monday, Nov. 16 through Thursday, Nov. 19

Wicoff PTA and Romeo's Pizzeria have partnered together for a fundraising week. The restaurant will generously donate 15 percent of the total sales during that time to us when you mention "Wicoff " during ordering and show this [flyer](#) on order delivery. Every cent counts!

Upcoming Event:

- Homefront Toy Drive Donation -- Stay tuned for more information.

Amazon Smile: Please take a moment to link your Amazon account to Amazon Smile. Select "33626 job wicoff elem school" as charity under Amazon Smile. Click <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3447652>. Donating to the PTA via Amazon Smile is at no additional cost to you! Amazon donates 0.5 percent of your purchase to Wicoff PTA.

Questions? Email us at wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com.

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

SEPTSA

- **WW-P Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (SEPTSA):** WW-P SEPTSA exists to support students and families of students with IEPs and 504 plans. Please join SEPTSA to be added to our mailing list and be sure to hear about upcoming events and speakers! Membership is open to all parents and families, older students (6th grade and above), and faculty and staff who support students with special needs. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- Is your special needs child interested in working with a Girl Scout on a STEM Lego robotics activity? We will provide the materials and then work with your child(ren) over Zoom. Siblings, including those not on an IEP, are also welcome to be involved. You must be a SEPTSA member to participate in this program. Contact Kathleen Moriarty at wwpseptsa@yahoo.com for more information.
- **WW-P Special Education Parent Advisory Group (S.E.P.A.G.):** To support parents of students with an IEP or 504 plan, and to provide input to the district on special education issues, the WWP SEPAG meets regularly throughout the school year. Additionally, SEPTSA/SEPAG hosts monthly "office hours" (now virtual!) for informal conversation and advice regarding issues around IEPs/504 plans. Upcoming dates include: Nov. 22, Dec. 20, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, and May 23.
 - All times are Sundays from 4-6 pm. Please contact Jennifer Riccards at jenballen@yahoo.com for more information or to receive the Zoom link. (If you cannot make one of these times and would like support or to connect with other families dealing with similar situations, please feel free to contact Jennifer at any time.)

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

School

American Education Week was first observed Dec. 4-10, 1921, sponsored by the National Education Association and the American Legion. A year later, the U.S. Office of Education joined as an additional co-sponsor. The National PTA followed in 1938. American Education Week is now always celebrated the first full week before Thanksgiving. American Education Week takes place this year Nov. 16-20.

While this school year is anything but typical, the constant that remains is the dedication of our teachers and support staff. As you know, they have been working tirelessly to engage and support their students, in new, creative and innovative ways that none of us would have imagined a year ago. Please join us in recognizing and celebrating our amazing Wicoff School teachers and support staff to commemorate American Education Week.

We are looking forward to continuing with ["Screen-Free" Wednesdays](#) through Dec. 16. Grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3 classes will end at 1 p.m. AM Kindergarten will be on a regular schedule with some asynchronous learning and PM Kindergarten will go from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. with some asynchronous learning. Please remember to have your child(ren) enjoy some non-screen activities.

A couple of helpful tips during virtual learning:

- It's important to make sure your child has a quiet space to work and learn at home.
- Please encourage your child to keep his/her camera on during times when the teacher is actively teaching a lesson and when children are expected to work collaboratively.
- For maximum success, students in grades 2 and 3 need to work with their District Chromebook. These district devices are programmed for immediate access to learning platforms and are capable of utilizing QR codes for ease and navigation. This also facilitates the teacher's observation of student performance. The district is currently working on distribution of devices for students in grade 1 and Kindergarten.

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 percent participation. [Wicoff PTA Membership](#)

School Newsletter: Check out the [November 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.

District

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

Reminders

- **The week of Nov. 16 is Hybrid Week 1.** Please click [here](#) for the Oct./Nov./Dec. Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade level Sample Rotations and Schedules.
- **#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.
- To view the **2020-21 school year calendar**, please click [here](#).
- **Screen-Free Wednesday afternoons:** Click [here](#) for upcoming dates as well as each school's modified morning schedule on Screen-Free Wednesdays.
- **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](#).
- **HIGH SCHOOL PTSA SPONSORED:** The holidays are fast approaching and both High School PTSAs are excited to provide you with their **Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser!** For HSN please click [here](#). And for HSS please click [here](#). Both fundraisers are available districtwide, please click the links for more information.
- **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.

- The holidays are around the corner! HSS Post-Prom Committee is sponsoring a Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser (Nov.16-28). You can DONATE beautiful poinsettias to WW-P staff members to show them your appreciation or purchase a poinsettia for yourself. We will deliver your poinsettias to all of the schools in WW-P and will email families about pickup for plants purchase for yourself. Please click [here](#) for the order form.

Health and Safety

- Please click [here](#) to read the Oct. 23 Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold.
- The next Health and Safety Update will be sent this afternoon, Nov. 13, 2020, to the WW-P 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.

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.

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 p.m. For more information: [EDP General Information](#).
- **EDP Drop-In Days:** Need care only once in a while? Register through [Community Pass](#) under *2020-2021 EDP Drop In Days* for the type of care that

is needed. Full day, before or after school options are available. Registration closes each day at 12 p.m. for the following day.

- **EDP Full-Day Care** is now available at Village and Town Center Schools for students in grades K-8! Full-day is offered Monday through Friday.
 - For more information, check out the offerings here: [EDP General Information.](#)
- Registration for **Virtual Winter Afterschool Enrichment** and Weekend Programs is open now! Community Education has added early evening and weekend classes to better suit your child's schedule. Check out the brochure here: [2021 Winter Program Guide.](#)
- To register for Community Education programs, visit the [Community Pass Registration Link.](#)

Food Services

- Distribution for WW-P students who currently receive food benefits will now occur on a **weekly basis**. 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. Nov. 18, for the Nov. 23 distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Nov. 16 distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the Nov. 16 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.

Virtual Community Events

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

WW-P Education Foundation

- This holiday season, please join us in celebrating our incredible WW-P faculty and staff. Now is the time to acknowledge and appreciate their efforts with a 'STAR' certificate. The Education Foundation is accepting requests through Dec. 18, 2020, for the **STAR Campaign**. Give a STAR to honor your child's teacher, guidance counselor, principal or staff member who makes a difference in their lives. Your donation helps fund grants that enrich your child's education. During this challenging time, the Education Foundation continues to provide grants that are used to purchase items to enhance both virtual and hybrid learning in WW-P. Click [here](#) for more information.

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](#)