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Weekly Wissahickon 10-16-2020

1 message

WCS-Fernhill <fh.frontoffice@wissahickoncharter.org>
Reply-To: WCS-Fernhill <fh.frontoffice@wissahickoncharter.org>
To: Jane Walsh <j.walsh@wissahickoncharter.org>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 10:54 AM

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Last day to take the [FAMILY SURVEY HERE!](#)

Reminder: School-wide Celebrations Today!

K-5 Magic Show 3-3:30:

<https://zoom.us/j/93973685907>

Passcode: fox

6-8 Movie Afternoon @3:30:

<https://zoom.us/j/94413344391>

Passcode: fox

[Message from CEO](#)

Dear Families,

I hope you are all doing well. This past week, the admin team and I have been revisiting our plans to start a hybrid model for K & 1st grade on December 3rd. We have unanimously decided that this is not the right date to launch such a program. A week and a half ago, our city had 43 cases per 100,000 people as the 7 day average. On Thursday of this week that number had risen to 90. When/if that number hits 100, all schools are supposed to be fully remote based on the metrics for opening that have been defined in Pennsylvania.

We've also been reflecting more on the idea that this start date was right after Thanksgiving when we imagine that many people will be gathering to celebrate, exposing themselves and our community to increased risk. We are now looking to mid January to potentially start K & 1 with some in person days, with other grades following. We would set this date at least 14 days post-winter break so that holiday exposures don't interfere with our launch. The last thing we want is inconsistency- starting, then closing, back and forth. A January start is still dependent on a low rate of community spread of the virus.

As many of you likely saw, the officials of the Philadelphia School District announced this week that they hope to bring back K-2 on November 30th for two days a week of in person learning. They also emphasized that their ability to actually do this is dependent on low rates of infection in the area and their ability to ensure safety in their facilities. As a charter school, we are able to make our own decisions about this, independent of the Philadelphia School District, and because of the reasons outlined above, we are not adopting their timeline.

Please know that we are very aware that remote learning brings real challenges for many students, especially our youngest. As soon as we feel we can safely return, we will.

Take care,

Kristi

[Message from Principal: Slight Schedule Changes Starting Next Week](#)

1) K-8 specials change on Monday, October 19

See SeeSaw or Google Classroom for details & new Zoom links.

2) Friday Zooms for 4th-8th Grade End at 12 Noon

We've been hearing from the family survey and from staff that many kids need more time & support to catch up on work, learn the material and have time off-screen.

Beginning Friday, October 23, 4th-8th grade students will meet with teachers on Zoom only till 12pm, just like K-3 has been doing. During the morning, they will have time to catch up on work with teachers' support, and have off-screen or more independent catch-up time in the afternoon. Celebrations & special events will still be held Friday afternoons. We may adjust the times of these.

Homeroom teachers will share Friday schedules for these grades next week on Google Classroom.



It was great to see some of our students during our weekly hike meetup!

NEW Updates

Note from Director of Learning Support

WCS will continue to provide related services. These services will be delivered via Tele-therapy. Click [here](#) for more information.

Qualification Information for Central High School Applicants

Would you like your child to attend Central High School but you're worried that they may not be accepted? Are you concerned about the lack of diversity among the students that are accepted? Central High School understands your concerns. This year they are starting a summer bridge program that will allow students to bridge the qualifications and acceptance gap among diverse candidates. If you are interested in this program, please take the survey found [here](#) by Thursday, October 22, 2020. You will be registered for a Q & A session on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m where you will learn more about the program.

Trimester 1 Interim Reports - Week of October 19th

We'll be half-way through Trimester 1 on October 19th. Families can expect progress updates as follows:

- K-2nd grades: You'll continue to receive weekly progress reports on Fridays for the rest of Trimester 1.
- 3rd-5th grades: You'll receive a PowerSchool report the week of October 19 with your students grades in all subjects. After this, you will receive weekly progress reports ONLY if there are concerns about how your child is doing in more than one area: attendance, behavior, engagement, grades.
- 6th-8th grades: You'll receive a PowerSchool progress report the week of October 19. After that, you can continue to see students' grades by logging into PowerSchool anytime.

Black is Beautiful Initiative

This week's Black is Beautiful fact is from our 2nd-3rd grades.

Fact: Bayard Rustin was an African-American and LGBT [civil rights](#) activist who was an adviser to [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), and who was the main organizer of the [March on Washington](#) in 1963.

Important Date: 1963

Important Reminders

Open Enrollment @ WCS for 2021-22 SY

If you already have a child in our school and are interested in applying for a sibling, you will need to apply using Apply Philly Charter. The application is open now and will close January 25, 2022.

Click [here](#) to apply.

Family Support Night Materials

In case you missed it, you can find presentations and videos for all topics from our Family Support Night [HERE](#).

Clubs & Tutoring

Hi families- Don't forget about after school clubs and tutoring! We are now offering tutoring to middle school as well as lower school students. If you have not yet signed up, here is the sign-up link for [clubs](#) and for [tutoring](#). Check Classtag for the full schedule.

Update for Meal Distribution

Any student in Philadelphia (18 years of age or under) will be able to get meals from our schools. We will have raffle prizes with Meal Distribution through the end of the month. See the flyer [here](#) for more details.

Follow Wissahickon Charter on Social Media

Follow WCS on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for important school updates and to see student learning and fun in action! And don't be shy- we love it when you like, comment, and share our posts!

Voting Corner

This Monday, October 19, is the voter registration deadline in PA. If you haven't yet, you can register [online](#) (if you have a valid PA driver's license or PennDOT ID) or in person at one of the [satellite election offices](#), where you can register to vote, request a mail-in ballot (through , and submit it in one stop. If you have questions about voting, consider signing up to watch the Inquirer's [Don't Panic, Vote!](#) discussion and Q&A with Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, Phila. City Commissioner Al Schmidt, and Inquirer data and democracy reporter Jonathan Lai on Monday 10/19 at 12:15pm.

With a competitive presidential election and multiple competitive races for statewide offices, there has been a lot of discussion about how to ensure your vote is counted. A [properly completed](#) mail-in ballot submitted on time will be counted. Election security experts consider handmarked paper ballots to be one of the most secure ways to vote. It is also true that currently, county election offices cannot begin counting mail-in votes until 7:00am on Election Day. Many mail-in ballots will be counted on Election Day (Philadelphia, for instance, has increased staffing and purchased machines to aid in 24-hour counting), but the counting will not be complete on election night.

If you previously requested a mail-in ballot but now want to vote in-person, make sure that you bring your mail-in ballot and both envelopes to surrender at the polling place (see all locations [here](#) and find yours using your address [here](#)). Otherwise, you will have to submit a provisional ballot, which might take even longer to process than a mail-in ballot. You will also need to fill out an affidavit surrendering your ballot, so it might take longer than a typical trip to the polls. Keep in mind that many polling places will be staffed by first-time workers, so consider voting during off-peak hours if you are surrendering a mail-in ballot.

How you vote has to be a personal decision based on your own circumstances. Voting in person [is generally safe](#) when the proper precautions are in place, but if you are in a high-risk population, have regular contacts in your work or personal life that might make you more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 and have to self-quarantine on Election Day, or are otherwise uncomfortable voting in person, mailing or [dropping off](#) a ballot are great options. Decide what works best for you, make a plan, and help your friends and family do the same.

Important Dates

Saturday, 10/17: Hiking Meet up @ Bluebell Meadow 10-11am

Tuesday, 10/20: WPP Meeting 6-7pm

Wednesday, 10/21: WCS Board Meeting, 6:30pm

Thursday, 10/22: Hiking Meet up @ Bluebell Meadow 4-5pm

10/12-10/19: 8th Grade HighSchool Advising Meetings



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