

June 2, 2023

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

We cannot believe another phenomenal year is drawing to a close. We cannot wait to see you at the final few social events for the year.

Upcoming Events:

- **Last PTA General Meeting: June 6:** 9:15 a.m. Virtual meeting: Calling the entire PTA General Body. Yes YOU! We need you to attend this meeting to review the nominations for new Board Members for school year 2023-24 and vote them into their new roles. We are excited about our candidates for the new board and we cannot wait to introduce them to you. Please use this Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/oqr-dqqz-izh>
- **End of year picnic and Dr. Welborn's Retirement Celebration: June 9: 5 p.m. at the Wicoff playground:** Let's rejoice at the end of another amazing year at school with a fun, family social event. We will also reserve a segment (from 5:30-6 p.m.) to celebrate Dr. Welborn's fantastic tenure at Wicoff and give him a fitting farewell. Please share the date with alumni and other community members interested in coming. This will be an after school event with inflatables, DJ, food and much much more! **Please send in completed forms by June 5.** **Please park in the Lightbridge Academy parking lot for the event.**

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.
- 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

- **Summer Programming:** As the summer season approaches, it's a great opportunity for your children to engage in summer programs and camps that will help them to develop important social skills. While the pandemic has caused disruptions to our daily lives, it's more important than ever to help our children to connect with others outside of their immediate families. Participating in summer camps and programs offers children the chance to interact with peers in a safe and controlled environment. These experiences help children to learn how to communicate with others, make new friends, and develop the social skills that are essential for their future success. We understand that it may be challenging to consider signing your children up for camps or summer programs, especially with lingering concerns about the pandemic. However, many camps and programs have implemented safety protocols to ensure that children can participate in activities in a safe and enjoyable way. We strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your children in summer programs and camps this year. Not

only will your children benefit from developing their social skills, but they will also have the opportunity to create lasting memories and experiences. Some local offerings:

- [Community Education Summer Programs](#)
- [Plainsboro Recreation Department Summer Programs](#)
- **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. **It is also important that every student brings a refillable water bottle each day.** We have filling stations throughout the building. Please remember that the water bottle should be labeled with your child's name. We appreciate your support in being sure your child has a snack/water 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.
- **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.
- **Sodexo Food Services Wants to Hear From You!:** Wicoff Elementary School parents/guardians, please take a few minutes to provide feedback about school meals using the link that follows. This short survey closes Friday, June 2, 2023. Sodexo thanks you in advance for your participation.
- Wicoff Survey Link:
<https://experience.sodexo.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=3KCW87&UIAD=BUAAY2631&LINKT=QR>
- **Teachers College-Virtual workshops in June for Parents and Caregivers – Register on Zoom:** <https://tcrwp.zoom.us/j/95695628122>

- **What Happens Over the Summer Can Dramatically Deepen and Extend Your Children's Academic Prowess! 5 Practical Tips for Parents and Caregivers, Grades K-8**
 - **Presenters: Dr. Mary Ehrenworth and Valerie Geschwind**
 - **Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 7-7:45 p.m. EST**
 - What children do over the summer, and the choices that families and caregivers make, have a dramatic impact on children and young people's literacy and learning. We want children to play, to create, to pursue interests that delight them. For many children, when adults make it easy for them to also read, to learn, to find out more about fascinating subjects, these months become ones where their minds grow in powerful ways. Join us to learn more about the research on summer literacy and learning growth, hear about ideas for curiosity projects and enrichment activities. Find out about what engaging reading might look like over the summer, including the role of audio books and digital texts and multiliteracies, and mostly, become entirely energized and knowledgeable about ways to support children's radical growth. This workshop is designed for families and caregivers of students from K-8, and for educators who want to lead similar workshops for their communities.
- **If Your Child Finds Reading or Writing Hard, What Can You Do in the Summer to Support Their Literacy Growth? Some Tips for Parents and Caregivers, Grades K-8**
 - **Presenters: Dr. Mary Ehrenworth, Valerie Geschwind, and Alexandra Roman**
 - **Thursday, June 15, 2023, 7-7:45 p.m. EST**
 - All of school becomes easier for students when reading becomes easier. Reading is fundamental to learning in all subjects. And writing is a primary way that young people learn to communicate. When reading or writing is hard, we need to rally around children, of any age, to make sure they get the support they need. Some of that support may involve getting expert intervention. You'll hear about ways to talk to your child's teachers and principal to find out about the assessments and supports your child may benefit from. And you'll hear about the very many things that parents and caregivers can try, to support children and young people who find print hard. You'll hear about multimodal options for reading and writing. You'll hear about accessible and engaging options to get kids learning phonics, practicing fluency, or getting into reading over the summer. You'll hear about ways you can help children learn an enormous amount about social studies and science topics,

and the world. Join us for a workshop designed for families and caregivers of students from K-8, and for educators who want to give similar workshops for their communities.

Upcoming Events:

- **Friday, June 9** - Spirit Day - Beach Day Theme
-

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Tuesday, June 20, 2023:** The last day of school is Tuesday, June 20, 2023. June 20 is also a half-day. No food service will be provided. Monday, June 19, is the last day of school for the Maurice Hawk half-day preschool program.
 - For dismissal times, please [click here](#).
 - To view the 2022-23 school year calendar, please click [here](#).
- **Report Cards:** Marking period 4 report cards for students in grades 6-12 and third trimester report cards for students in elementary school will be posted to the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) June 22, 2023, at 3 p.m. If you do not have a Genesis account or cannot remember your password, please email wwpsis@wwrpsd.org.
- **2023-24 School Year:** To view the 2023-24 school year calendar, please [click here](#).
- **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](#).
- **Summer Registration Information:** New student registration for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Parents/guardians of new students must complete the online application for registration. For more information and to begin the process, please [click here](#).
 - WW-P will also hold **Open Registration Sessions** over the summer to assist new incoming families with the online registration process. These in-person registration sessions will be held from 2-8 p.m. June 28, July 26, and Aug. 23, at the District Central Offices located at 321 Village Road East, West Windsor. Members of the school registration and technology staff will be available to assist families with the online registration process. A registration appointment is not required but we do ask that you please [RSVP here](#) if you plan to attend one of the dates above. For more information, 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.

- **HSS PTSA Flea Market:** Spring is in the air! HSS Spring Flea Market is back Saturday, June 3, from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the main parking lot of HSS to raise funds for HSS Class of 2024 Senior Celebration!
- **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 monthly.
 - The next update will be sent June 16, 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

- **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 May 17, 2023. 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.](#)

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

- **End-of-Year Chromebook Collection:** At the end of this school year, the District will be collecting District-issued Chromebooks and power adapters from all students. For more information on your grade 4-12 student's school return procedure, please see the reminder email that was sent June 1.
 - Chromebooks and chargers not returned on the dates specified will be assumed lost. The Technology Department will follow up with all families of students in grades 4-12 who do not return their District-issued Chromebook and charger. Families with unreturned Chromebooks and chargers will be charged the replacement fee of \$399 for the device and \$40 for the charger.
 - When returning the Chromebook, please remember to include the power adapter. Please remember to remove any USB devices. Please keep the Chromebook case for use next year at WWPRSD.
 - Chromebooks will be redistributed to students at the start of the 2023-24 school year.
- **Important information for graduating seniors and students/staff not returning to WW-P for the 2023-24 school year:** If you are graduating, retiring or transferring out of WW-P your @wwprsd.org account will be disabled as of **July 5, 2023**. It will be your responsibility to move, save, or transfer any files that you have created using your WWPRSD Google account from your school account to a personal Google account before that time.
 - Please [click here](#) (requires WWPRSD login to view) for information should you choose to transfer your items from @wwprsd.org to a personal @gmail.com account.

- 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

- **Teen Working Papers:** Great news from the NJ Department of Labor -- teens looking to obtain working papers will be able to do so online. For more information, please visit: myworkingpapers.nj.gov.
- **Meals on Wheels of Mercer County** is looking for volunteers. Opportunities include meal delivery, office assistance and event volunteers. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- The West Windsor Health Department and the Mercer County Health Department have **COVID-19 vaccine clinics** scheduled throughout the coming months.

Details and registration information can be found [here](#). Information regarding 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](#)