

March 17, 2023

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

Spring time is the time to start planning for our PTA board and committees for next year. This year, we have a majority of our PTA Executive Board graduating and we are looking for enthusiastic members to join our Board for the coming school year. Without strong participation in the Board and committees, we cannot offer fun programming to make the Wicoff experience for our students a really memorable one. Details on a virtual information session coming soon!

Upcoming Events:

- **PTA General Meeting: March 23 at 9:15 a.m.:** The PTA welcomes you all to join our PTA General Meeting March 23, 2023, at 9:15 a.m. The meeting will be **in-person in the Wicoff Dining Hall**. The topic will be District Elementary Testing, Dr. Christine Capaci, the Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability for the WW-P School District will explain the various testing done within the district and how the data gathered from that is utilized. Save the date! You don't want to miss this informative session.
- **ProSkate Skating Event: March 25, 5-7 p.m.:** With winter winding down, come enjoy some skating fun with school friends and parents. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and raise money for the PTA while enjoying ice skating! Registration forms have been sent home with your child. Please check their folders for forms. Please send exact change or checks made out to Wicoff PTA along with the form. Please use envelopes or ziploc bags to send forms and money, so that they are not separated and lost. ***The registration deadline is March 23.*** Additional tickets and forms will also be available at the venue.
 - **Venue:** ProSkate, 1000 Cornwall Rd, Monmouth Junction, NJ
- **Green Science Fair: Apr 19, 2023**
 - **What is a green science fair project?** A Green Science Fair project is a presentation of an experiment, a demonstration, a research effort, or a display of scientific apparatus. It represents the efforts of a student's investigation into some area of sustainability and how it will positively impact the environment. Your child will have the opportunity to be the presenter, as well as a spectator.
 - Students in grades 1 - 3 are invited to participate. Parents, please remember that you may provide help and guidance as long as the children

do the majority of the work. *Kindergarteners are invited to visit the exhibits.*

- The Wicoff Green Science Fair is a voluntary activity. The science fair is noncompetitive. All entrants will receive a certificate on completion of a presentation. Get your thinking caps on!
- ****Must be PTA Member to participate****
- **Registration** closes 5 p.m. March 31. Register here:
<https://forms.gle/vuo6bwrGF49wuvff6>
- **Volunteers Needed:** We need volunteers on the Science Fair Committee to successfully host this event. Dads are welcome to join too! Tej and Dipanwita from the PTA Board will chair the committee and offer complete support in all aspects. It is an amazing opportunity for us to bring back a beloved Wicoff event and showcase the abilities of our young science enthusiasts.. and YOU CAN HELP!
 - **Sign up to volunteer NOW:**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A8A82BA1FB6-wicoff>

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:

- **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 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 and/or contact Kathleen at 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](#)

SCHOOL

- **Visiting Author and Illustrator Jay Cooper:** We had the pleasure of hosting bestselling children's author and illustrator, Jay Cooper, Thursday, March 16. The author and illustrator met with each grade level for a mini-assembly so the students could learn all about being an author and illustrator. Jay has illustrated and written over 20 books for early readers and resides in Maplewood, NJ with his family.
- **Evening Read Aloud:** Please join Dr. Welborn and Mrs. Cook virtually Tuesday, March 21, for an evening read aloud. You and your child will have an opportunity to experience what a read aloud and discussion look like in the classroom. There will be a K/1 grade level session and a 2/3 grade session. Please see the flyers:
 - [K & 1st Grade Evening Read Aloud.pdf](#)
 - [2nd & 3rd Grade Evening Read Aloud.pdf](#)
- **Snacks:** Please remember to pack a healthy snack each and every day for your child. Although we do have some extra snacks in the nurse's office for emergencies, students should not be going to the nurse's office daily for a snack/water. We appreciate your support in being sure your child(ren) have a snack each day!
- **Bus Safety:** Please periodically review the bus rules ([Bus Safety Pledge](#)) with your child(ren) so they can have a safe and enjoyable bus ride to and from 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:

- **March 17** - Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- **March 20- 24** - Read Across NJ Week
 - **Monday, March 20** - Read Across NJ Kick-Off - Assembly
 - **Tuesday, March 21** - Salute to Reading - Wear Red, White and Blue
 - **Wednesday, March 22** - Hats Off to Reading - Wear Your Favorite Hat
 - **Thursday, March 23** - Crazy About Reading - Wear Crazy Clothes/Socks/Hair
 - **Friday, March 24** - Reading is a Bright Idea - Wear Bright or Neon Colors
- **March 21** - Inclusive Evening Read Aloud (virtual) - Hosted by Mrs. Cook and Dr. Welborn
 - [K & 1st Grade Evening Read Aloud.pdf](#)

- [2nd & 3rd Grade Evening Read Aloud.pdf](#)
-

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Friday, March 31, 2023 - Elementary schools early dismissal and parent/teacher conferences:** WW-P elementary school students will have an [early dismissal](#) Friday, March 31, 2023, for parent/teacher conferences. Half-day preschool is closed. Full-day preschool and full-day kindergarten will be dismissed with grades 1-5. No lunches will be served.
- **Full-Day Kindergarten Beginning with the 2023-24 School Year:** Starting with the 2023-24 school year, WW-P will transition to a full-day kindergarten program for all District kindergarten students. For more information regarding this change, please [click here](#).
 - **Kindergarten registration** for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Parents/guardians must complete the online application. For more information and to begin the process, please click [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](#).
- **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:
 - **[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
 - **[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 monthly.
 - The next update will be sent March 31, 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 bivalent booster clinic Thursday, March 23, 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 bivalent boosters ONLY (no primary series vaccines) will be available at the clinic for those who are [eligible](#).
 - First and second doses of the primary series vaccines are available **by appointment only** March 16, 2023, at the West Windsor Health Department. To register for an appointment, call (609) 936-8400.

Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University Events**
 - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

Community Education

- **Spring After School Enrichment Registration is NOW OPEN!** Check out the latest programs open for registration at the K through 5 schools!
 - For the spring brochure, click [here](#).
 - Registration closes once a class reaches capacity or on Tuesday, March 28, at 12 p.m. Several sports programs have already reached capacity.
 - Additional Sockey and TGA Tennis classes have been added to the Dutch Neck enrichment schedule.
 - To register, please click [here](#).
- **Saturday Programs Coming this April- Register Now!**
 - Community Education is offering Saturday programs beginning April 22!
 - Basketball, tennis and robotics programs are being held at Community Middle School and are available to students in grades 1-8. *Programs are grade specific.
 - Check out page 8 here for more information here: [2023 Spring Program Guide](#)

- **Adult Programs:** Boating season is coming! Get your New Jersey State Boating Certification this April! Need help planning your retirement? Sign up for Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement!
 - More classes available for adult learners through Community Education! Check out the list on page 11 here: [2023 Spring Program Guide](#)
- **Save the Date for Summer Open House - Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Community Middle School Commons:** Community Education, along with program providers will be available for questions and sample activities. (Date change from previously communicated).
- **Summer Programs Are Here!** Community Education will be hosting summer programs at Community Middle School beginning Monday, June 26 through Friday, August 11!
 - Half-day, full-day and extended day options available.
 - Programs are offered on a weekly basis only.
 - [Check out all of the offerings here!](#)
 - Classes fill fast, so register early! Vendors begin canceling under enrolled classes two to three weeks before the actual start.
- **Registration Information:** Community Education uses Community Pass for all program registrations. Payment is due at the time of registration. [To access Community Pass, click here.](#)
- **Employment Opportunities:** Community Education is seeking dynamic, creative, and safety conscious individuals for the positions listed below. *All candidates must be at least 16 years of age or older. Apply online: [WWPRSD Employment Opportunities](#)
 - EDP Site Supervisor (full-time)
 - EDP Site Supervisor (part-time)
 - Lifeguards for spring and summer classes
 - Certified Swimming Instructors for spring and summer classes
 - Assistant Swimming Instructors
 - Summer EDP Group Leaders
 - Summer High School Assistants

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 and adding funds to the 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 March. Details and registration information may be found [here](#). Information regarding booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- **Rowan University Math Parent Workshops:** Six individual in-person sessions for parents of students in grades K-5. Attendees will explore how the math their children are learning is different from the way parents were taught. For more information, costs, registration, 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](#)