

Dec. 2, 2022

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

Upcoming Events:

- **Shake-A-Leg Family Dance Party - Dec. 8:** We are excited to be bringing back our in-person Shake-A-Leg Family Social. **Entry is \$10 for the family**
 - **Dec. 8 from 7-8 p.m.** in the Wicoff Gym
 - Families including siblings can attend. But remember, you will need to dance! Children attending must be supervised by an adult at all times. This is not a drop-off party.
 - Please [use this link](#) to RSVP prior to the event. (Only 1 RSVP per family is needed.)
 - Entry is \$10 per family. You may pay at the door in cash, check (made out to Wicoff PTA) or Zelle to wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com
 - The dances will be led by our awesome teachers as well as Let's Dance Academy owner, Mrs. Babita Negi. Babita is a past Wicoff parent so it is extra special to have her run the show again this year.
 - Light refreshments will be available for sale in the cafeteria
- **Write-a-Check Campaign- **Deadline extended to Dec. 16**:** The Wicoff PTA is a non-profit organization that depends fully on your donations. In order to continue with these events and programs, we need you!!!
 - By donating directly to the PTA, 100% of your donation goes straight to the PTA and is 100% tax deductible. We will be collecting checks through Dec. 16.
 - If you would like to make a donation any time this week (or during the school year), please send in your check payable to "Wicoff PTA" in an envelope labeled "PTA - Write-a-Check". Please include your name, your child's name and teacher. Questions? Email us at Wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com
 - Each Year, the PTA is able to sponsor various educational programs including:
 - Funding of up to three educational assemblies for the students throughout the year
 - Funding of some grade-level and school-wide grants, outreach initiatives in our community such as Brown Bag Lunches

- 3rd Grade Carnival (3rd grade “graduation”)
- Family Night, Shake-a-Leg, Family Bingo Night
- **December Holiday Toy Drive: Dec. 1-16:** As the festive season is upon us, please join us collecting toys for children in partnership with Homefront. Between Dec. 1 and Dec. 16, the PTA will be collecting new toys for children. Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy this season! Donations can be dropped off in the bins in front of the main office. We love encouraging the spirit of giving in our children.

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/www-wicoff-school> or email us at 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. Please ‘Like’ us on [Facebook](#) for updates, reminders, etc. or visit us at 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

- **Lego Buddies (Saturday, Dec. 3, from 1-2 p.m. at West Windsor Library)**
 - Please note the day/time change from our last notice which was scheduled for Sunday. We hope students with special needs challenges 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 students and give them a chance to work with robotic kits. Intended ages: pre-K - 6th grade. To **RSVP by Dec. 2** and for questions, please contact Kathleen at 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 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](#)

SCHOOL

- **Cold Temperatures:** We will do our BEST to have students go outside on the playground during their recess time even during the winter months depending on temperature and wind chill. In order for this to happen, students must dress appropriately and be ready for the cold temperatures. Please send your children with winter coats/jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, etc. There are so many benefits to fresh air, which include (*St. Mary's Health System Newsletter 2022*, Lindsay Grossman) :
 - Fresh air is good for your digestive system.
 - Fresh air helps improve blood pressure and heart rate.
 - Fresh air boosts your mood and makes you happier.
 - Fresh air strengthens your immune system.
 - Fresh air cleans your lungs.
 - Fresh air gives you more energy and a sharper mind.

- **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.
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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](#) Friday, Dec. 23; half-day preschool at Maurice Hawk Elementary School is closed. No food service will be provided Dec. 23. All WW-P schools and board offices are closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 2, 2023. Schools and offices will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Please [click here](#) for the 2022-23 school year calendar.
- **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](#).
- **Title 1 Information:** Title 1 is a federal program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The following WW-P schools receive Title 1 funding: Maurice Hawk Elementary School, Town Center Elementary School, Millstone River School, Village School, Wicoff Elementary School and High School South. Parent information about Title 1 in our schools can be found on our [District website](#).

- **Parent Gradebook Grade Alerts via Genesis:** Effective Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022, parents/guardians who have registered to receive Gradebook alerts via Genesis will receive one daily email notification that will summarize all updates made to your student's gradebook by their teachers since the previous daily summary was sent. This will eliminate the multiple emails sent to families on a daily basis from Genesis for each class/grade entered.
 - If parents/guardians wish to subscribe to receive this summary email, they may do so via [Genesis](#) in the "Message Center" under the "Message Alert Setup" tab.
- **Referendum/Capital Project Tours:** On Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, from 9 a.m. -12 p.m., WW-P will be holding capital project and referendum building tours for parents/guardians and community members to come into Maurice Hawk, Town Center, CMS, GMS, and HSS to experience the new and redone spaces that have been created and redesigned for our students and staff. Prior registration was required and closed Nov. 28.
- **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](#) 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 with any questions.
 - **HSN PTSA** fundraisers available Districtwide. Support HSN Class of 2023 Senior Celebrations:
 - **[Birthday cakes delivered to your home:](#)** Delicious Nothing Bundt Cake birthday cakes can be ordered throughout the school year with complimentary home delivery. Many packages are available.

Health and Safety

- A [Health and Safety Update](#) from Dr. Aderhold will be sent every other Friday.
 - The next update will be sent Dec. 2, 2022.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's COVID Guidance Chart. Click [here](#) for the District's Illness Exclusion Information.
- 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, Dec. 7, 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. Basketball season passes are available as are tickets for individual games/meets. Tickets for winter sports are now available for purchase.

- [High School North Tickets](#)
- [High School South Tickets](#)

Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University: School Refusal** - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, at 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - The presentation will explore the recent uptick in school refusal among students, possible underlying causes, and behavioral measures that can be taken in the home to assist in mitigating and/or preventing school refusal behaviors
 - Zoom link to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/95529647121?pwd=bVNDbFdOSUpkS1JSZ2RzckZtUHINQT09>
 - Passcode: 522563
- **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

- **Winter After School Enrichment Registration is Open!** After school enrichment programs are open for registration now through Jan. 17, 2023.
 - Programs are 6-weeks in duration and begin the week of Jan. 23, 2023.
 - Spaces are limited and classes begin to fill fast!
 - Check out the program offerings here: [2023 Winter Program Guide](#).
- **One Day Wonders (Day-off Care):** Registration has opened for the One Day Wonders for Jan. 16, 2023. Registration is open to all WW-P students in grades K-8.
 - To learn more about the January One Day Wonders programs, click [here!](#)
- **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

- **Sodexo at WW-P is hiring.** Apply today! Now offering a \$200 sign-on bonus. Click [here](#) for more information.
- 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 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 has **COVID-19 vaccine clinics** scheduled throughout the month of December. Details and registration information may be found [here](#). Information regarding second booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- **West Windsor Volunteer Fire Company #1** will hold their annual “**Breakfast with Santa**” event Dec. 4 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The cost of the event is \$9/per person and children under 2 are free. For more information, please [click 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](#)