

Sept. 17, 2021

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

Dear Wicoff Families,

More than a week into the new school year, our kids have settled in really well!! A big shout out to our amazing Wicoff teachers and staff for making the experience for our kids so smooth and exciting.

As you all get to know your class teachers and hear from the school administration during back to school nights next week, you will get another opportunity to meet the principal and hear his thoughts/ask questions during our first **PTA General Meeting Sept. 23, 2021, at 7 p.m.** You all will get to hear exciting news of what is happening in the world of PTA, the wonderful events planned for our kids this year and approve our PTA budget. We will also launch the **National PTA Reflections Program** during the meeting. The Zoom Link for the meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3669297517?pwd=Y1U3UWdYNUZrTldVZkJRbjQ2aHNxdz09>

Many families have registered for PTA membership. This gives you the right to vote at events and the opportunity for your kids to participate in Reflections. It is still not too late to register for PTA. Join PTA using this link:

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

Ways to support the PTA:

- **Amazon Smile:** <https://smile.amazon.com/> Add Jvb Wicoff Elem School as a charity you support OR on your amazon app, go to settings -> Amazon Smile to add Wicoff school.
- **Support by DONATING:** [Click here to donate.](#)
- **Box Tops:** Download the Box Tops App on your phone, Add Wicoff school and Scan your receipts.

If you have any questions, concerns and/or ideas, please contact us at wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com.

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

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

- **Sept. 25 - RedBerry Fundraiser** - Help raise money for the PTA by having some delicious frozen yogurt.

Stay tuned for more exciting PTA events in October!

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.
- **WhatsApp group for WW-P 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 or Veena Pai at 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

Below are some important dates to place on your calendars:

Virtual Back to School Nights - *A flyer will be sent to you via email with times and Zoom links.*

- 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 pick-up: 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.

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 pick-up 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 Pick-Up 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.

Please continue to be patient with our school buses these first couple of weeks. We will continue to 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

- **Elementary School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 12-15:** Elementary school students will have an early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences. Half-day preschool is closed.
- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 14-15:** Students in grades 6-8 will have an early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences.
- **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.
- **Virtual Preschool:** The child growth and development department and our WW-P high school students are excited to announce a free-of-charge virtual preschool for the 2021-22 school year. The program is open to children ages 3-5 who reside in WW-P. Students will have the opportunity to learn, interact, grow and develop age appropriate preschool skills virtually. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **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

- A Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Sept. 17.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's School Exclusion Chart.

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. Register in advance for this webinar:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LpePGPiORjKOFdpvovUBzQ

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 K-8 on most days in which school is not in session, through Feb. 1, 2022. 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 and will close Sept. 28 or once capacity is reached. Registration is limited at each school or online. Check out the Fall guide [here](#). In-person enrichment programs begin the week of Oct. 4 as do most virtual enrichment programs. 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

- West Windsor is celebrating its 225th birthday in 2022. The Historical Society of West Windsor has many exciting events taking place throughout the year.
 - Take a [West Windsor Walking Tour](#) (ribbon cutting Oct. 10)
 - Enter the [225 Anniversary Logo Contest](#) (deadline: Sept. 30).
- 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](#)