

Oct. 8, 2021

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

Oct. 12-15: Elementary school virtual parent/teacher conferences - Elementary school students will have an early dismissal on those dates. Half-day preschool is closed. Full-day preschool will dismiss with grades 1-5.

PTA

Our children had so much fun learning drama and participating in Story Read Aloud this week. A big thank you to Mrs. Emily Vorp for hosting "Stage a Story" night.

Reflections: The theme this year is "***I will change the world by...***". Kids can explore this theme in the form of literature, dance, visual arts, film production, music and photography. For more information on how to participate click [here](#). The deadline for submission is **Nov. 10, 2021**. No late entries will be accepted. All students submitting an entry to Wicoff PTA Reflection program, MUST have at least one Wicoff PTA member in his/her household. [Join the PTA](#) to take advantage of this program.

Book Fair: SAVE THE DATE: Monday, Oct. 18 - Friday, Oct. 22: We are excited to have the book fair in-person this fall. Kids will have the opportunity to shop during their library/media period. All purchases go to support the Wicoff Media Center and student events sponsored by the PTA. Look out for the Book Fair flyer and informational letter, which will be coming home in your child's backpack next week. Thank you for your support and Happy Reading! More details to come during your child's media lesson or visit the [Wicoff PTA website](#) for more information.

Bingo Nights: Our annual BINGO night is going virtual again this year. Our wonderful teachers will be calling bingo numbers and kids will have a blast trying to win some awesome prizes. Register now and join the fun! This event is open to PTA members, please support our school PTA and become a member [here](#). Any questions visit Wicoff PTA website [here](#) OR email wicoffbingo@gmail.com.

- **Kindergarten & 1st Grade Bingo Night:** Oct. 13, from 7-8 p.m. (Registration closes Oct. 10)- K & 1st grade registration link and more info are available [here](#).
- **2nd & 3rd Grade Bingo Night:** Oct. 20, from 7-8 p.m. (Registration closes Oct. 17)- 2nd & 3rd grade registration link and more info are available [here](#).

Media Center: Would you like to help our media center run smoothly this school year? We are looking for volunteers to help out with circulation! You would have to come once a week from approximately 9:45 – 11:00 a.m. You must be vaccinated. If you are interested, please send an email to Ms. Taylor at Danica.taylor@ww-p.org. She will coordinate with you the day of the week that you will come! Your help is so very appreciated! It takes a small village to run a library and we sure hope you can be a part of it!

Join the PTA: Many families have registered for PTA membership. This gives you the right to vote at events and 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 October:

- Oct. 13 - Kindergarten & 1st Grade Bingo Night
- Oct. 20 - 2nd & 3rd Grade Bingo Night
- Oct. 18-22 - Book Fair
- Oct. 28 - Bake Night With "Ms. Rosie" , Wicoff Instructional Assistant, Mrs. Wendy Rosenthal
- Oct. 31 - Halloween celebration with pumpkin photo submission

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. 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.
- **SEPTSA Meeting/Advance Questions (Oct. 28, 7 p.m., virtual)** – Join us for our next virtual meeting where Dr. Teresa Taylor will answer questions regarding how to determine when to modify your child’s IEP during the school year. RSVP to the meeting and send your questions to: Veena at 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 (Oct. 24, 4-6 p.m., virtual):** Join us for an informal virtual meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. Contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net or Veena Pai at veenapai.0408@gmail.com for the Zoom link and more information. (If you have a question or want to support discussions with other families, but this timing doesn’t work with your schedule, contact Kathleen or Veena to find other times to talk or help.)

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

SCHOOL

Below are some important dates to place on your calendars:

- Oct. 12, 13, 14 (evening) and 15 - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conference: These are early dismissal days and dismissal is at 1 p.m. for Grades 1-3. Kindergarten early dismissal schedule is:
 - (AM) 8:40 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.
 - (PM) 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Click the link that follows for some helpful things to think about or questions to consider before meeting with your child’s teacher:

[Parent-Teacher Conferences - Parent Questions](#)

[Click here](#) for some important Wicoff Spirit Day dates to place on your calendars.

Important reminders regarding drop-off and pickup: 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 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.

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 virtual parent/teacher conferences. Half-day preschool is closed. Full-day preschool will dismiss with grades 1-5.
- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 14-15:** Students in grades 6-8 will have an [early dismissal](#) for virtual 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 are 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.
- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a 2021-22 substitute at WW-P? Please click [here](#) for more information and click [here](#) to apply.
- **Board of Education Meetings:** Effective Oct. 19, 2021, Board of Education meetings will be held in the multipurpose room at Central Office, 321 Village Road East, West Windsor, NJ. The meetings will also be live streamed via the District's [YouTube channel](#). Please [click here](#) for upcoming meeting dates.
- **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](#).
 - HSN PTSA Post Prom/Senior Celebrations fundraiser available Districtwide:
 - Halloween Boos Fundraiser: Send our Ghost Yard Stakes with a goodie bag to your friends and family. Boo deliveries will start Oct. 15 and end Nov. 1. Book yours today!! We have several options for sale, and you can easily pay through our [Memberhub store](#). [Click here to order](#).

Health and Safety

- A **Health and Safety Update** from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Oct. 8.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's **School Exclusion Chart**.

Athletics

- Effective Oct. 1: **Updated student health and safety protocols** for home football games
 - WW-P North and South students must show their current student ID or be able to provide their ID number.

- Middle school and elementary school aged students must be accompanied by a supervising adult to enter the game. The supervising adult must remain with the student(s) for the duration of their attendance at the game.
- Students may not carry book bags/bags/etc. into the game.
- Students may not loiter in areas outside the fenced stadium or on school property.
- WW-P continues to recommend that spectators at outdoor events utilize facial coverings when not able to socially distance.
- WW-P sports fans are reminded that face coverings are required by all individuals (students, parents/guardians and visitors) while inside District facilities to attend an indoor event no matter their vaccination status.

Counseling

- **The next Virtual Parent University, *Video Gaming - Impacts of Addiction***, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For most players, playing video games is a fun activity, a way to relax, connect with friends, and enjoy a challenge, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, for some players, a video game hobby can escalate into an addictive disorder which takes over their lives. *Video Gaming - Impacts of Addiction* will examine the impact of video gaming on children and adolescents. To login on Nov. 9, please use the following link:
<https://zoom.us/j/93332150507?pwd=eFB4aTY2RUxFTi9rM1JPWHInMGFMZz09>
- To view past Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

Community Education

- **Extended Day Program:** Spaces are available at Dutch Neck, Maurice Hawk, Town Center, Wicoff, Village, and GMS for afternoon EDP. As spaces are limited, registration is on a first come, first served basis. To check out EDP options, [click here](#). To register for EDP, set up or log into your Community Pass account [here](#).
- **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](#).
- **Middle and High School Virtual Enrichment:** Virtual enrichment classes are still open for students to register. Most classes begin at the end of October and are offered in the evening and some Saturdays. Check out the Fall guide [here](#). To register for fall middle and high school virtual 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.
- Effective Oct. 1, parents/guardians no longer need to pre-order student lunches.
- PaySchools Central is the new food service online system, [click here](#) for directions for creating an account.

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)
 - **Deadline extended** to submit an entry for the [225 Anniversary Logo Contest](#) (deadline: Oct. 20).
- The **Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office** invites teens and caregivers to a virtual event Oct. 13 from 6-8 p.m. titled "[Better Safe Than Sorry: Advanced Cell Phone & Internet Safety for Teens.](#)"
- The **West Windsor Health Department** has several upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Please [click here](#) for dates and more information.
- **STARTALK**, a nationally recognized program of the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, is offering free virtual classes in Hindi and Urdu for students in 3rd-5th grade. Registration is open through Oct. 16. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register.
- 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.

- Effective Oct. 19, 2021, Board of Education meetings will be held in the multipurpose room at Central Office, 321 Village Road East, West Windsor, NJ. The meetings will also be live streamed via the District's [YouTube channel](#).

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

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