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## Updated Weekly Wissahickon 1/8/2021

1 message

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**Tonya Bailey** <t.bailey@wissahickoncharter.org>  
Reply-To: Tonya Bailey <t.bailey@wissahickoncharter.org>  
To: awbury@wissahickoncharter.org

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 5:42 PM

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**Wissahickon**  
**CHARTER SCHOOL**

***A Message From Dean Kristi:***

Dear Families,

It's been a week of so many feelings. I hope you saw the ClassTag I sent out on Wednesday night about our response to the attack on the Capitol. Please reach out if you need anything from us or if you ever have questions about how we decide to process world events with students. It feels appropriate this week to draw your attention to the important note about Social, Emotional, and Physical Wellness. Take good care.

Peace,  
Kristi

## ***Essential:***

### ***Important Dates***

January 5th - Students return from Winter Recess...WELCOME BACK!

January 18th - Martin Luther King Day - Administrative Offices and Schools are CLOSED

### ***Attendance***

If your child will be absent, late or you need to send in a note or any documentation pertaining to attendance please do not send them to your child's teacher. **Please email all correspondence and documentation**

to [aw.attendance@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:aw.attendance@wissahickoncharter.org)

### ***Health Screening Reminders***

K, 1st, and 6th grade families: Please remember to sign up [here](#) for your child's health screening any Monday or Friday (from January 11th - March 19th). As a reminder, even if you have submitted your child's physical, they still must be screened by the school nurse. For more information, please refer to the Classtag message forwarded on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

### ***Social, Emotional & Physical Wellness <important>***

In December conferences, some of you shared (and we've observed) that some students are really struggling with feelings of isolation and sadness. It's winter, it gets dark early, and we're in month 10 (!!!) of a pandemic.

Kids need social interactions, and in a typical school day, they have hundreds more than they can on Zoom.

#### **So, here are a few suggestions:**

- Arrange virtual playdates. Use Facetime, Whatsapp, GoogleMeet or Zoom. Kids can chat with adults nearby, play video games, play real games, play pretend (we recently heard about a few students playing "Zoom school" with each other, including real assignments!), or have show & tell. The app House Party also has socialization and games built into it. We are happy to help if you're stuck. Email Ms. Kate or Ms. Polite (or ask kids.)
- Many older kids are into [Discord](#). Serves lots of purposes.
- If you feel safe, organize an outdoor, masked playdate at a park or yard. Even an hour of seeing a friend can be an emotional boost!

- Children need time to move! Really encourage them to sweat during P.E. class. Take a daily walk. Ride a bike, shoot hoops or play another socially distant sport. Or do a free workout at home if getting outside isn't possible. Here's a fun 4-minute [Black Panther workout for kids!](#)
- Make a time to check your kids' devices each week to monitor their online behaviors. Remind them this is your device and they still need to learn how to responsibly use it. See the below for more detailed info and tips on Tech usage.

### ***On Radar:***

## ***8TH GRADE FAMILIES***

High School Application Results

REMINDER: The School District will release its results via email next Friday, January 15th at 5:00 pm.

You will have to accept your offer by January 29th - if you do not respond, your offer will be rescinded. I will continue to email and remind after results are released.

Charter School Application Deadline: You can still apply to or edit your application to charter schools by January 25, 2021. Those results will be available on February 21, 2021. I HIGHLY encourage you to submit a charter school application as a back-up plan. You can apply by clicking [HERE](#).

If you need ANY ASSISTANCE, [email](#), message, or text Ms. Abby at 267-551-0780.

Ms. Abby, Guidance Counselor

## ***Kids and Screens***

Many parents shared at the report card conferences that it's very hard to keep their kids engaged in school when the temptations of texting, Tiktok, video games, Instagram and more are always available. We suggest taking your child's phone during school time (we know for children who are home alone, this is not possible). It is also important to check in on your child's activity on all their devices.

This week we are asking parents to do a check-in on any device or social media account used by students. These periodic check-ins are important as we monitor the habits and behavior of our students. This includes reading text messages and posts. Use this opportunity to remind students that the adults in their lives are still in charge of how they are allowed to engage with any form of technology and on any social platform. If you are to discover language, photos, or other forms of communication that you disapprove of, it is important that you engage your child from a place of learning and concern, giving them a chance to change their behaviors and to earn back trust--all while strengthening the lines of communication.

This check-in can feel invasive to students. There is a level of privacy that they desire and deserve in relation to friendships. However, this privacy must be earned over time by demonstrating an ability to navigate all the challenges of technology and social media. We have found it helpful for parents to note that the request to check student phones and social media accounts has come directly from Ms Kate and Ms Polite. This provides a bit of a buffer but allows the check-in and the goal of monitoring behavior to move forward.

We will continue to send out helpful advice around screen and kids-- the biggest parenting challenge of this new generation!

Stay tuned for more information on a program we will be rolling out so parents can monitor their child's WCS computer.

### ***EXTRAS:***

#### ***Free Music & Tutoring Program!!***

Rock to the Future offers a program with 1-on-1 Academic/Music Support where 1st thru 12th grade students who need extra help with music or challenging academic classes can sign up and be paired with a volunteer for a free weekly hour tutor session. Our next student orientation providing program details will be January 12th at 6pm. You can register for Winter Term classes that start in January using the link below:

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/RocktotheFutureInc?orglink=camps-registration>

#### ***January Activities Calendar!!***

- The environmental committee has created another activity calendar for off-screen opportunities for the WCS community. The links are posted in your students Google Classrooms/SeeSaw accounts.

JANUARY ACTIVITY CALENDAR						
CHECK OUT THE ACTIVITIES BELOW FOR SOME OFF SCREEN FUN. ALL UNDERLINED ACTIVITIES ARE HYPERLINKED. ENJOY!						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>Volunteer with friends of the wisahickon</u>	<u>Make Your Own Snow</u>	<u>Go ice skating at Dillworth Plaza</u>	<u>Read a book about winter</u>	<u>Make chess mix in a school bag</u>	<u>Check out the Shady Brook Farm light show</u>	<u>Go Paper Plate skating</u>
<u>Try Snowatching with an adult</u>	<u>Learn how to crochet</u>	<u>Make your own paper snowflake</u>	Have an indoor picnic	<u>Make Paper Roll Snowman Caps</u>	<u>Make snow candy</u>	<u>Best winter animal crafts</u>
<u>Make a super glue yoyo</u>	<u>Participate in an MLK Day of Service</u>	<u>Make your own marshmallows</u>	<u>For Carton Pinpoints</u>	<u>Collect Breadcrumbs and Make a Kindness Box</u>	<u>Melted Snowman Goo</u>	<u>Make an indoor scavenger hunt or try this one</u>
<u>Make a birdfeeder</u>	<u>Make rock crystal candy</u>	<u>Winter Tree Nature Project</u>	<u>Try this fun hockey experiment</u>	<u>Make a frozen rain catcher</u>	<u>Make Paper Snow Globes</u>	<u>Do a melting ice science experiment</u>

## CARES Champions!

### Congratulations to this week's CARES CHAMPIONS!

#### K-5

**3rd Grade: Amirah Devero** is always ready to learn every day! She embraces all of our CARES values and strives to show excellence in all academic areas. Amirah sets a great example for her peers and often offers thoughtful ideas during class conversations and learning activities. Keep up the amazing work Amirah!

#### 6-8

**6th Grade: Aanye Stevens** is a stellar student in remote learning. She completes each and every single assignment with care, and submits really high quality work. Aanye sets a great example for all middle schoolers, and she is only in 6th grade!!! Aanye is always ready when called on, and has thoughtful responses to questions in class. Keep it up Aanye!!!



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