

Jan. 27, 2023

## Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

### PTA

We are excited for all the registrations for Entertainment Night. Practice hard kiddos! We look forward to the show.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Wicoff Entertainment Night: Feb. 9** **\*\*Registration is closed\*** The Wicoff Entertainment Night is BACK! If your child enjoys singing, dancing, telling jokes or performing in any way, here is their chance to share their talents.
  - Event date: **Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023**
    - 4:45-6 p.m. for Kindergarten and 1st grade (Check-in at 4:15 p.m.)
    - 6:15-7:45 p.m. for 2nd and 3rd grade (Check-in at 5:45 p.m.)
  - This will be a ticketed event. You will receive more information shortly on how to purchase tickets to watch the show.
  - If you have any questions, please email: [wicoffentertainmentnight@gmail.com](mailto:wicoffentertainmentnight@gmail.com).
  - Have fun rehearsing and we look forward to your performance! Thank you, Wicoff PTA Entertainment Night Committee
- **Family Trivia Night (Virtual): Feb. 24:** We are very excited to bring Family Trivia Night back. Join us on Zoom for a fun evening of trivia. Save the date! More details coming soon!
- **Spring Book Fair: Feb. 27- March 3:** Our last book fair of the year is coming soon! Support your child's love of reading by supporting the Book Fair.
- **Green Science Fair: March 4:** Registration and details coming soon! Open to 1st-3rd grade students to register. All are welcome to attend and encourage our young and enthusiastic scientists.

### 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 Meeting (Tuesday, Jan. 31 @ 7 p.m. Virtual):** Join us for a virtual PTSA meeting with Special Services personnel featuring the presentation, "Special Education and You," educating families about the IEP and 504 process within WW-P and highlighting aspects that often raise questions. Families will have opportunities to ask questions. Contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) to obtain more information and a Zoom link by Jan. 30.
- **Meet-up/Office Hours (Sunday, Jan. 29 @ 4 p.m., McCaffreys Cafe West Windsor):** Join us for an informal meet-up to ask questions, plan SEPTSA activities and/or share experiences. Contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) to RSVP **by 12 p.m. on Jan. 29** and if you have questions. Individual arrangements can be made as well.
- **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 and/or contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) if you're interested in sharing your time and skills with 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

- **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.
- **Upcoming Events:**
- **Feb. 1 - First Day of Black History Month**

- **Feb. 1** - Global School Play Day
    - Wicoff will be participating in Global School Play Day! This is a global movement in which children engage in unstructured play for school day. You can watch a TedTalk about unstructured play [HERE](#). Children will be permitted to bring in one to two items (that they are willing to share!), as long as they are not electronic. This is a screen-free, play day! We are looking forward to supporting children as they practice their creativity, listening skills, perseverance, and flexible thinking!
  - **Feb. 10** - Spirit Day/Wear Red for Heart Healthy Month
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## DISTRICT

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

## Reminders

- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Feb. 6 and Feb. 7, 2023:** WW-P middle school students will have an [early dismissal](#) Monday, Feb. 6 and Tuesday, Feb. 7, for parent/teacher conferences. An express lunch will be served at the middle schools on those dates.
- **WW-P schools closed Friday, Feb. 17, and Monday, Feb. 20:** All WW-P schools will be closed Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, for staff professional development. All WW-P schools are closed Monday, Feb. 20, 2023.
- **Preschool Registration at HSN and HSS:** Spaces are still available in WW-P Child Growth and Development Department's 2022-23 school year preschool program at High School North and High School South. PirateCare and KnightCare's in-person preschool programs are for children ages 3-5 years old. The program is run by high school students under the leadership and supervision of a WW-P teacher. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year** is now open. Parents/guardians must complete the online application and make a phone appointment for registration. For more information and to begin the process, please click [here](#).
  - Interested in the **Dual Language Immersion (DLI)** program for your 2023-24 school year kindergarten student? The DLI program is holding an **in-person interest meeting Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.** at the Board offices (321 Village Rd. East, West Windsor). For more info and to register to attend the meeting, please click [here](#).
- **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.
- **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](mailto:Hssbirthdaysign@southptsa.org) with any questions.
  - **HSN PTSA** fundraisers available Districtwide. Support HSN Class of 2023 Senior Celebrations:
    - **[HSN Designer Handbag Bingo](#)** - Sunday, March 26, 3-5 p.m. at Millstone River School
      - **[GET your tickets NOW!](#)** This is the first time this event is being held since 2020!
      - **[Get the pre-sale pricing of \\$35/ticket.](#)** Tickets will be \$40 at the door. Admission includes 12 games of BINGO plus one door prize ticket and dessert. Tricky tray and 50/50 tickets will also be available for purchase. Dabbers and additional cards will also be for sale.
      - Must be 18 or older to attend. Doors open at 2 p.m. and BINGO starts at 3 p.m.
      - Groups of six may reserve a table in advance. Outside food is welcome. No alcoholic beverages.
      - Questions?: Please email [hsnptsaseniors@gmail.com](mailto:hsnptsaseniors@gmail.com)
    - **[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

- Please click [here](#) to read the Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold.
  - The next update will be sent Jan. 27, 2023.
- 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, Feb. 1, 2023, 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 Events**
  - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

## **Community Education**

- **CSI: How STEM is Used to Solve Crimes - February 17**
  - There are still spaces in CSI: How STEM is used to Solve Crimes
  - This course will be held at Grover Middle School Feb. 17.
  - **Students in grades 5 through 12** are eligible to attend.
  - Class begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. \*There is no EDP offered on this date.\*
  - Register through Community Pass [here](#), under 2022-2023 Adult and Youth.
- **Spring After School Enrichment Registration Opening Soon!**
  - All classes will be posted online and will open for registration Jan. 30, 2023!
  - Classes fill fast, so please do not delay in registering.
  - Registration closes once a class reaches capacity or on Tuesday, March 28, at 12 p.m.
- **Lentz & Lentz SAT Prep Class at High School South - March 1**
  - Test prep for the May or June SAT begins March 1 for new students!
  - The in-person SAT/PSAT prep course will be held at High School South on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information and how to register click [here](#).

## **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.

## 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 February. Details and registration information may be found [here](#). Information regarding booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- **EmPoWER Somerset and the EmPoWER Youth Advisory Board** will host a **virtual discussion titled, "Love Shouldn't Hurt"** Thursday, Feb. 9 from 6-7 p.m. in recognition of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. This event is open to teens and caregivers.
  - For more information and to register, 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](#)