

March 24, 2023

## Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

**March 31, 2023 - Elementary school early dismissal and parent/teacher conferences: WW-P elementary school students will have an early dismissal March 31, 2023. Half-day preschool is closed. Full-day preschool and full-day kindergarten programs will be dismissed with grades 1-5. No lunches will be served.**

### PTA

- Congratulations to our PTA Reflections winners!! You made us all very proud!
  - Dance Choreography (Intermediate Division)- Anvi Deshmukh
  - Music Composition (Primary Division)- Shreyansh Singh
  - Literature (Primary Division)- Shivani Ponvel
  - Visual Arts (Primary Division)- Shivani Ponvel
  - Visual Arts (Special Artists Division)- Ayush Das

### Upcoming Events:

- **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!
  - No tickets will be sent home. If you have registered, please check in at the registration desk at ProSkate to collect your tickets.
  - Siblings and friends are welcome.
  - Only skaters pay for admission which includes skate rentals.
  - Dress warmly for being on the ice.
  - **\* Bike helmets must be worn for safety\***
  - ***Advanced registration is now closed but additional tickets and forms will be available at the venue.***
  - **Venue:** ProSkate, 1000 Cornwall Rd, Monmouth Junction, NJ
- **Green Science Fair: Apr 19, 2023 \*\*Registration closes on March 31st\*\***
  - **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>
- **PTA "Ask me anything!"- Everything you want to know about joining the PTA: Date TBD.** *"I work full-time, how can I be on the Board?" "I don't have a car to get to school events, how can I be on the board?" "I have a newborn baby, how can I be on the Board?" "I think I am too busy to be on the Board full-time" "What are committees and how are they different from the Board?" "My child keeps asking why I cannot be organizing an event when other parents are doing it. How can I be involved?"*
  - All the thoughts you have, we have had them too! Join us for an informative session where we will answer all your questions. The panel will contain current and past board members. Bring all your questions and we will be happy to answer them all.
  - This year, a majority of our PTA Executive Board is graduating and we are looking for enthusiastic members to join our Board for 2023-24. 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.
  - Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88510763793?pwd=QitRb0lPa05MWWQvaGk4Q0NRL2t3UT09>
    - Meeting ID: 885 1076 3793
    - Passcode: 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](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:

- **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](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

- **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 31** - Early Dismissal Day - Parent/Teacher Conferences
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## 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.
- **WW-P schools closed April 5, 2023 and April 6:** Due to a mild winter, WW-P did not require the use of its emergency closing days for the 2022-2023 school year. Because no emergency closing dates were used, all WW-P schools will be closed for spring recess from Wednesday, April 5 through Friday, April 14, 2023. Schools will reopen Monday, April 17, 2023. District board offices will be closed Friday, April 7. Click [here](#) for the updated 2022-2023 school year calendar.
- **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](#).
- **High School Summer Math Courses:** Registration is now open for current WW-P 8th -11th grade students who have a passion for math and are interested in registering for WW-P's summer math course offerings. Classes include Intro to Discrete Math, Introduction to Data Science, and Discrete Math Topics. Each course is 2.5 credits, taught in-person by WW-P staff and counts toward the student's GPA. For more details on each course, prerequisites, registration and cost, please [click here](#).
- **Grade 6-12 Report Card Calendar (2022-23 school year) Update:** The [2022-23 school year report card calendar](#) for students in grades 6-12 has been updated. Grades for the third marking period are now due Friday, April 21, 2023,

and report cards will be live for students/parents/guardians Monday, April 24, 2023, after 3 p.m. The third marking period end date (April 4, 2023) has not changed.

- **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](mailto:firstname.lastname@wwprsd.org) (e.g., Jim Smith is [jim.smith@wwprsd.org](mailto: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.
  - 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

- 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.

## Counseling

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

## Community Education

- **Last Call for Spring After School Enrichment Registration:** Registration will close Tuesday, March 28, at 12 p.m. Check out the programs open for registration at the K through 5 schools before it is too late!
  - For the spring brochure, click [here](#).
  - Several sports programs have already filled. 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!](#)
  - Camp Invention is offering an early registration discount! The discount coupon expires March 30. More information on Camp Invention and how to register can be found [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](#).

## 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**

- **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](#)