

Jan. 26, 2024

Wicoff Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- **We have added several new events and fundraisers!** Please see the sections below for more information so you don't miss out.
- **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:

- **Feb. 8: Wicoff Entertainment Night:** The Wicoff Entertainment Night is BACK! If your child enjoys singing, dancing, telling jokes, or performing in any way, here is their chance to share their talents.
 - **Event date: Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024**
 - **4:45-6 p.m. for Kindergarten and 1st grade** (Check-in at 4:15 p.m.)
 - **6:15-7:45 p.m. for 2nd and 3rd grade** (Check-in at 5:45 p.m.)
 - **This will be a ticketed event. You will receive more information during the week of Jan. 29 on how to purchase tickets to watch the show.**
 - If you have any questions, please email wicoffentertainmentnight@gmail.com. Have fun rehearsing and we look forward to your performance!
- **Feb. 12: [ART TO REMEMBER](#): *Submission deadline: Feb. 12*:** Wicoff PTA and Wicoff School Art Teacher, Ms. Feeley, are teaming up with Art to Remember to convert your children's artwork onto wonderful keepsake items, such as mugs, necklaces, key chains, and more!
 - The process is very simple. Ms. Feeley will distribute special art paper for your child to create their art on. Parents will be able to use the order form to choose products to transfer the art onto. Options include

mugs, keychains, fridge magnets, etc. All orders will be sent out as a school after the submission deadline. Your orders will be received in school and sent home with your child!

- Be on the lookout for a customized order form featuring your child's artwork so that you can be sure to order your own custom keepsakes.
- This fundraiser gives you a unique way to collect, enjoy, and appreciate your child's artwork. Not only do Art to Remember products make great gifts for friends and family members, but every purchase you make supports our school.
- **Feb. 23: "I Want Pretzel" Sale: Pretzel orders will be due by Feb. 20 (Delivery on Feb. 23)**
 - Support Wicoff PTA and order delicious pretzels from Philly Pretzel Factory in select flavors.
 - Order forms are due by Feb. 20. Pretzels will be delivered hot and fresh on Friday, Feb. 23.
 - Please watch for an order form to be sent home with your child(ren) or download and print the order form [here](#).
- **Full Events Calendar:** Click [here](#) to view our calendar of events for the upcoming school year.

Ways to Support the PTA:

- **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. Use code **FINAL25** for 25% off your order!
 - 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>
- **Minted Card & Gift 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 cards and gifts**. What's more, Minted will also donate 15% of every order back to Wicoff PTA.
 - Make sure to use the code "FUNDRAISEWICOFF" when you place your order online at www.minted.com/holiday
- **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>
- **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 sponsors 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
 - **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 donate 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 their teacher's name.
 - Questions? Email us at Wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com
- **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 Creative Communication Class (Saturdays at 12:30 p.m., Jan. 20–March 16, Plainsboro Rec Ctr):** SEPTSA is hosting an improvisation style workshop of eight (8) sessions for 1.5 hours beginning in January. This program is intended for middle and high school students experiencing social and emotional challenges that may benefit from increasing their communication skills in a fun and interactive environment with other students. Jody Wood, an actor/director, is the facilitator for this program. There are limited spots and there is a fee to participate. The following link provides more information about this dynamic and impactful program.
 - Information Link: [JW Actor's Studio](#)
 - Contact Kathleen (kkz4@verizon.net) to learn more about this program and to register.
- **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

- **Coffee and Connections:** Thank you to all of those that joined us for Coffee and Connections today. It was a wonderful time getting to know each other!! Please always feel free to reach out with any suggestions of how we can continue to cultivate the home/school connection!
- **January's Character Theme is Friendship:** Friendship is a state of enduring affection and mutual respect and trust between people. A true friend is someone who stays by your side in good times and in bad. A true friend isn't afraid to tell you the truth, and you feel safe and comfortable around him/her. Some characteristics of a good friend are: supportive, loyal, honest, respectful, empathetic, trustworthy, and dependable. Please talk to your children about these characteristics, and ways they can be a good friend.
- **Pickup and Dropoff Reminders:** As you know, the main office has moved! Please [click here](#) for updated information on drop off and pick up locations.
- **Please make sure that if your child is arriving before 8:55 a.m., you are dropping off at the old Main Entrance.**
- **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.
 - **January Bridges Family Overviews Unit 4 (Math)**
 - [Kindergarten Bridges Family Overview Unit 4](#)
 - [First Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 4](#)
 - [Second Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 4](#)
 - [Third Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 4](#)
 - * **Grade 2 Opinion Writing Family Letter:** ["Work Time Chart"](#)
- [: Looking for Awesome"](#)
- **When your child is sick:** Please do not send your child to school if they are complaining of feeling ill or have had a fever in the previous 24 hours. Children should be fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours before they return to school. Children who don't feel well before school invariably feel ill in class and will be sent home. For a complete list of the District's illness exclusions, please [click here](#).
- **Outdoor Recess:** We try to have outdoor recess whenever possible for our students. We have had to keep students in if they are not wearing appropriate

clothing for the cold weather. Please remember to send your children with a coat/jacket.

- **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.
 - **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.
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DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Monday, Feb. 5, and Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024:** 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.
- **WW-P Schools closed Friday, Feb. 16, and Monday, Feb. 19:** All WW-P schools will be closed for students on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, for staff professional development. All WW-P schools are closed Monday, Feb. 19, 2024.
- **UPDATE - Revised 2023-2024 school year calendar:** With the use of our first and second emergency closing days (Jan. 16, 2024, and Jan. 19, 2024) all WW-P schools and board offices will be open April 24, 2024, and April 1, 2024.
 - Based on the Jan. 16 and Jan. 19 closures the [school year calendar](#), [half-day preschool calendar](#) and report card calendars for [PK-8](#) and grades [9-12](#) have been updated.
- **Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open:** Parents/guardians must complete the online application for registration. For more information and to begin the process, please click [here](#).

- Interested in the **Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program** for your 2024-2025 school year kindergarten student? The DLI program is holding an **in-person interest meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.** at the Board offices (321 Village Rd. East, West Windsor). For more info and to register to attend the meeting, please [click here](#).
- **Deadline Extended for HSN and HSS Preschool Registration:** Spaces are still available in WW-P's Child Growth and Development Department at High School North and High School South 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 and to submit an interest form, please [click here](#).

The deadline to complete the interest form is Jan. 30, 2024.
- **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:**
 - **Thank you to those K-3 families who attended the Jan. 11 Joint PTA Meeting for K-3 Elementary Schools.** The topic for the evening was "Elementary ELA & Math Curriculum and Instruction."
 - A recording of the evening is available to view [here](#).
 - To review the evening's presentation, please click [here](#).

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 Jan. 26, 2024.

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

- **TicketSpicket:** 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:**
 - **Upcoming Virtual Events:** Save the dates.
 - **Tuesday, Feb. 13,** 7-8 p.m.: The topic will be "Benefits of Youth Sports". For more information, please [click here](#).
 - Zoom Link to attend: <https://zoom.us/j/96318310861>
 - **Monday, Feb. 26,** 7-8 p.m.: The topic will be "Anxiety and Teens". Additional information and a link will be provided closer to the date.
 - **Monday, April 15,** 7-8 p.m.: The topic will be "Handling Emotional Dysregulation". Additional information and a link will be provided closer to the date.
 - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

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

- **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.

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 (WWLL):** 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.
 - WWLL is also looking for **students aged 13+ to be umpire trained** for the upcoming spring season. Umpire training is a four week course meeting on Tuesdays, starting Jan. 30. WWLL will pay the cost of the \$50 course for the FIRST 5 NEW UMPIRES from West Windsor, Plainsboro, or Cranbury to sign up this year! Please email baseball@wwll.org to let them know if you are signing up, so that they can pay for your registration. See the [District 12 Umpire Website](#) for more information, including the registration form, schedule and what is included in the course.

- **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](#).
- **More!:** 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](#)