

Feb. 4, 2021

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

Hoping the kids had fun playing in the snow. We kick off February with exciting events. Remember to register!!

- **Masked Teacher:** Put on your detective hats and solve the mystery of the masked teacher. This virtual event is open only to PTA members. Today is the last day for registering. Don't miss out!!
 - Event date and time: Thursday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. (Virtual)
 - Zoom link: Will be emailed directly to registered participants close to the event.
 - Registration link: <https://forms.gle/7rna2PmPkQHpx7iC9>
 - **Deadline for registration: Feb. 4**
- **Wicoff Family- Virtual Game Night:** This is the 2nd Annual Family Trivia Night, so grab the whole family and join in on the fun. Your family will play along with other families to answer trivia questions about our wonderful school and our awesome towns of Plainsboro and West Windsor. Prizes will be awarded to the families who know our school and towns best! Any questions, email wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com
 - Event date and time: Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m sharp.
 - Place: In the comfort of your home. The Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants only
 - Who: Wicoff PTA members. Due to a limitation on the game platform we are using, we will only be able to accept the first 45 PTA families who register
 - Materials needed: One device (two preferred) and Internet connection
 - Last day to register: Monday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. OR when we have reached full capacity of 45 families.
 - Registration link: <https://forms.gle/8ZYwujk57db9gPWK9>
- **Green Science Fair:** PTA would like to invite all our young Wicoff scientists to this year's Green Science Fair. This is a virtual event open to students in grades 1-3.
 - Event date and time: March 19, 9-11 a.m. (Virtual)

- Zoom link: To be mailed directly to participants.
- Registration link: <https://forms.gle/wdHoG6nz9BuU2rvWA>
- **Deadline for registration: Feb. 18**
- **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 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.
- **Spirit Wear:** If you missed ordering and need to order, please let us know. We have limited quantities left.
- **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.

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

SEPTSA

- **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 special needs children of WWP SEPTSA adult members or student members. Please see below for membership registration. To arrange a session and ask questions, contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net.

- **Office Hours, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m., Virtual:** Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. To RSVP by 12 p.m. Feb. 6 and for questions: Contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net or Veena Pai at veenapai.0408@gmail.com. (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 in similar situations, please contact Kathleen or Veena at any time.)
- **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 be sure to 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 note that registration with your child(ren) school PTA/PTSA or having your child classified or "registered" with Special Services does not qualify as membership with SEPTSA. Please click [here](#) for more information about SEPTSA.
- **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](#)

SCHOOL

Health Form in Genesis Parent Portal: Parents/guardians are reminded that if their child is COVID positive, experiencing symptoms, or is unvaccinated and has been identified as a close contact, they are to complete the health screening form in the [Genesis Parent Portal](#). Virtual instruction (if eligible) will be provided to quarantined and isolated individuals during such quarantine based on the [School Exclusion Chart](#). We ask parents/guardians to be patient as virtual instruction information is set-up due to the possibility of high demand. Once the form is submitted, please keep your child home and wait for a District staff member to reach out. **Please remember to hit SUBMIT so we receive your form.**

Social-Emotional Needs: As we see a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in our area and around the globe, we know that there are heightened levels of anxiety in ourselves and in our families. We want our families to know some of the ways in which we help support the social-emotional needs of our Wicoff students, in addition to their academic needs. Our school is modeled using the principles of **Responsive Classroom**. Responsive Classroom is a student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching. It is an approach that focuses on engaging academics, and a positive school community. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Responsive Classroom practices. Your child also participates in **Morning Meetings** to grow and strengthen their social connections with peers. In addition, our students participate in *mindfulness*

activities with their classroom teachers, and *lessons* about stress, worry, expressing feeling and coping skills with our school counselor, Mrs. Ellen Incolingo.

As you continue to navigate these times with your family, please know that we are here as a resource for you and your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your principal team or our school counselor if you or your child need support. The CDC has also published a thorough COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit that addresses how parents and families can talk with their children about COVID. Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

Outdoor Recess: Winter is here and the cold weather is already upon us. 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 and Other Important Announcements and Information: 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

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 are STILL NEEDED: Thank you to those families who were able to donate. The nurse's office is still looking for donated sweatpants. We are looking for children's sizes 5-12. We will gladly accept new or lightly worn sweatpants. Please 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!

Wicoff Spirit Day Dates: [Click here](#) for important **Wicoff Spirit Day** dates to place on your calendars. Students are encouraged to wear their Wicoff Spirit Wear or school colors (blue, white and orange) on Fridays throughout the school year.

- The next Spirit Day is Feb. 11 – Wear red!

Need Books?: Wondering what to read when your child can't get to the library? We've got you covered! Our school provides multiple ebook (online) collections for our students, teachers, and families. This past week, media classes were introduced to our newest ebook resource, Capstone Interactive ebook library. This collection of over 3,500 ebooks allows readers to search and filter books by topic, grade level, and reading level so that our readers can all find something interesting to read! Students have the option to have Capstone read the books to them or to turn off the audio to read on their own. Wicoff students can find directions in your child's Media Google Classroom for logging onto Capstone Interactive (logon is through PebbleGo in ClassLink) and have practiced in Media class. Check out the other ebook resources that we provide through ClassLink as well – Destiny Discover, MackinVia, Tumblebooks, and RazKids

Vaccinations: If your child has completed both vaccinations for COVID-19, please send a copy of your vaccination record to our school nurse, Moria Jean Healey at MoirJean.Healey@ww-p.org.

Important Reminders for Student 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!

Construction Safety: Please be aware that construction has begun in the rear of the Wicoff School building. Construction vehicles will be entering and exiting the school driveway located off of Plainsboro Road. Please drive carefully!!

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Monday, Feb. 7, and Tuesday, Feb. 8, are middle school parent-teacher conference days. Both Community and Grover Middle Schools will follow the [early dismissal schedule](#) and will dismiss at 12:20 p.m. An express lunch will be served at the middle schools Feb. 7 and Feb. 8.
- **Updated WW-P Academic Calendar:** With the change of the previously scheduled PD Day (from Feb. 21 to Jan. 3) as well as the use of one emergency closing day (Jan. 7), all WW-P schools and board offices will be open Feb. 21, 2022, and April 13, 2022. Please click [here](#) for the updated 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**
 - 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](#).
 - The Valentine Fundraiser is back! Send a jar of Hershey kisses to family, friends, WW-P teachers/staff or WW-P police and fire departments! Quantities are limited, so put your order in today using [this form](#)!

Health and Safety

- A **Health and Safety Update** from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Feb. 4.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's **School Exclusion Chart**.

- WW-P, in conjunction with West Windsor Health Department will hold a COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinic Feb. 9 from 4-7 p.m. Please click [here](#) for more information. Adult and pediatric doses will be available at the clinic.
- The District will offer students and vaccinated staff the opportunity to participate in a free, voluntary, **opt-in weekly COVID testing** program. For more information and how to register, please [click here](#).
 - Reminder: Testing kits will be sent home with registered participants Thursday, Feb. 3, and Friday, Feb. 4, and **must be returned Monday, Feb. 7.**
 - For test instructions, please click [here](#).

Counseling

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

Community Education

- **Coming Soon:** Spring After School Enrichment (*In-person AND virtual options*); Saturday Sports Programs; Middle School and High School Programs; and Summer Program Registration Information (*in-person AND virtual options*)
- **Extended Day Program (EDP) Registration Available:** Extended Day Program (EDP) registration is open for spaces at each elementary and middle school location. Morning care begins at 7 a.m. and is available to all kindergarten through fifth grade students. Afternoon care begins at school dismissal (2:45 p.m. or 3:15 p.m.) and concludes at 6:30 p.m. for all students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade.
 - Spaces are limited due to social distancing requirements. Once a school has reached capacity, registration will be closed for that location. Registration is required.
 - To register for any of the Community Education programs, please set up your Community Pass account here: [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

Food Services

- The Sodexo February menus and newsletter are available, [click here](#) to read.
- 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 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.
- **Virtual Students with Chromebook Issues:** Students in grades K-8 who are currently learning virtually due to a required quarantine/isolation and are experiencing a Chromebook issue, should contact their teacher who will enter a tech ticket on their behalf. The student will then be contacted by a school staff member to exchange their current device with a new one. High school students should reach out to their assigned [assistant principal](#) to make arrangements.

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

- The Education Foundation is accepting requests through Feb. 11, 2022, for the [HEART campaign](#). Give a Valentine's Day HEART to honor your child's teacher, school counselor, principal, or staff member who makes a difference in their lives. Show them you love them!
- The Education Foundation will host their annual Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival for students in grades K-8 as a virtual event this year. The event will be held Feb. 26 for students in grades K-3 and Feb. 27 for students in grades 4-8. For more info and to register, please click [here](#).

Community Events

- The West Windsor Health Department has several COVID-19 vaccine clinics scheduled in February. Dates, details and registration information may be found [here](#).
- AAPSG invites the community to celebrate Black History Month. The theme for 2022 Black History Month is "Black Health and Wellness." Mark your calendar and register for [upcoming events](#).
- 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](#)