

Dec. 1, 2023

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- **Our Annual Toy Drive ends TODAY!** Please see the section below for full information. We thank you in advance for your generosity!
- **We have added several new events and fundraisers!** Please see the sections below for more information so you don't miss out.
- Thank you to all of the students who submitted entries for the 2023-24 Reflections Program! Judging of the entries will take place during the month of December.
- 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:

- **Nov. 13 - Dec. 1: Annual Toy Drive: TODAY is the last day to drop off toys for the Annual Toy Drive.** As the festive season is upon us, please join us in collecting toys for children in partnership with Homefront NJ. Through Dec. 1, Wicoff PTA will be collecting new toys for local children ages 1-16 impacted by poverty. Donations can be dropped off in the bin located at the Wicoff front entrance by the security desk.
 - For more information, click [here](#).
 - View the Homefront Amazon Wish List [here](#).
- **Dec. 7: Shake-a-Leg Family Social:** We are excited to be bringing back our [Shake-A-Leg Family Social](#) on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 7-8 p.m. in the Wicoff School Gymnasium. Please join us and enjoy a fun evening of dance with our amazing teachers!
 - ADMISSION FEE: \$10 PER FAMILY
 - Please use [this link](#) to RSVP prior to the event.

- Only one (1) RSVP is needed per family
- Families including siblings can attend. But remember, you will need to dance! Children attending must be supervised by an adult at all times. This is not a drop-off party.
- The dances will be led by our awesome teachers as well as Let's Dance Academy owner, Mrs. Babita Negi. Babita is a past Wicoff parent so it is extra special to have her run the show again this year.
- Light refreshments will be available for sale in the cafeteria
- Email wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com with any questions.
- **Write-A-Check Campaign:** Help support the Wicoff PTA! [MAKE A DONATION](#) AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE! The Wicoff PTA is a non-profit organization that depends fully on your donations.
 - Each year, the PTA is able to sponsor various educational programs including:
 - Funding of some grade-level and school-wide grants
 - Supporting outreach initiatives in our community
 - Fully funding and hosting the 3rd Grade Carnival (3rd grade "Graduation")
 - Partial funding of yearbooks to 3rd grade students
 - Coordinating activities such as Family Night, Shake-a-Leg, Family Bingo Night, and more
 - **In order to continue with these events and programs, we need you!!!** By donating directly to the PTA, 100% of your donation goes straight to the PTA and is 100% tax deductible. We will be collecting checks throughout the school year.
 - If you would like to make a donation any time during this holiday season (or during the school year), please send in your check payable to "Wicoff PTA" in an envelope labeled "PTA - Write-a-Check" Please include your name, your child's name and teacher.
 - Questions? Email us at Wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com
- **Full Events Calendar:** Click [here](#) to view our calendar of events for the upcoming school year.

Ways to Support the PTA:

- **NEW! Label Daddy labels for your child's belongings:** Wicoff PTA has partnered with [Label Daddy](#)! Winter is here and it is the season for the lost and found bin in school to grow. Help your child not lose their belongings by labeling your child's hats, gloves, jackets, sweatshirts, water bottles, and lunch bags with durable labels that don't come off in the wash.

- For every purchase using our special link, Label Daddy will donate 25% of the proceeds back to Wicoff PTA.
- Please use this link to order your labels: <https://bit.ly/49ZIX9I>
- **NEW! Minted Holiday Card Discount:** Wicoff PTA is partnering with [Minted](#), the go-to destination for independent art and design. We're excited to share an **exclusive discount of 20% off all Minted holiday cards and gifts**. What's more, Minted will also donate 15% of every order back to Wicoff PTA. Now that's embracing the holiday spirit!
 - Make sure to use the code "FUNDRAISEWICOFF" when you place your order online at www.minted.com/holiday
- **NEW! Givebacks Cash Back Donation:** We have an easy way for our community to give back to Wicoff PTA...the Givebacks Shop to Give Program!
 - Whenever you shop or dine at any of 25,000 participating stores and restaurants, those businesses automatically donate a percentage to Wicoff PTA at no cost to you!
 - To make sure you're all set up to give, register for a Givebacks account at bit.ly/3N0c0zZ and securely link your credit card. Then, select "Wicoff Elementary School PTA" as your cause.
 - Once you've done that, you can use the Givebacks app on your mobile device or the Givebacks browser extension to start powering donations by simply shopping and dining like you normally do!
 - Check out the FAQ here if you need help getting started: <https://www.givebacks.com/how-it-works>
- **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!

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.

Special Education PTSA (SEPTSA)

- **SEPTSA Star Guides** (Dec. 2 at 3:30 p.m., Hickory Corner Library, Hightstown): As darkness consumes more of our days, SEPTSA encourages students to embrace this time to find wonder in the night sky. We're seeking SEPTSA students from ages 6-12 that are interested in space to share their interest and gather to enjoy space-related educational activities. The Dec. 2 session is the first of a multi-session program with a combination of in-person and virtual sessions to engage students in learning more about space and viewing the night sky. For information and to RSVP, contact Kathleen at kkz4@verizon.net by Dec. 1, 2023.
- **SEPTSA Office Hours** (Dec. 3, 4-5 p.m., McCaffreys Café, West Windsor): Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. To RSVP by 7 p.m. Dec. 2 and for questions: Contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net. If you have a question or this 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 Meeting** (Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m., 72 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro): Join SEPTSA for an in-person tour of WW-P's new adult transition space and learn about related adult transition services provided by Special Services. For information and to RSVP, contact Kathleen at kkz4@verizon.net by Dec. 4, 2023.
- **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](#).

SCHOOL

- **Star Students:** The November Star Students were announced today. Every month Wicoff School will have a different character trait theme and teachers will recognize one or two students from their class to highlight students who have demonstrated that designated character trait on a consistent basis throughout the month. The November theme for Star Students was **Responsibility**. For the rest of the year, we will share the theme for the month in the newsletter so that you can also reinforce the character trait at home and notice and encourage your child to demonstrate the trait in their everyday life. **The Character Theme for the month of December is *Courtesy and Good Manners***. Someone who is courteous is polite and respectful to other people. Everyone can learn to treat each other with respect and be respected in return. We will be looking for students that "stand out" and are courteous on a consistent basis. These respectful students will be chosen as Star Students for the month of December. Please encourage your children to use good manners (words such as: please, thank you, pardon me, excuse me, I'm sorry and behaviors such as: sharing, taking turns, holding doors open for others, complimenting others and treating people with kindness).
- **Connecting to Your Children's Academics:** We will be sharing information pertaining to things that you may be able to do at home to support your children through their current reading, writing and math units. Please take some time to read the documents and learn some tips, as well as have some of your questions answered about what your children are learning. This is a great way to enhance our school-home connection.
 - **Literacy Caregiver Letters K-3**
 - [Kindergarten Literacy Nov./Dec.](#)
 - [First Grade Literacy Nov./Dec.](#)
 - [Second/Third Grade Literacy Nov./Dec.](#)
 - **Bridges Family Overviews Unit 3**
 - [Kindergarten Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)
 - [First Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)
 - [Second Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)
 - [Third Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)
- **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 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. We anticipate the new front entrance and main office to be ready when we come back from Winter Break.
- **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

- **Winter Recess:** All WW-P schools will have an **early dismissal Friday, Dec. 22, 2023**. Half-day preschool at Maurice Hawk Elementary School is closed. No food service will be provided Dec. 22. **All WW-P schools and board offices are closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 1, 2024.** Schools and district offices will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. Please [click here](#) for the 2023-2024 school year calendar.

- Effective Nov. 6, 2023, after 3 p.m., all WW-P parents/guardians will be prompted to complete a **new form in Genesis Parent Portal** acknowledging updates from Google Workspace for Education.
 - Families with multiple children must submit a form for each child.
 - Parent/guardian access to Genesis will be limited until the new form is acknowledged for their child(ren).
- **Report Cards for Students in Grades PreK-8:** Trimester 1 report cards for students in grades PreK-8 will be posted to the Genesis Parent Portal Friday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. If you do not have a Genesis account or cannot remember your password, please email wwpsis@wwprsd.org.
- **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](#).
- **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**
 - **The HSN/HSS 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.

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 Dec. 22, 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

- **Winter After School Enrichment Registration is Open!:** Winter after school enrichment program registration is underway! New, exciting programs are being offered to Kindergarten through 5th grade students!
 - Program vendors require Community Education to meet a minimum enrollment in order to run, so do not delay in signing up!
 - Spaces are limited and classes begin to fill fast.
 - Check out the program offerings here: [2024 Winter Program Guide](#)
 - Register through Community Pass [here](#). Click on 2024 Winter After School Enrichment.
- **[CSI: Mock Crime Scene Investigation \(STEM Class\)](#):** Join former detectives and your peers to take a deeper dive into the world of crime scene investigations! This one-day program will have collecting, analyzing and

classifying fingerprints, creating and examining blood spatter patterns, casting footprints, solving a mock crime scene and so much more!

- Students in grades 5-12 are welcome to register for this one day program.
- Program will be held Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at High School North. EDP is not available before or after this program.
- Deadline to register is Jan. 12, 2024. Seats are limited.
- Register on [Community Pass](#).
- **Adult Programs** are available. Check out page 10 in the fall program guide for more information [here](#)!
- **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:
 - 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.

Special Services

- **Guardianship Virtual Workshop: Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 from 6-7 p.m.:** In partnership with the West Windsor-Plainsboro Educational Association, the West Windsor-Plainsboro Special Services Department's FAST (Families and Schools Together) grant team will host a virtual information session about the process for guardianship for students with disabilities.
 - This presentation would be most appropriate for families who have students in Multiple Disabilities (MD) and Autism special education programs (Kindergarten through Post Grad). All are welcome to attend.
 - [Click here](#) for more information, RSVP form and Zoom link.
 - [RSVP by Jan. 24, 2024](#)

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.
- **Study Buddy Program at West Windsor Library:** The Study Buddy Tutoring Program at the West Windsor Branch has returned! This program pairs teen

volunteers with students seeking tutoring, and it's entirely free. It operates throughout the school year, with Study Buddies meeting for 30-45 minutes once a week at the library, supervised by our youth department staff.

- To apply, students can pick up a Study Buddy application at the West Windsor Library's youth desk. The library matches students with teen tutors upon application submission, and enrollment is ongoing.
 - Please [click here](#) for more info.
- **West Windsor Little League:** Spring 2024 registration is open for baseball, softball and t-ball for children ages 4-12 from West Windsor, Plainsboro and Cranbury. Workout and practices begin in early March and run through June 14. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Breakfast with Santa:**
 - **Dec. 3, 2023: West Windsor Volunteer Fire Company #1** will hold their annual “**Breakfast with Santa**” event Dec. 3 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. For more information, please [click here](#).
 - **Dec. 17, 2023: West Windsor Lions Club** will hold their annual “**Pancake Breakfast with Santa**” event Dec. 17 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **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](#).
- 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](#)

