

Sept. 10, 2021

## **Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter**

**All WW-P Schools will be closed Thursday, Sept. 16.**

### **PTA**

Dear Wicoff Families,

On behalf of the Wicoff Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, we welcome all new and returning families to the 2021-22 school year. The PTA is a membership based, volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to creating a fulfilling experience for our kids.

As the new term begins, we encourage you to be a part of this legacy and join the Wicoff PTA. Be a part of the change, volunteer, participate, be a role model and make a difference in the lives of our young citizens. We thank you in advance for your support! We encourage every parent, grandparent, guardian to become a PTA member so we can continue making great strides that benefit our children. Please join PTA using this link:

<https://wicoff.new.memberhub.store/store>

Support by DONATING: You can also support the organization by making monetary contributions to support various programs. [Click here to donate.](#)

If you have any questions, concerns and/or ideas, please contact us at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com). Please 'Like' us on Facebook for updates, reminders, etc. at [www.facebook.com/wicoffpta](https://www.facebook.com/wicoffpta) or you can visit us at [www.wicoffpta.org](http://www.wicoffpta.org) for further information.

### **Some important dates to mark on your calendar for the month of September:**

- The PTA welcomes you all to join our first **PTA General Meeting Sept. 23, 2021, at 7 p.m.** The meeting will be virtual and a Zoom link will be provided in the next week's newsletter.
- **Sept. 23 - 2021-22 Reflections Launch**
- **Sept. 25 - RedBerry Fundraiser** - Help raise money for the PTA by having some delicious frozen yogurt.

### **Wicoff PTA Executive Board 2021-2022:**

- Harshad Kamat, President
- Chittal Sundaram, Vice President
- Padmavathi Kesavan, Vice President
- Dipanwita Saha Soni, Vice President
- Priti Makkar, Vice President
- Tej Pratap Singh, Treasurer
- Anushka Srivastava, Secretary

## 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.
- **Thursday, Sept. 14, 10:30 a.m.: Meet and Greet Special Services:** Join us virtually to gather with other parents to discuss the last year, summer programs, and the upcoming PTA year and to meet the Special Services staff to understand the changes and plans for this school year. To RSVP and receive the Zoom link for the meeting, or if you have questions ahead of time that you'd like to submit, please email Veena Pai at [VeenaPai.0408@gmail.com](mailto:VeenaPai.0408@gmail.com)
- **WhatsApp group for WWP Special Education families:** Join us on WhatsApp to connect with other WWP families of special education students. [Connect with WWP special ed parents.](#)
- **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 WW-P SEPAG meets regularly throughout the school year. Additionally, SEPTSA/SEPAG hosts monthly virtual "office hours" for informal conversation and advice regarding issues around IEPs/504 plans.
- **Office Hours, Sept. 19, 4-6 p.m., McCaffreys Café (upstairs)** – Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. Contact Kathleen Moriarty at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) or Veena Pai at [veenapai.0408@gmail.com](mailto:veenapai.0408@gmail.com) for more information. (If you have a question and this timing doesn't work with your schedule, but you'd like support or to connect

with other families dealing with similar situations, please feel free to contact Kathleen or Veena at any time.)

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

## **SCHOOL**

Dear Parents/Guardians of Wicoff Students,

We welcome you to the John V.B. Wicoff Elementary School. As we begin this school year, we want to extend a warm welcome to you, your child and your family. We hope you had time to relax and enjoy your summer vacation. Hopefully, your child is excited about coming to school. We sincerely believe that parents should be active participants in their child's school program. We invite you to get involved in school and district wide committees, we ask that you join the wonderful Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and we ask that you attend the many exciting events that happen at Wicoff throughout the school year.

We hope your child(ren) had a wonderful first few days of school. We are so excited to be back and we are looking forward to an exciting 2021-22 school year. It was amazing to be able to greet the students as they exited their school buses on the first day. It was also a joy to see them actively engaged in lessons in their classrooms, participating in gym class, eating in the dining room, being creative in the art room, reading in the media center and performing in the music room. Pure excitement was once again in the air throughout the school building. It was evident the students were happy to return and they are already settling nicely into their new routines, which will help support the learning process.

Please know this weekly newsletter will be our way to provide important school-related information and to celebrate positive news and achievements at Wicoff School. We look forward to working with you and look forward to a great school year with lots of learning and lots of fun!

Educationally yours,

Dr. Michael C. Welborn, EdD, Principal

Mrs. Maureen Cook, Assistant Principal

**Below are some important dates to place on your calendars:**

**Virtual Back to School Nights:**

- Sept. 20 (Kindergarten and first grade)
- Sept. 22 (Second and third grade)

**Wicoff Warm Fuzzy Day/Spirit Day**

- Sept. 24

**Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences:**

- Oct. 12, 13, 14 (evening) and 15

**Below are some important reminders regarding drop off and pickup:**

1. If you are dropping-off your child in the morning, please park in the church parking lot (adjacent to Wicoff School) and walk your child to the front entrance of the building. Please DO NOT drive in the bus lane in the front of the school building to drop-off your child as this interferes with our buses.
2. If you are picking up your child at the end of the school day, you need to send a note with your child stating this information. If this is an everyday occurrence, one note explaining this will cover pickup for the school year. If this is NOT an everyday occurrence, you will need to write a note each time. Please also note our Parent Pickup location has changed. Parents picking up their child(ren) at the end of the day will report to the middle door in the front of the building. We call this the third grade hallway doors or Door #13.
3. Please be patient with our school buses these first few days of school. Initially, we call one or two buses at a time for dismissal until our students get familiar with our bus procedures. It is a slow process initially, which begins at 3:15 p.m., but once the students are comfortable with the process it will become second-nature for them, running smoothly and more efficiently.

As always, the safety and comfort of our students is our top priority!

## DISTRICT

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

### Reminders

- **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 cellphone that is listed in your contact information in Genesis. Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).
- **Masks:** All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask while indoors regardless of vaccination status except under specified reasons that impact an individual's health. Valve masks and neck gaiters are not permitted for use in school or District grounds. Unvaccinated individuals are recommended to wear masks in outdoor settings.
- **Health Screening:** For the 2021-22 school year, parents/guardians should *ONLY* complete a Health Screening Form in the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) for their child(ren) if one or more of the exclusion issues listed on the [School Exclusion Chart](#) apply to their child(ren). Upon completion of a health screening form in Genesis, parents/guardians should keep their child(ren) home and contact their school nurse for instructions.
- **District Newsletter:** Click [here](#) to read the Fall 2021 issue of the District Newsletter.
- **Back-to-School Nights:** This year all [Back to School Nights](#) will be held virtually. Additional details and links will be provided by the schools closer to the event.
- **School Supply Lists:** Please click [here](#) to view a suggested list of supplies by school and grade level that will help to organize and prepare your student for the 2021-22 school year. High school teachers will provide students with a list of suggested items for their class during the first week of school. Individual

teachers in the elementary and middle schools may also have a list of items specific to their class that they will share with students and families.

- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a 2021-22 substitute at WW-P? Please click [here](#) for more information and click [here](#) to apply.
- **Around the District News**
  - HSS PTSA fundraisers available Districtwide
    - It's the HAPPY BIRTHDAY LAWN SIGN! Celebrate your birthday to help us celebrate the HSS graduating seniors. For more information and to reserve your date, please click [here](#).
    - Pop-Up Photo Session with Peter Hsu from Fotolux on Sept. 26, 2021. Bring your whole family (even Fido!) and you'll receive 6 digital photo files to use for holiday cards and portraits for \$75. For additional details and to sign up, click [here](#).
  - HSN PTSA fundraiser available districtwide supporting the Post Prom/Senior Celebrations Committee
    - Looking to support our celebrations for the HSN Class of 2022? Check out their Fall Mums sale! The price is \$8 each for a 9" mum. The order deadline is Sept. 19. Payment details are located on the order form. If you have any questions, please [contact](#) us. Pickup will take place on Oct. 1. Click [here](#) to place your order.

## Health and Safety

- Click [here](#) to read a message from our school nurses.

## Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University**, in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, WW-P will facilitate a virtual Parent University Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. "**Reentry & Resilience: Continuing to Cope with COVID**" will assist parents in understanding the anxious feelings, worries, and fears students may be feeling as they return to school. Appropriate support strategies, guidance, and tips will be shared. Additional information will be provided closer to the event.

## Community Education

- **One Day Wonders- Day Off Care:** One Day Wonders is a full-day program open to **ALL** registered WW-P students in grades kindergarten through 8 on

most days in which school is not in session. Students will participate in activities and enjoy special visitors while on-site at a specific school location. More information can be found [here](#). To register for One Day Wonders, please set up your Community Pass account here: [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

- **Fall Afterschool Enrichment:** IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL after-school enrichment program registration is now open for students in grades 1-12. Registration is limited at each school or online. Check out the Fall guide [here](#). To register for fall after-school enrichment programs, please set up your Community Pass account [here](#).

### **Food Services**

- In conjunction with the federal government and the NJDOA, WW-P will be participating in a waiver that provides students access to nutritious meals at no cost.
  - [Click here](#) for directions for creating an account with PaySchools Central and pre-ordering may be found below.
  - Parents/guardians are reminded to pre-order via PaySchools Central if your student will be eating a lunch provided by WW-P Food Services.

### **Technology**

- **Student Chromebook Issues:** If a student in grades k-8 has an issue with their Chromebook, they should report the problem to their homeroom teacher. All high school students who have an issue with their Chromebook should enter a tech ticket and drop off their Chromebook at the Media Center. Upon drop off, a replacement Chromebook will be provided.

### **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.

### **Community Events**

- **AAPSG:** Check out the [fall AAPSG newsletter](#) for information, activities, and upcoming events including the organization's Sept. 16, 2021, general meeting (virtual) at 7:30 p.m. The meeting topic will be "Educating and Empowering Your Student This Calendar Year."

- Click [here](#) for more 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](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)