



Walsh, Jane <j.walsh@wissahickoncharter.org>

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## Weekly Wissahickon 1-15-2021

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 9:44 AM

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### [Message from CEO](#)

Dear Families,

I have several important things to share with you this week!

First, the PA Dept. of Health and PDE are now recommending that younger students return to school even though the rate of infection locally is still substantial. We are weighing this recommendation seriously and will stay in touch with you as we develop more plans in response to this guidance.

Secondly, you can now sign up to get on a list for a vaccine- [go here](#). You first have to create an account and then they will email you a link to use to log in. Once logged in, you click on the link to make a pre-commitment to get a vaccine. Once you are pre-committed they should stay in touch with next steps. You can also request a vaccine through the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium by clicking [here](#). Wissahickon encourages our community members to get vaccinated.

Finally, we are launching a new program called Securly, a cloud-based filter and classroom device management platform. The first phase provides a filter that alerts the school anytime a student uses their WCS device for a variety of flagged purposes. **You, as parents/guardians, will be able to see your child's internet use whenever your child is logged into their WCS Google account on a personal Chromebook or on a WCS device.** You will also be given the power to receive alerts or to restrict certain websites of your choosing in addition to the ones that Securly and WCS have blocked. **You will need to activate this when info. is shared today.** Kindergarten, first grade, and second-grade families please note, our parent portal only works with Chromebooks; however, Securly does provide basic filtering on our iPads.

Thank you,  
Kristi

### [Weekly Wissahickon Format Revision](#)

The Weekly Wiss is now arranged into three sections: **essential, on radar**, and **reminders**. They are color coded based on the area and arranged in order of importance. We hope this new format is easier to follow and helps you identify items that matter to you and your family.

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## **Essential:**

### **Meal Pick-up this TUESDAY (1/19) due to School Closure on Monday**

We're off on Monday, 1/18, for MLK Jr. Day. Meals will be available from 8am-6pm Tuesday, 1/19, instead.

### **Health Screenings for K, 1st and 6th Graders**

Please remember to sign up [here](#) for your child's health screening any 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.

### **Acts of Service for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Since there will be no school on Monday January 18th, we are promoting and encouraging all students, families, staff and staff families to practice one or more of the "Acts of Service" in celebration of MLK Day. Please check out this [PDF](#) for ideas and instructions! ENJOY THE DAY OF SERVICE!

### **Tutoring Opportunities**

1. **We have Fernhill staff available to tutor students!** If you are interested in your child getting tutoring (1x/week for 30-60 min depending on the grade/subject), email Ms. Rebecca @ [rbenarroch@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:rbenarroch@wissahickoncharter.org). When we have spots available, they'll be filled first-come, first-serve. (If your child already has tutoring, you do NOT need to email Ms. Rebecca. It will continue.)
2. Our Village Tutoring is a nonprofit that has matched tutors to Fernhill students during the past few months. Right now, they also have spots available for 1-1 tutoring in foundational academic skills (reading, writing, mathematics). Please see this [flyer](#) for info. on how to sign up. You can also find out more at <https://www.ourvillagetutoring.org/>.

### **Trimester 2 Interim Reports Coming Up**

They will be shared the week of January 25th. We're almost half-way through this school year!

### **4th -8th Grade After School Chat Groups Start Next Week**

One of our priorities, as an institution, during remote learning has been to make sure that students feel connected to all parts of their school community. At the start of the new year, in reviewing our priorities, we realized that we could do a better job of this. In a normal school day, students are talking constantly with their peers, whether it's on the bus, during intake, at lunch or the walk home, to the tune of about 7.5 hours a school day.

We surveyed our upper grade students (4-8th) and found that many students are only socializing with peers, outside of class time, for about 1 hour or less! This lack in peer socialization can have lasting negative effects on students. In order to combat this issue and get kids talking and hanging with their peers, we have developed after school "Chat Groups" based off of students' interest shared out in the student survey. These groups start next week on Tuesday, January 19th!! While they are optional, they are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

[Here](#) are the 4/5th grade offerings and [here](#) are the MS offerings. They are for Fernhill and Awbury students, led by WCS staff at both campuses. All links and passwords are embedded in the offerings flyer. These flyers are also posted on your students Google Classrooms. For more information/questions, please contact Ms. [Lovelee Polite](#), Awbury Middle School Principal

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## **On Radar:**

### **Reading & Writers Workshop for Families**

This is a free workshop for for parents and caregivers of students in grades K-8. You will learn about ways to support your child's literacy education at home, what or how they are learning in school, how to best engage in home literacy projects, and more. Click [here to register](#). Resources for families and caregivers can be found [here](#).

### [Girls Inc. Virtual Opportunity](#)

This Spring, Girls Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey will bring local girls in our area together! Girls in grades K-12 from both Pennsylvania and New Jersey can participate in virtual after school and Saturday programs. The Girls Inc. Experience allows girls and young women to be a part of a movement and community that embraces all girls. For program details and how to apply, please see our [Girls Inc. Spring Interest Form](#). See the Spring 2021 Catalog [here](#).

### [Vetri Community Partnership](#)

Join us in the virtual kitchen on January 19th. Click [here](#) for more information.

### [Black is Beautiful Initiative](#)

This week's Black is Beautiful fact is from our 4-5th grades.

**Fact:** Cathay Williams became the first and only female Buffalo Soldier in 1866. She would pose as a male for two years until a doctor discovered that she was a woman, which led to her immediate discharge.

**Important Date:**1866

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## [Reminders:](#)

### [Front Office \(Closed\)](#)

The Front Office and our buildings will be closed to the public (except for meals) **until further notice**. Please email the Front Office staff if you need anything.

FH- [t.sumner@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:t.sumner@wissahickoncharter.org)

### [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.

### [Meals Distribution Mondays](#)

Meals will continue to be distributed on **Mondays only from 8am-6pm**. Families will receive a meal kit for the week that includes hot entrees that can be reheated. Please continue to follow the Meal Pick up procedures as outlined outside the school.

### [Absences Due to Tech Issues](#)

Families, if you are experiencing tech issues (i.e. trouble logging in, lost internet connection, etc.) please be sure to communicate that tech issue **in the moment** to [helpis@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:helpis@wissahickoncharter.org) to receive assistance and/or to have your child's attendance excused if needed. Copies of the emails sent to [helpis@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:helpis@wissahickoncharter.org) will serve as proof of your child's attempted attendance on that day.

### [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!

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## [Important Dates](#)

**Monday, 1/18** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day School and Offices Closed

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