

Oct. 6, 2023

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

Oct. 10–13, 2023: WW-P elementary school parent/teacher conferences - WW-P elementary school students will have an early dismissal on those dates. Half-day preschool is closed. No lunches will be served.

PTA

- **What a wonderful turnout we had for Walk to School and the first PTA General Body Meeting. Thank you to all who participated!**
- For families who ordered Wicoff Spirit Wear, your orders will be received within the next two weeks. We thank you for your patience!
- As a reminder, please consider becoming a part of our Wicoff PTA community. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, whether it's through donations, helping with events, or simply joining us for some exciting activities. Your participation can make this year truly special for our kids.
- **PTA Mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for All Children.**
- **Become a member:** Click here to join the Wicoff PTA:
<https://wicoff.memberhub.com/store>

Upcoming Events:

- **Oct. 12: [Stage a Story](#):** Join us at **7 p.m.** for a fun-filled virtual drama workshop hosted by Ms. Emily Vorp as she leads an interactive, autumn-themed read-aloud!
 - **Register [here](#) by Oct. 9.** Advanced registration is required.
 - Virtual link will be sent out to all registrants the week of the event.
 - **This event is FREE and open to PTA members only.** Not a member yet? Sign up [here](#).
 - Please remember to double check your schedule for any conflicts you may have with Teacher Conferences prior to registration.
- **Oct. 16-20: Fall Scholastic Book Fair Week:** Mark your calendars, Wicoff families! The Wicoff Fall Book Fair is in just two weeks from Oct. 16-20 and we need your help! We need parent volunteers to set up the book fair, and help students select books before school, during their library time, and at the in-person family event. We especially need help during kindergarten and 1st

grade library times. All parent volunteers must bring a photo ID to present to security.

- **Sign up [here](#)**, if you are able to volunteer your time.
- Email wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com with any questions. Happy Reading!
- **Oct. 19: Bingo Night:** Join us from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** for Bingo, prizes, and FUN in the Wicoff Gymnasium. Pizza and chips will be available for purchase.
 - The registration form has been sent out with your child, please return it through your homeroom teacher by Oct. 13.
 - BINGO Night is an open event for all Wicoff families, however **pre-registration is required by Oct. 13.**
- **Oct. 19: Family Book Fair Night:** Along with Bingo Night, all families will have an opportunity to shop the Fall Scholastic Book Fair.
 - The Book Fair will be open for family shopping 30 minutes before Bingo Night starts (6-6:30 p.m.) and 30 minutes after Bingo Night ends (7:30-8 p.m.).
- **Oct. 18-27: Halloween Pumpkin Photo Submissions:** Time to celebrate... we want to see your Halloween pumpkin creations! The pumpkins can be spooky, scary, silly, or clever. Show off your creativity!
 - Please submit a photo of your carved, painted, or decorated pumpkins with your student's name and grade to wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com by **8 p.m. Oct. 27.**
 - No entries will be accepted after the submission date. All submitted entries will then be put on display on Wicoff PTA's Facebook and Instagram pages.
- **PTA Reflections Program:** This year's theme of the National PTA Reflections Arts Program is **"I am hopeful because..."**
 - The deadline for submission is **Nov. 17, 2023. No late entries will be accepted.**
 - Wicoff PTA is hosting a 30 minute Q&A session to help new and first time participating families with the rules and guidelines of the program. Please join the call **Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.** using the below zoom link:
 - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77497679350?pwd=iTv85xoh66reBGFbNl4rIjJlU6cmaP.1>
 - Meeting ID: 774 9767 9350 Passcode: THGu3x
 - All students submitting an entry to Wicoff PTA Reflection program **MUST** have at least **one Wicoff PTA member in his/her household.**
 - Join the PTA [here](#) to take advantage of this program.
 - Students participate in the appropriate division for their grade.
 - **Primary:** K-Grade 2
 - **Intermediate:** Grades 3-5

- Students can submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.
- Start planning your student's entry now. Give your child a chance to showcase their talent. **All submissions must be made to the Wicoff Elementary School PTA Reflections Chair, Sailu Rachapudi, by Nov. 17, 2023. Contact wicoffptareflections@gmail.com with any questions. One parent must be a PTA member to participate. For more information, click [here](#).**
 - For student entry form and student instruction packet please visit: <https://www.njpta.org/reflections>.
 - For electronic entry form: <https://forms.gle/XLJaNB4fdggC1PUe8>
- **Full Events Calendar:** Click [here](#) to view our calendar of events for the upcoming school year.

Important Information:

- **Become a Member:** Online registration to join the Wicoff PTA community is available [here](#). Your membership plays a vital role in funding our school's fantastic events and creating memorable experiences for our students.
- **Spirit Wear:** Wicoff Spirit Wear merchandise is available in a variety of sizes with new items for the 2023-24 school year. Please order [online](#) through Unified Spectrum or via [this form](#). You may also [email](#) us with any questions.
- *All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.*
- **If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas,** don't hesitate to contact us at wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates and reminders, join our [WhatsApp Group](#), or visit www.wicoffpta.org for more information.

Ways to Support the PTA:

- **Volunteer:** Wicoff PTA always welcomes volunteers for our events and activities throughout the school year. Your involvement and support are greatly appreciated by the school community. Email us at wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com for information about volunteer opportunities.
- **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. It's that easy!

Connect with Wicoff PTA:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [WhatsApp Group](#) | [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

Thank you for all those who came out for Walk to School Day and joined us for the PTA Meeting! It was wonderful to see so many families and it was obvious that the students had a wonderful time, as well!

Conferences: The Genesis Portal is open for scheduling conferences and will close Oct. 8 at 12 p.m. Caregivers have the option to do the conference in-person or virtually. Conferences are a great way to strengthen the home-school connection and to learn more about your child's progress. Remember conferences are a two-way conversation. While you are learning how your child is doing in school, it is also helpful for the teacher to learn about your child from your perspective.

Reading aloud with your child: You and they are never too old to enjoy and reap the benefits of reading aloud together. It helps with personal connection, language development, understanding text features, comprehension, social and emotional learning, phonemic awareness, vocabulary.... The list goes on! Here are some resources for the grown-ups on why it is so important to continue to share a love of reading with your child!

[PBS Kids- Why Reading Aloud Helps Kids to Thrive](#)

[New York Times- How to Raise a Reader](#)

[Child Mind Institute- Why Is It Important to Read to Your Child](#)

Construction Update: The first phase of the construction project is completed and looks great. We have the new kindergarten rooms and a new music room. The media center has been renovated as well. The new front entrance/main office/nurse project is

still being completed so the driveway on Plainsboro Road will continue to be an **exit only** until the main entrance is done.

Snacks/Water: 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!

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.

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. Please make every effort to ensure that your child arrives on time. 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:

Oct. 10-13 - Conferences (Early Dismissal)

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Elementary School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 10-13:** Elementary school students will have an [early dismissal](#) for parent/teacher conferences. Half-day preschool is closed. No lunches will be served.
 - Registration for a conference via the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) closes Sunday, Oct. 8 at 12 p.m.
- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 25-27:** Students in grades 6-8 will have an [early dismissal](#) for parent/teacher conferences. An express lunch will be served at the middle schools only.

- **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 for the 2023-24 school year: Dutch Neck Elementary School, Maurice Hawk Elementary School, Town Center Elementary School, Wicoff Elementary School, Millstone River School, Village School and High School South. Parent information about Title 1 in our schools can be found on our [District website](#).
- **District Newsletter:** Click [here](#) to read the Back to School 2023 District newsletter.
- **Student Handbook and Policy/Regulation Updates:** District policies and regulations are updated on an as needed basis. The following policies and regulations have recently been updated: Policy 5600/ Regulation 5600 (Code of Conduct), Policy 5200/Regulation 5200 (Attendance) and Policy 5512/Regulation 5512 (HIB). In response, Student Handbooks have been updated accordingly. The recently updated policies and regulations can be accessed as follows:
 - [Policy 5200](#): Attendance
 - [Regulation 5200](#): Attendance
 - [Policy Updates \(2023\)](#): Policy/Regulation 5200
 - [Policy 5512](#): Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
 - [Regulation 5512](#): Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
 - [Policy Updates \(2023\)](#): Policy/Regulation 5512
 - [Policy 5600](#): Code of Conduct
 - [Regulation 5600](#): Code of Conduct
 - [Policy Updates \(2023\)](#): Policy/Regulation 5600
- **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.

- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a substitute at WW-P? Please click [here](#) to apply.
- **Around the District News**
 - **High School South is celebrating 50 years of Pirate Pride And Spirit!** WWPHS was established in 1973 and to celebrate 50 years of Pirate treasure, HSS will welcome home all their past Pirates from over the years. TONIGHT, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, from 5-7 p.m., High School South will host an open house for all those who attended or taught/worked at WWPHS South throughout the last 50 years! Former Pirates will have the opportunity to walk the old and new spaces of South. Following the open house, former Pirates are invited to stay and join us for our Homecoming game and festivities that evening out on the turf.
 - If you are a former Pirate and would like to attend the open house (and for those who were part of WWPHS during 1973 and would like to attend festivities on the track at 6:45) you must register in advance to attend by [clicking here](#).
 - **Mercer County Council of PTAs Announces National Reflections Program:** This 50+ year-old-program helps students explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas through the arts. Additional information regarding the Program and the Reflections contact for each WW-P school PTA, can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that the Village and GMS school contact information has been updated from the previous link.

Monthly Update from the Superintendent

- A [Monthly Update from Dr. Aderhold](#) will be sent the last Friday of each month.
 - The next Update will be sent Oct. 27, 2023.

Health and Safety

- Please note that for the safety of our school community, it is important that if your child is isolating due to a COVID positive diagnosis that they may not attend school or school events until their [quarantine/isolation period](#) has officially ended.
 - Please [click here](#) for the District's COVID guidance for the 2023-2024 school year.

Athletics

- WW-P will continue to utilize online ticket purchase procedures for United Football and HSN and HSS basketball games and wrestling matches for the 2023-2024 school year. All spectators must pre-purchase their tickets to the game through the TicketSpicket Mobile Application or through the TicketSpicket website. Season passes are available as are tickets for individual games.
 - [United Football Tickets](#)
 - [High School North Tickets](#)
 - [High School South Tickets](#)

Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University Events**
 - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).
- **Save the Date: WW-P College Fair** to be held at HSN Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, from 6-8 p.m.
 - Over 100 college admissions representatives will be in attendance. [Click here](#) for the current list of attendees.
 - Prior to the college fair, please register for a barcode at <http://www.StriveFair.com>.
 - Show your barcode to colleges who will scan and record your visit. This feature will also enable the colleges to connect with you after the fair and send you more information about their schools. Please know that the scanned student information is **NOT** shared with third parties.
- **Senior College Planning Nights** for seniors and parents/guardians of seniors were held in September. Please [click here](#) to view the presentations.

Curriculum and Instruction

- New Jersey school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects are required by statute (N.J.S.A 18A: 7C-6.6) to annually notify parents/guardians of the scheduled standardized assessments that will be administered over the course of the school year.
 - Please [click here](#) for the state assessments schedule for the 2023-2024 school year.
 - Helpful resources for parents/guardians may be found at the [New Jersey Assessments Resource Center website](#).

Community Education

- **Extended Day Program (EDP) Care** (before and after school care) is available to WW-P students in grades kindergarten through 5 and after care to students in middle school through Community Education

- Registration is available at each location until capacity limits have been reached.
 - Dutch Neck afternoon EDP program and Maurice Hawk morning and afternoon programs have reached capacity. To be added to the waitlist, please contact the Community Education office at 609-716-5030.
- To register for EDP, please set up your Community Pass account [here](#).
- For more information on EDP pricing and procedures, check out the [EDP General Information](#) form. Be sure to download the [parent handbook](#)!
- **Mini Explorers** is a Community Education program for four-year-olds. This program is open to students who reside in West Windsor and Plainsboro who turn four on or before Oct. 1 of this school year. Children must be fully potty trained to be eligible for this program.
 - The program will follow the West Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District school year calendar and will be held at Wicoff Elementary School from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Parents/guardians must provide their own transportation.
 - Students will follow a daily schedule designed and taught by WW-P Community Education staff members.
 - For the 2023-2024 school year, the monthly cost for this program is \$1,020.
 - Registration is available through [Community Pass](#) and is on a first come, first serve basis.
- **Fall After School Enrichment** registration is open for students in grades 1 through 5 and programs begin the week of Oct. 16 at all elementary schools. Registration closes Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 12 p.m. or once the program has reached capacity.
 - Check out the fall program brochure [here](#)! Registration is open!
 - To register for fall after school enrichment programs, please set up your Community Pass account [here](#).
- **Saturday Youth Programs** registration is currently open and will close Wednesday, Oct. 25. Classes begin Saturday, Oct. 28.
 - Check out page 8 in the fall program guide [here](#)!
- **Adult Programs** are also available. Check out page 10 in the fall program guide for more information [here](#)!
- **American Red Cross Lifeguard Training** is now registering participants. Students must be present for all hours of the course.
 - Pre-Requisite Skills: Candidates must be 15; be able to swim 300 meters; retrieve a brick from a depth of approximately 8 feet; tread water for 2 minutes without using arms.
 - There are two classes to choose from:

- October: 1) Tuesday, Oct. 10 (3:30-8:30pm), Friday, Oct. 13 (3:30-8:30pm) and Saturday, Oct. 14 (9:00am-4:30pm)
- November: 2) Thursday, Nov. 9 (8:00am-6:00pm) & Friday, Nov. 10 (8:00am-5:30pm)
- Check out the Lifeguard Certification flyer [here](#)!
- Register under the 2023 Fall Adult & Youth heading in [Community Pass](#).

Food Services

- Check out the Sodexo menus and newsletter by [clicking here](#).
- WW-P Food Services is excited to offer a breakfast program at the elementary school level.
 - Breakfast is available for order each week via a pre-order form sent to parents' emails on Monday morning. Orders must be placed by 5 p.m. Wednesday for the coming week.
 - Families should check their email for more information and the order form link.
- 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 2023-24 school year in your [PaySchools Central](#) account or may be downloaded from the [District website](#). Benefits for current recipients will expire Oct. 20, 2023. Families must submit a new application for the 2023-24 school year.
 - In addition, NJ recently expanded the income eligibility requirements. Even if families have not qualified in the past, your child may qualify for no-cost meals through the Working-Class Families Anti-Hunger Act by completing the Free and Reduced Lunch Application.
- WW-P Food Services will be celebrating National Farm to School Month in October. Check out local fruits and vegetables available in each school's cafeteria throughout the month.
 - This coming week, look for fresh, local cucumbers from K&J Farms in Elmer, NJ, as well as crimson crisp apples from Melick Orchards in Oldwick, NJ!
 - This month's celebration is made possible thanks to the NJDA and the Local Food for Schools Grant.

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.
- **Technology Help Desk Access** for students reporting Chromebook issues.
 - **Students in grades K-8** should report the technology issue to their teacher so that a ticket can be submitted on their behalf.
 - **Students in grades 9-12** should use the ticket kiosk in the media center to submit any technology issue. Students **MUST** include their wwprsd.org email in the ticket description in order for technology staff to contact them to repair the issue.

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.

Community Events

- **Teens’ Working Papers:** Teens looking to obtain working papers may do so online. For more information, please visit: myworkingpapers.nj.gov.
- **Plainsboro Public Library Teen Advisory Board:** Students in grades 7-12 are invited to engage with the library by volunteering, promoting reading and participating in library events. Applications for the Teen Advisory Board are due by Sept. 20. Students chosen will be contacted via email by Sept. 30. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Information:** Please visit the [West Windsor Health Department](#) and the [Mercer County Health Department](#) for information as new vaccination/booster opportunities become available. Information regarding booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for more upcoming events and activities from community groups and organizations.
- **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Basics** is a six session education program for parents, caregivers, and other family who provide care for youth (ages 22 and younger) who are experiencing mental health symptoms. The program is available both in person and online. For more information about the program and to register, please [click here](#).

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.

[X](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)