

Dec. 10, 2021

## Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

### PTA

- Our children had so much fun dancing to the beats. Thank you Mrs. Babita Negi and our awesome teachers for making the night so much fun.
- **Ping Pong Fundraiser:** The Wicoff PTA is very excited to present the first-ever Family Table Tennis Event at "Princeton Pong", a local club in Princeton Junction. Please plan your visit and mark your calendars for this wonderful fundraiser event. PTA has negotiated a discounted rate of \$15/hr per table for Wicoff families. The event will run from Dec. 6, 2021 through Mar. 6, 2022. More details on the event will be sent via email by teachers and will be available on PTA's social media.
- **Join the PTA:** Many families have registered for PTA membership. This gives you the right to vote at events and your children the opportunity 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](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).

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

### SEPTSA

- **General Meeting, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. (virtual):** Join our PTSA meeting to receive updates on topical issues in our schools and region that impact students

with special needs. Listen to our featured speaker, Jared Oberweis (attorney at Hinkle, Prior and Fischer), discuss the process and issues involved in guardianship for our special needs children when they reach adulthood. This is a companion to his May talk for SEPTSA regarding estate planning. To RSVP by Jan. 12, and for questions: contact Veena at [veenapai.0408@gmail.com](mailto:veenapai.0408@gmail.com).

- **Informal Meeting "Office Hours," Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. (virtual):** Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. To RSVP by Dec. 12 at 12 p.m., and for questions contact Kathleen Moriarty at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) or Veena Pai at [veenapai.0408@gmail.com](mailto:veenapai.0408@gmail.com). (If you have a question and this timing doesn't work with your schedule, but you'd like to support or connect with other families dealing in similar situations, please contact Kathleen or Veena at any time).
- **Lego Buddies, Dec. 18 at 2-3 p.m. (virtual):** Bring your favorite Legos to your computer and lots of imagination as we share our building creations and enjoy some games. SEPTSA will send holiday giveaways to participants. Intended ages: pre-K - 6th grade. To RSVP by Dec. 17, and for questions: contact Veena Pai at [veenapai.0408@gmail.com](mailto:veenapai.0408@gmail.com).
- **Lego Robotic Buddies, 1 hour Session by Arrangement (virtual):** Our student volunteers provide one-to-one sessions learning and playing with Lego WeDo robotics. Intended for children of adult members or student members. To arrange a session and ask questions, contact Kathleen Moriarty at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net).
- **SEPTSA Membership:** Our PTSA exists to support students and families of students with IEPs and 504 plans. Please join SEPTSA to be added to our mailing list and hear about upcoming events and speakers! Membership is available 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 for Special Ed Families:** Join us on WhatsApp to connect with other WW-P families of special education students. [Connect with WWP special ed parents](#).

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

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## SCHOOL

- **Outdoor Recess:** Old man winter is right around the corner! As autumn begins to dwindle and winter fast approaches, the cold winter air is waiting to break through. We remind you to send your child/children to school each day with appropriate dress. This includes jackets, gloves, scarves and hats. Throughout the winter months, we will make every attempt to send the children outside for recess whenever possible. If going outside is not an option due to the temperature or inclement weather, appropriate indoor activities, projects and

games will be provided for the children. Children will not be permitted to go outside if they are not dressed in proper attire for the cold weather.

- **Important reminders about winter weather:** With the snow season starting, it is important to be prepared. Any winter weather announcements will be shared on the following:
  - District website: [ww-p.org](http://ww-p.org)
  - Twitter: [Twitter.com/WWP\\_Schools](https://twitter.com/WWP_Schools)
  - Facebook: [Facebook.com/WWP.Schools](https://facebook.com/WWP.Schools)
  - Guardian email: The email listed in Genesis
  - Text messaging service (if you are signed up): For more information on how to sign up for emergency notifications via text, please click [here](#).
- **Children's Sweatpants Donations Needed:** The nurse's office is looking for donated sweatpants. We are looking for children's sizes 5-12. We will gladly accept new or lightly worn sweatpants. Please feel free to send in donations with your child or drop-off with the security officer at the main entrance doors. We thank you in advance for your generous donations!
- [Click here](#) for important **Wicoff Spirit Day** dates to place on your calendars. Also, students are encouraged to wear their Wicoff Spirit Wear or school colors (blue, white and orange) on Friday's throughout the school year.
- **Third Grade Choral Concert:** We are excited to be able to provide a performance opportunity for our elementary music chorus students this year. Our goal is to provide a meaningful concert experience for students while keeping everyone safe. To that end, our concerts will look a little different. We appreciate your support as we prepare to share these performances with you. Our chorus concerts this winter will be recorded live during the school day and shared with you to watch at your convenience. It is our goal to have these daytime performances attended by a small audience of students so the performers can experience applause and audience appreciation. The exact logistics will be different for each school based upon the number of performers and size of the performance space. Regardless, the performance experience for students will be consistent across the district. The Wicoff students will be performing their winter choral concert Dec. 15.
  - If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's chorus teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Pacella. ([Rebecca.Pacella@ww-p.org](mailto:Rebecca.Pacella@ww-p.org))
- **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. As always, the safety and comfort of our students is our top priority!

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## DISTRICT

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

### Reminders

- **Winter Recess:** All WW-P schools will have an early dismissal Thursday, Dec. 23. No food service will be provided. Half-day preschool at Maurice Hawk Elementary School is closed Dec. 23. All WW-P schools and board offices are closed Dec. 24, 2021-Jan. 2, 2022. Schools and board offices will reopen Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. Please click [here](#) for the 2021-22 school year calendar.
- **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.
- **Around the District News**
  - PTA/PTSA fundraisers available districtwide

- HSS PTSA: 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](#).
  - Holiday Charity Drives Around the District
    - High School South United Charity Drive: This annual event is collecting for struggling South Pirate families and local organizations. Donations may be dropped off at the outdoor drop off day, Saturday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at High School South's (346 Clarksville Rd., West Windsor, NJ 08550) Penn Lyle parking lot. Monetary donations in the form of a check made out to "Pirates United" can be sent to High School South at the above address. For more info, click [here](#).
    - Hands Across the Water Student Club Holiday Charity Drive: The Hands Across the Water Club is a student club at Community Middle School, Grover Middle School, and High School North. The club's parent organization is Woman Cradle of Abundance, a not-for-profit that aims to empower women and girls and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo in their fight for safety, education, and economic independence. Hands Across the Water's current holiday charity drive looks to raise money for [Community Charity School](#) in Goma, Congo in order to install solar panels to power the school which currently has no electricity. The student clubs are looking to raise approximately \$1,500 to complete this project. For more information or to donate, please [click here](#).

## Health and Safety

- A **Health and Safety Update** from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Dec. 10.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's **School Exclusion Chart**.

## Counseling

- To view past Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

## Community Education

- **Winter After School Enrichment Registration Open for K-12th Grade Students:** Join Community Education for both in-person and online enrichment programs, beginning Jan. 24, 2022! Programs are again offered to elementary through high school students. Kindergarteners are now eligible to participate in select programs at each school. Check out the winter guide by clicking here: [2022 Winter Enrichment Guide](#).
- **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. Limited spaces are still available for Jan. 17, 2022. More information can be found [here](#). To register for One Day Wonders, please set up your Community Pass account here: [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

- **Extended Day Program (EDP) Registration Update:** Extended Day Program (EDP) registration will be CLOSED starting Dec. 22, 2021, and will not reopen until Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. Anyone needing to register for EDP services for the beginning of January must do so on or before the Wednesday, Dec. 22 deadline. To register for any of the Community Education programs, please set up your Community Pass account here: [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

## Curriculum and Instruction

- A report card is a tool to communicate from teachers to caregivers students' current progress based on grade level standards and skills. The K-5 report card was completed a few years ago and the Curriculum and Instruction Department recently had the opportunity to update it. These updates included work on some of the indicators, descriptions, skills and/or standards that appear on the report card to ensure it is the most modern and beneficial version for our students, staff, and caregivers. As we end the first trimester this school year, we will be able to use the newly updated K-5 report cards. Below you will find the links to the K-5 report card templates, summaries of each section found on the report card, and links to tools created to support caregivers/families.
  - [K-5 Report Cards and Supports](#)
  - [DLI Chinese and Spanish Report Cards K-3](#)

## 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.
- PaySchools Central is the new food service online system, [click here](#) for directions for creating an account.
- Interested in a part-time job serving nutritious meals to our students? Please call Food Services at (609) 716-5000 x5938, or visit [www.Sodexo.jobs](http://www.Sodexo.jobs) and search "Plainsboro".

## 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.

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

- Join the [WW-P Education Foundation](#) in celebrating the incredible WW-P faculty and staff. Give a STAR to honor your child's teacher, guidance counselor, principal or staff member who makes a difference in their lives. The WW-P Education Foundation is accepting requests through Dec. 17, 2021, for the STAR Campaign. Your donation helps fund grants that enrich your child's education. Please click [here](#) for more details and to purchase a STAR.

### **Community Events**

- The West Windsor Health Department has an upcoming COVID-19 and flu vaccination clinic Dec. 14. Click [here](#) for more information.
- 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.
- Board of Education meetings are held in the multipurpose room at Central Office, 321 Village Road East, West Windsor, NJ. The meetings are also live streamed via the District's [YouTube channel](#).

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

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