

Oct. 27, 2023

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- The PTA Halloween Pumpkin Photo Submission deadline closes at **8 p.m. today**, Friday, Oct. 27. Please see below for instructions on how to send in your entries!
- The PTA Reflections Program submission deadline is also approaching on Nov. 17. Please [reach out to us](#) if you have any questions regarding the program or the submission process.
- Join 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. Click here to join the Wicoff PTA: <https://wicoff.memberhub.com/store>
- **PTA Mission:** To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for All Children.

Connect with Wicoff PTA: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [WhatsApp Group](#) | [Wicoff's Twitter](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **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 [here](#) 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.
 - Please reach out to wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com if you have any questions.
- **PTA Reflections Program:** Our Reflections deadline is rapidly approaching! We are looking forward to everyone's entries for this year's theme of **"I am hopeful because..."**
 - The deadline for Reflections submission is **Nov. 17, 2023. No late entries will be accepted.**
 - 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. 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>
- **Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.: Virtual PTA General Meeting:** More details to come.
- **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. Visit our [SignUpGenius](#) or 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!

Special Education PTSA (SEPTSA)

- **Office Hours Gathering (Sunday, Oct. 29, from 4-5 p.m., McCaffrey's Cafe):** Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. To RSVP by 6 p.m., Oct. 28 and for questions: contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net. If you have a question or the timing doesn't work with your schedule, but you'd like support or to connect with other families dealing in similar situations, please feel free to contact Kathleen.
- **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

- **Halloween Parade:** Please [click here](#) to read the information that was sent home this week about our Halloween Parade. This is a tradition that both our students and staff love. As a reminder, we will be walking the perimeter of the building on the sidewalk so feel free to set up chairs and come watch the parade.
- **American Education Week:** We love to give parents/caregivers the opportunity to see what it is like in their children's classrooms. This year, American Education Week is the week of Nov. 13-17. Look for information to come in a few weeks as to the date and time that your child's teacher will be opening their room.
- **Outdoor Recess:** We try to have outdoor recess whenever possible for our students. We are truly starting to experience the fall chill. Please remember to send your children with a coat/jacket.
- **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.

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **WW-P Schools are closed Thursday, Nov. 9, and Friday, Nov. 10, 2023:** Please [click here](#) for the 2023-2024 school year calendar.
- **WW-P celebrates American Education Week Nov. 13-17:** American Education Week promotes collaboration between parents/guardians/caregivers and educators/staff members. Elementary and middle school families will be receiving information from their teacher and/or school regarding the opportunity to get a glimpse into their child's typical school day.
- **HSN and HSS Preschool Registration: WW-P's Child Growth and Development Department** at High School North and High School South is excited to announce spaces are available for this school year's in-person **PirateCare and KnightCare Preschools for children ages 3-5 years old.**

- The program is run by high school students under the leadership and supervision of a WW-P teacher.
 - For more information, please [click here](#). **The deadline to complete the interest form is Oct. 27, 2023.**
- **WW-P Plans for Future Growth:** [Click here](#) for more information on the District's purchase of local farmland on the West Windsor and Plainsboro border.
- **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 North’s [Annual Family Halloween Concert](#):** Boo! High School North’s annual concert will take place **Sunday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m. in the High School North Theater** (90 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro).
 - Featuring fun and spooky music HSN’s band, orchestra, choirs, and a cappella groups annual event raises funds for the school’s triennial music tour.
 - Kids (and everyone) are encouraged to come in costume, and will have a chance to parade during the concert and receive treats.
 - Tickets (available at the door or in advance through student performers) are \$10 general admission and \$5 for children, students, and senior citizens.
 - **The HSN/HSS Prom Shop** will be accepting donations from Nov. 13-17, 2023, during school hours (7:40 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.) in the High School North (90 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro) security corridor. There will be wardrobe racks where donations can be left.
 - Items being accepted: Dresses, suits (in sizes appropriate for 16-18 year olds), slightly used shoes (men’s and women’s), ties, jewelry, purses, reusable shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, hangers.
 - Please make sure each donation is washed/dry cleaned and in great condition.
 - The Prom Shop will be held Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of Central Offices (321 Village Rd. East, West Windsor). Snow date is Jan. 27, 2024.
 - Junior and senior WW-P students will need to bring their student ID to shop. Each student may take one full outfit. All items are first come, first serve.
 - Questions: Please contact Tracy Zarodnansky at tracy.zarodnansky@wwprsd.org.
 - **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

- **Parent University Events**
 - **"Healing from Tragedy"**: Please [click here](#) to review the recording of and materials from the Oct. 18, 2023, George Scott, Ed.S. (Traumatic Loss Coalition) presentation **"Healing from Tragedy"**.
 - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).
- **Senior College Planning Nights** for seniors and parents/guardians of seniors were held in September. Please [click here](#) to view the presentations and the recording from the Class of 2024 Senior College Planning Night.

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

- **Adult Programs** are available. Check out page 10 in the fall program guide for more information [here](#)!
- **NEW! 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.
 - Class dates are: Thursday, Nov. 9 (8 a.m. -6 p.m.) and Friday, Nov. 10 (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)
 - Check out the Lifeguard Certification flier [here](#)!
 - Register under the 2023 Fall Adult & Youth heading in [Community Pass](#).
- **Employment Opportunities:** The Extended Day Program (EDP) is looking to fill open positions in the West Windsor schools.
 - Apply [online here](#) (in the search box, type EDP to filter).
 - Open positions include:
 - Full-time Site Supervisor (split shift, full-time, benefits)
 - Full-time Group Leader (split shift, full-time, benefits)
 - Morning EDP Group Leader (7-8:45 a.m.)
 - Afternoon EDP Group Leaders and Assistant Group Leaders (3-6/6:30 p.m.)

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 2022-2023 school year recipients expired 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.
- **Sodexo Food Services Want to Hear from You:** Parents/guardians and middle/high school students are invited to take a few minutes to provide feedback about school meals using the link that follows. The short Sodexo Food Services survey closes Nov. 17, 2023. Sodexo thanks you in advance for your participation
 - Survey Link: <https://imo.cx/UJwVVITr>

Special Services

- **SSI and Medicaid Parent Training Program** will be held **Monday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m. at Community Middle School** (95 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro). This presentation is geared toward Autism/MD families with children ages middle school through post-grad. The presentation will provide the basics on understanding SSI and Medicaid as families plan for adult services. Dinner will be provided and inclusive sports in the gym for students during the presentation for parents/guardians. Please [click here](#) for more information and to RSVP. Please RSVP by Nov. 10.

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.
- **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](#).
- **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](#).
- **HomeFront Halloween 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk PLUS Preschooler Pumpkin Dash:** Oct. 29, 2023, at Carnegie Center, Princeton. [Click here](#) for more information and registration details.
- Click [here](#) for more 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.

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