

Nov. 4, 2022

## Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

**All WW-P schools will be closed Thursday, Nov. 10, and Friday, Nov. 11. Due to the shortened week, there will not be a Nov. 11 newsletter. The next newsletter will be sent Nov. 18.**

### PTA

The deadline for your PTA Reflections submission has been extended to **Nov. 14!** Now your child can avail the long weekend to work on their artwork as well! Happy Halloween to all our families. We hope to see you at the Plainsboro Rec Center this weekend and at the parade on Monday. Be safe! Join our Whatsapp group or follow us on [Facebook](#) to always be in the know.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. - Virtual PTA General Meeting and Mindfulness Session with Dr. Colleen Belmonte (Reading Teacher at Wicoff).** Dr. Belmonte has her PhD in Learning, Cognition, Instruction and Development from Rutgers University. Dr. Belmonte will share important background information on mindfulness and will also share strategies and tools for parents to use at home with their children.
- **Nov. 14 - Submission Deadline for National PTA Reflections 2022-23: Theme is "Show Your Voice!":** The deadline is approaching. Do you have any questions about your Reflections project? We are here to answer them. Reach out to us at the [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com) or [Senora Ronen](#) at school for help and guidance.
  - We cannot wait to see your student's creation for their PTA Reflections submission. Give them a chance to showcase their talent. Remember they can submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts. **Remember- please do not write their name on the entry or else it will be disqualified.**
  - **Last year Wicoff had three (3) award winners!!** Don't miss the deadline!!
  - **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.

- **All submissions must be made to [this google form link](#).** The visual arts category will be submitted to the class teacher. All other categories will be uploaded to google drive with a scanned copy of the entry form.  
**For more information click [here](#)**

### **Important Information:**

- **Online registration** to become a PTA Member is available. This is how we fund great events for school every year. Please join:  
<https://wicoff.memberhub.com/store>
- **Spirit Wear:** Wicoff merchandise is available in a variety of sizes. A new order of merchandise has arrived! Please order either via [the form](#) or online at <https://www.unified-spectrum.com/wwp-wicoff-school> or email us at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).
- All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.
- 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. or visit us at [www.wicoffpta.org](http://www.wicoffpta.org) for further information.

### **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. [Click here](#) to read simple instructions for setting it up in your Amazon app for Wicoff to receive 0.5% of your purchases from Amazon.
- **Support by Donating:** You can also support the organization by making monetary contributions to support various programs. Click [here](#) to donate.
- **Box Tops:** Download the Box Tops App on your phone, add Wicoff school and scan your receipts.

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

### **SEPTSA**

- **SEPTSA's Student Alliance Meeting** (Friday, Nov. 6 @ 5:30-6:30 p.m., virtual)  
- Join SEPTSA student volunteers to participate and plan events and support opportunities for those with or having friends and family with special needs. SEPTSA Student Alliance is intended for middle and high school students and SEPTSA membership is required to volunteer. Contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) for questions and to RSVP by Nov. 6 @ 4 p.m.
- **Lego Buddies (Saturday, Nov. 5 @ 3-4 p.m., West Windsor Library):** We hope kids enjoy parallel play and improving their social skills while they build and

create with Legos. We'll provide some Lego robotics demonstrations to show interested kids and give them a chance to work with robotic kits. Intended ages: pre-K - 6th grade. To **RSVP by Nov. 4**, and for questions, please contact Kathleen 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 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. For clarification, registering with your child's school PTA/PTSA or having your child classified or "registered" with Special Services is not the same as registering for SEPTSA membership. There are volunteer opportunities for our members ranging from just one hour total to one hour per month. Go to [www.wwp-septsa.org](http://www.wwp-septsa.org) 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](#)

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## SCHOOL

- **Label ALL Student Personal Belongings:** Please be sure to label ALL of your child(ren)'s personal belongings. This will help ensure that personal belongings left behind in the classroom, on the buses or in the dining room will be returned to the owner. Please include name, grade, and teacher.
- **Construction Safety:** Please be aware that construction continues in the rear of the school building. Construction vehicles will be entering and exiting the school driveway located off of Plainsboro Road. Please drive carefully when on the school property!
- **Student Drop Off and Pickup:** When dropping off your child(ren), please park your car in the church parking lot and walk your child to the front doors (#1). Doors open at 8:40 a.m. Any student who arrives after 8:55 a.m. will need a late pass. When picking up your child(ren), please park in the church parking lot and meet your child(ren) outside of the gym doors (#14). Pick up begins at 3:10 p.m.
- **Genesis/Student Information System:** Our student information system, [Genesis](#), is filled with important information including attendance, grades/report cards, student emergency information, student schedules, bus routes, etc. Please familiarize yourself with our student information system.

- **Halloween Parade:** Thank you to those parents/guardians who were able to join us for our Halloween Parade. It was nice to be able to continue the annual tradition this school year. We know the students had so much fun parading around the school property.

### Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 10 & 11 - Schools closed
  - Nov. 14- 18 - American Education Week (Information to come next week)
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## DISTRICT

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

### Reminders

- **WW-P schools are closed Thursday, Nov. 10, and Friday, Nov. 11, 2022:** Please [click here](#) for the 2022-23 school year calendar.
- **WW-P celebrates American Education Week Nov. 13-19:** American Education Week promotes collaboration between parents/guardians/caregivers and educators/staff members. Elementary and middle school families will be receiving information from their teacher and/or school regarding the opportunity to get a glimpse into their child's typical school day.
- **Student Handbook and Policy Update:** District policies are updated on an as needed basis. In September, Policy 5600 was updated. In response, student handbooks have also been updated accordingly. Policy 5600 may be viewed [here](#).
- **Early Dismissal Requests for Students:** Parents/guardians notifying school attendance office/school secretary of a student early dismissal can be done via TeleSafe, a note in the "Daily Attendance" tab in Genesis Parent Portal or by emailing/sending a note to your school's attendance secretary.
- **Staff Email Addresses:** Staff email addresses use the following pattern [firstname.lastname@wwprsd.org](#) (e.g., Jim Smith is [jim.smith@wwprsd.org](#)).
- **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.
  - **Interested in receiving SMS text notifications from the District?:** 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. The cell phone must be listed in Genesis as a cell phone (not as a home phone number). Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).
- **WW-P Mobile Application:** The WW-P app is now available for download on both the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app store. Designed for the school community, it

features convenient links and information all in one place. Download the app using the hyperlinks above or by searching “WW-P Schools” in the Google Play Store or App Store on Apple.

- **Masks:** WW-P schools and district offices are masking optional but masking is recommended. The District reserves the right to update/revoke masking protocols due to events such as outbreaks in classroom/ school/ building, growing cases in our community, etc. Masking is also optional but recommended on all passenger buses.
- **Reporting COVID positive or COVID symptomatic:** For the 2022-23 school year, parents/guardians should report their student’s COVID positive absence or report their student as COVID symptomatic in Genesis or via Tel-safe and email their school nurse for further instructions. There is NO Health Screening Form in Genesis for the 2022-23 school year. There is no virtual instruction for COVID-related exclusions. Please view the 2022-23 COVID guidance [here](#).
- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a 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 and help support HSS Student Celebrations! For more information and to reserve your date, click [here](#). Email Angela at [Hssbirthdaysign@southptsa.org](mailto:Hssbirthdaysign@southptsa.org) with any questions.

## Health and Safety

- A [Health and Safety Update](#) from Dr. Aderhold will be sent every other Friday. The next update will be sent Nov. 18, 2022.
  - Please note, due to the school break Nov. 10 and Nov. 11, there will be no Health and Safety Update sent Nov. 11.
- Click [here](#) to review the District’s School Exclusion Chart.
- Please note that for the safety of our school community, it is important that if your child is isolating or quarantining due to a COVID positive diagnosis, exposure or symptoms that they may not attend school or school events until their [quarantine/isolation period](#) has officially ended.
- WW-P, in conjunction with the West Windsor Health Department, will hold a **COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinic** Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, from 4-6 p.m. at the Board of Education district offices. Registration is required. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register. Adult and pediatric doses and boosters (including the bivalent booster) will be available at the clinic for those who are [eligible](#).

## Athletics

- WW-P has updated ticketing procedures for United football and HSN and HSS basketball games and wrestling matches. All spectators must pre-purchase their tickets to the game through the Ticket Spicket Mobile Application or through the Ticket Spicket Website. Season passes are available as are tickets for individual games. Tickets for individual games are available for purchase one week prior.
  - [United Football Tickets](#)
  - [High School North Tickets](#)
  - [High School South Tickets](#)

## Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University: School Refusal** - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, at 7 p.m. via Zoom
  - More information and registration link will be provided closer to the date.
- **Previous Virtual Parent University Events:** View material from previous Parent University presentations [here](#).
- **Attention High School Seniors and Parent/Guardians:** Upcoming financial aid planning workshops
  - **College Financial Aid Virtual Workshops:** HESAA Virtual FAFSA Completion Workshops and NJ Alternative Financial Aid Workshops for NJDREAMERS will be offered throughout the fall and early winter. For upcoming dates and login links, please click [here](#).

## Community Education

- **Adult Programs:** Community Education not only offers youth programs, but adult programs as well! Check out page 11 in the Fall guide here: [2022 Fall Program Guide](#).
- **Employment Opportunities Available in Community Education!**
  - Community Education is looking for creative, energetic and safety conscious individuals for assistance in the Extended Day Program! Morning and afternoon shifts available as well as full and part time opportunities. Hours are either 7 - 8:45 a.m. and/or 2:45 - 6:30 p.m. Scheduled hours depend on the specific school location.
  - Community Education has a limited number of High School Assistant positions also available for students attending High School North or High School South, who are at least 16 years of age or older. The ability to travel to different elementary locations is a plus.
  - To apply online for either of the above mentioned positions, visit the WWPRSD Human Resources page or [click here](#) (look for EDP).

## Food Services

- Check out the **Sodexo menus** and newsletter by [clicking here](#).

- **PaySchools Central** is the food service online system, click [here](#) for directions for creating an account.
  - Need to set limits and/or restrict food purchases for your student account? [Click here](#) for a “How to” guide.
- The **application for free and reduced price school meals**, which also opens up other food benefits for families, is available for completion for the 2022-23 school year in your [PaySchools Central](#) account or may be downloaded from the [District website](#). **Benefits for 2021-22 recipients expired Oct. 20, 2022.** Families must submit a new application for the 2022-23 school year.
- The School Nutrition Association has created a video regarding school meal changes for the 2022-23 school year. The video can be viewed in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).
- 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

- District issued Chromebooks for students in grades kindergarten through grade 3 are kept in the classroom.
- District issued Chromebooks for students in grades 4-12 are for students to use both in school and to take home.
  - Students should bring their fully charged Chromebooks to school with them each day.
  - Charging cords should remain at home.
  - Middle school families: The Chromebook cover from last year’s device should be used on this year’s device. If you do not have a cover from last year, please follow the process at your school to submit tech ticket so that we can provide a cover.

## 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.
- The WW-P mobile application is now available for download on both the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app store. Designed for the school community, the app features convenient links and information all in one place (e.g., events calendar, District notifications, news, and more). Download the app using the hyperlinks above or by searching “WW-P Schools” in the Google Play Store or App Store on Apple.

## Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)

- WW-P SEPAG’s mission is to facilitate communication between students, parents, staff, the Board of Education, and the community, about issues surrounding the district's special education programs and to advise the Board of Education and

administration on matters about improving the quality of special education district-wide.

- WW-P SEPAG is a state-mandated group for parents, educators, and individuals concerned about children with special needs and/or learning difficulties in the WW-P School District.
- If you are interested in joining our mailing list, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/ujE5PRyK5khchL7j9>.

### **Community Events**

- The West Windsor Health Department, in association with Wegmans Pharmacy, will host a **flu shot clinic**, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the West Windsor Senior Center. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
- The West Windsor Health Department has **COVID-19 vaccine clinics** scheduled throughout the month of November. Details and registration information may be found [here](#). Information regarding second booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for upcoming 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](#)